

Appendix A – Detailed Directorate Commentary

Social Care Health and Housing

1. The directorate outturn is under gross budget by £7.8M and under net budget by £5.5M.
2. The tables below highlight the areas of spend:

SCHH Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	2,453	1,640	(813)	300	(513)
Empty Homes	210	220	10	74	84
Renewal Assistance	386	196	(190)	100	(90)
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	1,770	869	(901)	901	0
MANOP Care Home Reprovision	1,026	48	(978)	978	(0)
MANOP Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes	2,550	0	(2,550)	2,550	0
NHS Campus Closure	374	0	(374)	374	0
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	280	90	(190)	190	0
Old People's Homes	0	9	9	0	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	1,906	0	(1,906)	1,906	0
Better Care Fund Capital Grant	0	98	98	0	98
Total	10,955	3,171	(7,784)	7,373	(420)
% of Budget		28.9%			

SCHH Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	1,785	748	(1,037)	300	(737)
Empty Homes	200	126	(74)	74	0
Renewal Assistance	286	155	(131)	100	(31)
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	870	194	(676)	676	0
MANOP Care Home Reprovision	1,026	48	(978)	978	(0)
MANOP Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes	2,550	0	(2,550)	2,550	0
NHS Campus Closure	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	68	22	(46)	46	0
Old People's Homes	0	9	9	0	9
Social Care Single Capital Pot	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	0	0	0	0	0
Better Care Fund Capital Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6,785	1,303	(5,482)	4,724	(758)
% of Budget		19.2%			

Housing General Fund (GF)

3. The grants provided to residents through the Disabled Facility Grant programme assist some of the poorer and most vulnerable members of the community. Without these grants in many cases the properties involved would be unsuitable for the needs of the occupiers who may then be unable to remain in their own homes. This also reduces pressure on health service resources and residential care, as without these improvements more residents would require emergency or longer term care solutions.
4. The table below provides details of adaptations for 2017/18 compared to the previous year.

Type of adaptation	Total 16/17	Total 17/18
Level access shower/wet room	140	73
Straight stair lift	27	14
Curved stair lift	26	20
Toilet alterations	57	37
Access ramps	34	24
Dropped kerb and hard standing	0	9
Wheelchair/step lift	5	1
Through floor lift	6	4
Major extension	17	10
Kitchen alterations	10	6
Access alterations (doors etc)	43	41
Heating improvements	5	7
Garage conversions/minor additions	6	9
Safety repairs/improvements	6	4
Other	26	31
Total	408	290

5. There have been 275 referrals to Housing in 2017/18, an average of 23 per month, compared with 309 referrals at an average of 26 per month for the same period in 2016/17. As a result, £1.64M of grant payments (including fees) were made, offset by grant income and client contributions of £0.892M to deliver a net outturn of £0.748M. This equates to a net positive variance from the budget of £1.037M.
6. There were 760 requests for OT Assessments in 2017/18 (574 in 2016/17). At the end of March, the waiting list had reduced to 255 from 278 at the end of February. The extent to which these convert into DFG referrals will be closely monitored.

7. The Renewals Assistance programme includes Safety Security Emergency Repair assistance, which is an “emergency” type of assistance for the most vulnerable households, for example dangerous wiring, a condemned boiler, etc.

8. Renewals work completed in the financial year 2017/18 was as follows:

9.

Type of assistance	16/17	17/18
Safety Security Emergency Repair grant	16	15
Home Improvement Assistance	19	16
Affordable Warmth Assistance	2	5
Relocation assistance	0	0
Discretionary DFG	6	3
Empty Homes Loan Assistance	2	6
Prevention Assistance	0	2
Total	45	47

10. 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. In 2017/18 demand was not as high as in previous years and the assistance had not been heavily promoted due to competing work within Homelessness and Housing Options.

11. Expenditure on Empty Homes relates to Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) and Empty Homes Loans. Several 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 12 approved and in progress.

12. 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 England (formerly the Homes & Communities Agency) financial contributions.

13. 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. There is a provisional net outturn of £0.194M with proposed slippage into 2018/19 of £0.676M; this is due to a delay in the planning process and a revised start on site date of November 2017. The estimated completion date is Autumn 2018.
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 was re-profiled to align with the Transformation Programme.
15. In respect of care home re-provision the current budget included slippage of £1.026M to support the acquisition of a site in West Mid Beds to facilitate the replacement of capacity in the Ferndale Older Persons Home (OPH) and a smaller amount in respect of Westlands OPH where a replacement site (in Leighton Buzzard) was acquired in 2016/17. The proposal for Ferndale is for a new residential home via the development of the former Flitwick Leisure Centre site. For the Leighton Buzzard site, the process to procure an operator to purchase the site and fund the development commenced in January 2018 and will conclude by the middle of 2018/19. Further costs will be incurred in respect of site demolition. Slippage into 2018/19 of £0.978M is now forecast which allows for demolition works on the Leighton Buzzard site and funds to purchase one further site for residential care.
16. The Expenditure on the Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes planned for 2017/18 included slippage of £0.050M in respect of professional fees in bringing forward a scheme for Ivel Valley (Sorrel Way, Biggleswade) and £2.500M for a scheme in West Mid Beds. The Sorrel Way scheme is now being taken forward in conjunction with the disposal of Saxon Drive and should progress to a start on site during 2018/19. The West Mid Beds scheme will now be included in the redevelopment of the former Flitwick Leisure centre site This frees up the capital funding originally approved for the West Mid Beds Scheme, although it this needs to be viewed in relation to the capital receipt foregone from the non-disposal of the former Flitwick Leisure Centre. Should the lack of capital receipt not create a funding problem, then a significant underpend can be reported in 2018/19.
17. In the draft Capital Programme 2018/19 – 2021/22, a sum of £2.600M has been included to conclude the Extra Care Scheme re-provision programme. Due to development sites having being identified from other existing Central Bedfordshire assets, it is now estimated that the final scheme will only require £1.600M.

Children's Services

18. The directorate outturn is £18.6M, above budget by £5.5M (gross) and £0.4M below net 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.
19. All but two projects within Children's Services Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation are funded wholly by grant receipts that have no expenditure deadline.
20. The tables below highlight the areas of spend:

Children's Services Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
New School Places	10,094	14,287	4,193	0	4,193
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,000	2,050	50	0	50
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	450	1,878	1,428	0	1,428
Special Schools Provision	0	20	20	0	20
Temporary Accommodation	360	55	(305)	305	0
Schools Access Initiative	180	117	(63)	0	(63)
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	0	0	0	0
2 year old entitlement grant	0	175	175	0	175
Total	13,084	18,582	5,498	305	5,803
% of Budget			142.0%		

Children's Services Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
New School Places	0	0	0	0	0
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	360	55	(305)	305	0
Schools Access Initiative	180	115	(65)	0	(65)
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	0	0	0	0
2 year old entitlement grant	0	0	0	0	0
Total	540	170	(370)	305	(65)
% of Budget			31.4%		

21. The New Schools Places programme provides 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 DfE 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. Expenditure for the Edward Peake expansion has increased in 2017/18 through S106 received, but not previously profiled.
24. Costs to deliver the Arnold Academy expansion have increased from the original high level estimate as a result of abnormal works required for car park and turning space remodelling works. The expansion also needs to remove and relocate the SEN temporary unit, which was not in the original high level plans.
25. Costs to deliver the Church End Phase 2 expansion have been revised at Stage 4 Technical Design and have increased, this includes the addition of a contingency figure and highways costs which were not included in the original estimate.
26. The expansion project completion at Leighton Middle has slipped from September 2016 to November 2017, as a result of continued issues with the contractor. A partial handover of the new build was undertaken on 25 August 2017. Forecast costs have been re-profiled with expenditure decreasing in 2017/18 and slipping into 2018/19. However additional items for all instructions and variations are still to be added. There is an ongoing dispute between Assets and the contractor on the designs and costs, which are likely to increase the overall costs of the expansion. The handover of the expansion is under review and the programme for this is in dispute.
27. Forecast expenditure costs for the expansions at Clipstone Brook Lower, Roecroft Lower and Silsoe Lower have been re-profiled by the Project Manager and have decreased slightly.
28. Original costs for the expansion of Henlow Academy were based on a high level cost estimate. Following tender, the payment schedule has been re-profiled. Forecast for 2017/18 and 2018/19 have increased. Any unused contingency will be clawed back. The capital costs will be increased to allow for additional furniture, fittings and equipment which was not in the original profile.
29. The 17/18 NSP programme includes expenditure on 16 separate capital projects, most of which span more than a single financial year. 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.
30. These places have been commissioned to serve the communities of Amptill, Fairfield, Flitwick, Biggleswade, Barton, Cranfield, Henlow, Leighton Linlade, Marston Moretaine, Shefford, Silsoe and Stotfold.

Schools Capital Maintenance

31. 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 contributions in 2017/18 total £0.083M. This is less than previously reported due to the postponement of two projects because the schools concerned cannot fund their contributions. For 2018/19 three schools have already confirmed that they will not be able to make a contribution for the maintenance works: - Potton Lower (radiators, electrical distribution boards and lighting), Shelton Lower (rooflights, bell tower stone brackets, fire alarm and lighting) , Southill Lower (roofs and chimney stack). Watling Lower School are awaiting confirmation of their financial position before they can commit.
32. 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.
33. 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.
34. All programmed projects are now complete. The forecast spend has been reduced by £0.100M to account for the fact that there are not any Invest to Save Projects committed this financial year.

School Devolved Formula Capital

35. 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. The budgeted gross expenditure for 2017/18 is £0.450M. The outturn for 2017/18 is £1.878M, wholly funded by grants.

Temporary Accommodation

36. The capital budget allocation for 2017/18 is £0.360M which was forecast to be fully utilised on the replacement of temporary accommodation which has reached its design life with permanent build. Priority projects were identified based on condition survey data and school site visits. It has not been possible to confirm a project for delivery within the timescale available and the funding has not now been fully spent.

The priority report has highlighted the fact that in any given year there is insufficient budget to replace temporary accommodation with permanent build for even just one project. Currently £0.305M remains unallocated in the Programme and is proposed to slip to 2018/19.

37. Two temporary units have reached the end of their design life and Planners have indicated that planning renewal for the retention of the units will not be granted. To replace the units with a modular build will cost in the region of £0.600M. It will not be possible to complete the replacement with the 2018/19 budget allocation of £0.400M and phasing the replacement is not an option. Therefore, there is a need to carry forward the unallocated funding from 2017/18 to 2018/19 to allow the project to go ahead.

Community Services

38. The directorate outturn is below budget by £30.1M (gross) and below budget by £17.7M (net).

39. The table below highlights the areas of spend:

Community Services Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Assets	18,201	4,589	(13,612)	13,247	(365)
Environmental Services	1,742	924	(818)	1,050	232
Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	7,008	8,635	1,627	(1,458)	169
Transport	36,471	19,258	(17,213)	17,611	398
IT	3,500	3,380	(120)	123	3
Total	66,922	36,786	(30,136)	30,573	437
% of Budget		55.0%			

Community Services Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Assets	18,201	4,006	(14,195)	13,247	(948)
Environmental Services	1,247	561	(686)	628	(58)
Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	2,947	7,405	4,458	(4,495)	(37)
Transport	16,613	9,434	(7,179)	7,250	71
IT	3,500	3,380	(120)	123	3
Total	42,508	24,786	(17,722)	16,753	(969)
% of Budget		58.3%			

Environmental Services

Environmental Services have a £0.686M underspend.

40.
 - CCTV is to slip £0.492M into the next financial year. Work is continuing on developing the specification and once complete procurement will commence.
 - Integrated Environmental Management System is to slip £0.032M into the next financial year and the tender for this work is due mid-May.
 - Sundon /Bluewater Landfill sites are to slip £0.050M due to lower costs this financial year.
 - Pix Brook Flood Alleviation is underspent by £0.080M. A full flood study is being undertaken and service will bid for funding if work is needed.

Major Achievements

41. Sundon Landfill Restoration – Final snagging with soil importation contractor and planting of trees and shrubs has been completed. Fencing has been installed on the western side of the railway by Network Rail. Gates have been installed across haul road bridge to the site by CBC. Work commenced on final landscaping and internal fencing is out to tender; both of which are due for completion in 2018/19. Monitoring visits by Environment Agency regarding permits and CBC Planners continue with positive feedback from both.
42. Waste & Recycling Containers, provision of replacement Bins & Containers – Successful procurement and provision of 508 x 140 litre, 11,058 x 240 litre, 1,834 x 360 litre, 59 x 660 litre, 160 x 1100 litre, 7,560 x 23 litre food caddies, 3,888 x 7 litre food caddies, 85 x dog waste, 60 x plastic street litter bins, 31 x metal street litter bins, 31 x dual recycle/litter bins.

Leisure

43. Leisure have a £4.458M variance over budget.
 - Flitwick Leisure Centre will not receive the external funding of £3.037M for the old Flitwick leisure centre site until the next financial year following the decision to consider the site for an independent living scheme.
 - Dunstable Leisure Centre is £1.956M over the 2017/18 budget allocation (but within budget over the life of the project) as work has progressed more planned for this this financial year. This does not impact overall cost of the project.
 - Leisure Centre Stock Condition is slipping £0.338M into financial year 2018/19 due to lack of resources in 2017/18. This will be used for wet side changing at both Tiddenfoot and Saxon where work is planned.
 - Houghton Hall Park is to slip £0.090M as some outside works have yet to complete.

- Outdoor Access & Countryside works are to slip £0.131M. There has been a delay on bridge and path work at Southern Meadow due to a legal issue and other work is due to be completed in 2018/19.

Major Achievements

44. Library & Leisure Centre Renewal Dunstable – Wates Construction Ltd was officially appointed and took responsibility of the building in June 2017, which has since been closed to the public and secured. Planning Application and pre-commencement conditions have been discharged. Asbestos has been removed from the building and the demolition works are complete. Groundworks on the foundations and works to extend the steel roof support structure are also complete. The floor decking over the Library has been installed. The steel frame is practically complete with final connections to the retained building taking place, and bricklayers are raising the foundations to a level so to form the ground floor slabs. This project is on track for opening in winter 2018.
45. Houghton Hall Park – The new visitor centre was successfully completed and handed over to CBC at the end of September 2017, and opened to the public in October 2017. The visitor centre has been well received by visitors to the park who appreciate the onsite café, toilets and events that are now on offer. The meeting rooms are also proving to be very popular with internal staff, local organisations and businesses. The building has been shortlisted in four categories in the LABC Building Excellence Awards 2018. The landscaping around the park and visitor centre have been completed and the large natural play features have been installed. The formal and kitchen garden restoration works won a National Award at the 2017 BALI Awards.
46. 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.
47. 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 support Dunstable Leisure Centre closure and add capacity to our assets.
48. Countryside –Works have started on installation of a new mains water supply at Rushmere Park and should be complete and ready for connection in the next couple of weeks. Start up costs provided to fund new Parkrun and Junior Parkrun equipment and car park works at Houghton Hall Park. Tree felling work at Flitwick Wood completed. Tree safety work completed at Gault Pit. New interpretation and noticeboards installed at Marston Thrift.

Fencing works and tree safety works completed at Campton Wood.
'Etonbury Green Wheel' masterplan has successfully been completed.
Woodland surveys completed at Kings Wood (Houghton Conquest),
Kings Wood (Heath & Reach) and Shire Oak.

Transport

49. Transport has out-turned at £7.179M net under budget, this is due to an underspend of £0.071M and £7.250M slipping into financial year 2018/19.

The variance includes some of the following projects;

- Tree backlog is slipping £0.274M this is due to a backlog of work
- Highways Structural Maintenance has an under budget position of £2.066M, this relates to an underspend of £0.399M and slippage of £1.667M which relates to 5 large tasks and some pre-surface dressing. The slippage is due to weather conditions in the latter part of the financial year and availability of road space. The underspend covers overspends on other highways schemes.
- Highways Planned Maintenance is showing an overspend of £0.224M, which is covered by the underspend on Structural Maintenance.
- Fleet Replacement programme has brought forward £0.600M from future years.
- Highways Flooding & Drainage is to slip £0.320M which relates to a property which needs to be purchased in order for the work to be undertaken.
- Luton and Dunstable Busway is slipping £1.5M which is being held for possible compensation payments which can take up to 7 years to materialise, the remaining budget of £0.629M has been released.
- Woodside Link is showing a net variance of £1.101M. There is slippage of £0.716M gross expenditure to cover final works and settlement of the contract. There is slippage of £0.919M external funding which reflects the S106 monies due in 2018/19 and future years. The net overspend of £0.898M reflects the exclusion of a S106 contribution that has yet to be secured. As S106 contributions are secured and received these will be set against the cost of the scheme.
- North Depot is showing a net variance of £3.379M under budget where work will slip into 2018/19 due to delays in acquiring the land and design work.
- A421 is showing slippage of £0.054M, DfT approval has now been given and work on delivering the road has started.
- Walking routes to schools are showing slippage of £0.461M, over 20 routes have been assessed and school transport and Highways team are working together on coordination and deliver of the agreed schemes.

- HRA Match Funding budget has been released.

Major Achievements

50. Woodside Link – Woodside Link opened to traffic in early April 2017. Work has been completed on the foot/cyclepaths and the planting areas which releases the final SEMLEP payment. The project has won a Green Apple Award for Environmental Best Practice 2017.
51. A421-M1 Junction 13 – Milton Keynes Magna Park – A421-M1/J13, Milton Keynes, Magna Park – The Full Business Case was submitted to the DfT and has been approved which secures the funding of £22.5M.
52. Structural Maintenance – Nine carriageway resurfacing schemes completed including Steppingley Road and A5120 High Street / Tesco roundabout in Flitwick, A507 Baldock Road in Stotfold and A6 Bedford Road in Clophill. There were four textureblasting schemes completed including Marston Hill in Cranfield, Hockliffe Road in Toddington and work in Houghton Conquest. There were eleven pre-patching schemes completed including A4012 Hockliffe Road in Battlesden and B1040 Gamlingway road in Potton. There were also seven footway schemes completed.
53. Highways Flooding & Drainage – There was one construction scheme completed in Biggleswade. In addition, five design schemes were completed and work on design and investigation continued on three other schemes.
54. Integrated Transport – Four construction schemes were completed with design completed on four more with work on Wire Train Bus (WTB) schemes in progress.
55. South Depot – The completion of the construction of the new Highways Depot, Passenger Transport facilities and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) has been completed. The office facility was occupied in January 2018 and all other facilities were open in April 2018.
56. North Depot – Following the purchase of the land, work commenced on site in March 2018 to provide facilities for use by CBC Highways and Passenger Transport and Ringway Jacobs. This is programmed for completion in Autumn 2018.
57. Fleet - New fleet was purchased for the Civil Enforcement Officers (parking team), Environmental Protection Team, Library Service and Environmental Services. The purchase of the 360 diggers for Environmental services have ensured that the costs were kept to a minimum and that the newly refurbished HWRC were able to operate efficiently from day one. Fleet Services have replaced 23 vehicles used for the transport of vulnerable adults and children.

This is resulting in efficiencies on fuel, repair and maintenance and road fund licences. Users and staff have commented on the quality of the vehicles and for the clients it enhances their time on transport which means pupils arrive at school ready to learn and the whole day experience for adults is improved.

Assets

58. Assets have outturned at £4.006M, significantly below budget. Of this there is slippage of £13.247M and underspend of £1.608M and overspend of £0.660M.

59. The schemes and details of slippage are:-

Strategic acquisitions is to slip £7.870M as they have been unable to find a suitable land or property that meet the requirements.

Crematorium is to slip £1.924M as options are being considered.

Westbury industrial units is to slip £0.800M and a report on the future of the units is being drafted for consideration in June 2018.

Carpark project is to slip £0.650M where the option study is being updated to ensure that it is still relevant before proceeding to feasibility options.

The Local Development Fund is proposing to slip £0.304M to fulfil planning conditions for Stratton 5. An order has been placed for the footpaths £0.214M and tree planting is being planned. This relates to the capital receipt received in 2017/18.

Farm Compliance is to slip £0.486M. This relates to a new cattle building and replacement silage clamp £0.300M where surveys have been undertaken and design is in progress and due to be completed in November 2018. There are roofing works £0.126M in progress and due to complete in June 2018. Electrical improvements £0.060M have been procured through a Mechanical and Electrical framework and due to complete in September 2018.

Built Asset Programme is to slip £1.068M of which £0.489M relates to several projects where orders have been placed and work is in progress and due to complete by end of September 2018. Slippage is also on five major projects totalling £0.579M; £0.217M is for the Priory House landing extension which will be added to the budget allocated as part of the MTFP process.

The Grove re-roofing works of £0.120M and the Arlesey Community centre heating £0.084M are both anticipated to be completed in September 2018. The toilet refurbishment for Stockgrove Country Park £0.074M is scheduled to complete in October 2018 with improvement to the heating and electrics of £0.084M for Stotfold library due to completed in February 2019.

There is an underspend of £1.608M. This is mainly due to release of £1.000M budget for Biggleswade Property Regeneration (Century House) which has being given up as spend is on hold as it forms part of the Quadrant Accommodation Plan. Due to a lack of resources there is £0.368M unspent from the Built Asset Programme. Underspend of £0.238M has been released from the Energy Programme where a strategy needs to be developed.

There is an overspend of £0.660M and this mainly relates to payment to Highways England on the A1 Biggleswade junction improvements for Stratton and infrastructure works at Thorn Turn. However, there are compensating income for the sale of these sites.

Major Achievements

60. Built Asset Programme – Major schemes were the demolition of Dunstable Court House, parking improvements at Priory House, Rushmere shed replacement, entrance doors to Bedford Square and the segregation of Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre to ensure safeguarding of the adjoining school. There were also health and safety works including various fire door replacements, work on the retainer wall at Greenways in Flitwick, emergency lighting improvements at Clipstone Brook Lower School, work at West Street car park and glazing compliance at various schools and corporate buildings.

There is ongoing refurbishment of the investment properties at West Street and Ashton Square to fulfil Landlord obligations.

New purchases include a projector replacement for The Grove theatre.

61. Thorn Turn Infrastructure –. The construction of the roads and infrastructure enabled the development of the surrounding site and the subsequent capital receipt.
62. Capital Receipts - Total net Capital Receipts of £48.640M was received from 12 major sites and overage from Clipstone Park and Land East of Biggleswade plots sales. Key projects included the sale of a strategic development site at Thorn Turn and commercial development plots at Stratton Business Park.

Information Technology

63. The full year outturn for IT is £0.120M underspend. For ICT Strategic Investment there is an overspend of £1.06M as a result of desktop project and a overspend of £0.081M on Infrastructure Rolling Programme as a result of overspends on critical device refreshing and the roll out of MFDs within libraries. There is an underspend of £1.261M on Digital Transformation of which £0.123M is to be slipped for Learning Management System (LMS) where work on this project continues into 2018/19 and the remainder offsets the overspends on the projects above.

Regeneration

64. The directorate outturn is under gross budget by £15.0M and under net budget by £8.5M.
65. The table below highlights the areas of spend:

Regeneration & Business Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Strategic Infrastructure	9,779	946	(8,833)	7,994	(839)
Other	9,852	3,712	(6,140)	5,221	(919)
Total	19,631	4,658	(14,973)	13,215	(1,758)
% of Budget		23.7%			

Regeneration & Business Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Strategic Infrastructure	5,804	160	(5,644)	5,418	(226)
Other	3,708	823	(2,885)	2,870	(15)
Total	9,512	983	(8,529)	8,288	(241)
% of Budget		10.3%			

66. East West Rail will see the delivery of a train route from Oxford to Cambridge via Milton Keynes. The western section of the route will follow the Bletchley to Bedford line. In the context of the capital programme this project focuses solely on this element and the delivery of improved station facilities, namely a new carpark, at Ridgmont. The Council is one of a number of Local Authority stakeholders along the route with the project being delivered by the EWR Company and Network Rail.

67. The project is reporting a £0.527M underspend, proposed slippage. This is due to short-term staffing capacity which has now been resolved through the Regeneration & Business Restructure. This will now move forward in 2018/19.
68. 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. This will be delivered in two phases with phase 1 being funded through £1.5m Highways England Grant. External funding will be secured for phase 2.
69. These projects are reporting a gross expenditure underspend of £1.62M, of which £1.27M (High Street Regeneration) is externally funded. The net variance of 0.3M is £0.1M slippage and £0.2M underspend. The slippage of £0.1M is linked to the wider High Street legacy improvements work, phase 1 of which is funded by Highways England which was only received at the end of March (£1.5M). The impact of this is that it has delayed the programme.
70. The M1/A6 scheme comprises the provision of a new 4.4km dual 2-lane carriageway link between the new M1 junction 11a in the west and the A6 in the east, to effectively form a northern bypass for Luton and open up land for the potential development of up to 4,000 dwellings, up to 20ha of employment land, community facilities and open spaces, and provision of a new sub-regional rail freight interchange incorporating around 40ha of associated employment land.
- The current estimated scheme cost is £67M.
 - Department for Transport (DfT) have confirmed that this will be a retained scheme due to being above the £20M threshold.
 - Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) have been awarded £11M and £21.75M from Local Growth Fund 2 and Local Growth Fund 3 respectively. It should be noted that this element of funding must be spent by end March 2021 and it is a requirement to demonstrate to DfT that we have a programme to achieve this.
 - The funding 'gap' is approximately £34.25m and is likely to be found from developer contributions – Rail Freight Interchange/Housing Development.

71. DfT has granted £1M upfront development funding from the £32.75M. The project is reporting a gross expenditure of £0.31M for 2017/18 with deferred spend of £4.2M. This is due to the work to develop the programme in supporting the submission of the full business case and progression of the project having a delayed start in August 2017. This is largely due to workload and resource being focused on the A421 scheme. This is now moving forward with additional capacity being provided by Ringway Jacobs who has been commissioned to develop the project, including: Design, Transport Planning, Planning and Environmental Assessment Impact.
72. Leighton Buzzard and Biggleswade Transport Interchange. The scheme to remodel the Leighton Buzzard Station forecourt to provide an enhanced bus-rail interchange has slipped into 2018/19 (£0.18M). Discussions are to be held with Network Rail and West Midland Trains on the outline proposal. The scheme to deliver a bus interchange at Biggleswade Station has slipped into 2018/19 (£0.26M) in response to renewed interest from Network Rail. The original Business Case will be reviewed. The capital funding allocation falls a long way short of what would be needed to deliver the envisaged proposals. This includes the limited S106 contribution towards the scheme cost from east of Leighton Buzzard, given the expected increase in services visiting the station.
73. The Flitwick Interchange/ station redevelopment project is moving forward, with the April 2017 Executive agreeing the mixed use regeneration of the site. A report went to Executive in December 2017 with agreement for the next stages of delivering the scheme now in place. £1.15M will slip into 2018/19 when delivery commences.
74. The Local Broadband Infrastructure schemes are reporting £2.9M gross expenditure funded by grant, and a net underspend variance of £0.39M. In accordance with the contractual terms any underspends are ringfenced and therefore will be re-invested into future projects.
- The broadband project continues to deliver to contractual targets. Through the BDUK 2 project 13,383 premises have been supported to receive superfast broadband services, 6,683 of which are in Central Bedfordshire. This builds on 16,700 premises supported through Project 1.
- The Council is the lead authority in the wider Central Superfast Partnership. Take up of broadband services continues to be considered as best in class, at 55%.

Having secured an additional £3.48m external funding from SEMELP and BDUK, the third procurement round was launched, the tender evaluation process is now complete, with the hope of finalising the contract in early May 2018. The April 2017 Executive approved a delegated decision to the Deputy Leader and Director for Regeneration and Business to award the contract.

75. The Market Towns Programme is made up of two funding streams: the Market Town Regeneration Fund (MTRF), which works directly with town Councils to deliver improvements to their town Centres and the High Street Improvement Scheme (HSIS), which provides 60% grant funding for improvement to shop fronts.
76. The MTRF has identified the need to extend some elements of delivery into 2018/19, forecasting £3.22M to roll into the next financial year. This is largely in relation to the elements being delivered by Ringway Jacobs, these have taken longer to develop than anticipated, with the majority of delivery scheduled for completion in Q1 2018/19. The HSIS programme will now begin delivery in Q1 2018/19, with completion in Q3. This slippage is due to resolution of contractual issues, protracted engagement with some shop owners in signing off designs/costings, along with some requiring specific timeslots for the works to take place. The MTRF Board continues to meet quarterly to review progress.
77. MTRF – A total of 7 bids from Ampthill, Dunstable, Flitwick, Leighton Linlade, Sandy and Shefford town councils are progressing well in the MTRF programme. All the Town Councils are moving swiftly towards delivering their final outputs by end of Summer 2018, with the Ringway Jacobs public realm themed works to begin in Ampthill, Sandy and Shefford in Q1 of 2018/19, with all elements being delivered by Q2 of 2018/19.
78. Leighton Linlade Town Council has been working with Highways to confirm the exact locations for the three electronic signage panels. The panels have been ordered, and scheduled for fitting in Q1 2018/19.
79. Shefford Town Council's work to improve Drovers Spinney are progressing and all are due for completion Q1. The public realm works with Highways has had final costing, and costs approved by Shefford TC and works will commence for completion in Q1.
80. Dunstable Town Council continues delivering its final projects, but this does not include their public realm works which are linked to the wider Highways A5 detrunking programme. All architectural lighting will be installed by the end of Q1. The refurbishment to the entrance for Priory Gardens will be completed at the same time.

81. Flitwick Town Council's Barclay Bank "triangle" public realm improvements are progressing. Highways are awaiting the final design for sign off to allow for costings to be fixed, and then construction date (planned Q1/Q2, 2018/19).
82. High Street Improvement Schemes (HSIS) – 21 businesses are now currently involved in the HSIS with several that could not progress dropping out of the scheme. The tender appointed building contractors, BRAC, are working with these businesses and the CBC project team to schedule the works which are now due to start in Q1. Planning permissions have been granted, enabling businesses to receive their contracts and trigger payment of their 40% contribution.
83. A project to create digital layers of Central Bedfordshire Council's aerial photographs is now complete. The images are currently hosted on an external server and are being used by the HER and Archaeology teams. Investigative work is being undertaken to make them available via a Web Mapping Service (WMS) so they can be used in both Cadcorp and the Web-based GIS, meaning all staff in the authority will be able to view them, as will members of the public. The project outturn reports a £0.043M gross expenditure and £0.012M underspend. The project is now complete.
84. The Innovation Bridge programme is funded through The European Regional Development Fund which works directly with Council as project lead and three university partners, Bedfordshire, Anglia Ruskin and Suffolk, to award grant funding to Small and Medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to achieve business growth. The capital grant element of the programme acts as an enabler to SMEs by providing support to purchase capital equipment.
85. The Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) areas covered by the programme are South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough (GCGP) and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) with coverage provided by the three university partners. Innovation Bridge provides a first connection between SMEs and universities to facilitate a longer-term knowledge exchange. A company's innovation requirements are assessed followed by research time with an academic to achieve business growth. It is the award of innovation grants which then support this. The key outputs of the project include number of new enterprises (62), number of business grants (116), number of new to the firm (94) and new to the market (45) products and employment increases to enterprises supported (87).
86. ERDF provides 30% grant funding toward capital projects with any single grant award capped at £15k. The remaining balance of funding is provided by the SMEs.