



Scrutiny Committee

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MEMBERS: Councillor Blakebrough (Chairman); Councillor Holt (Deputy-Chairman); Councillors Belsey, Miah, Murray, Rodohan, Sabri and Smart

Agenda

- 1 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2016.** (Pages 1 - 6)
- 2 Apologies for absence.**
- 3 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct.**

4 Questions by members of the public.

On matters not already included on the agenda and for which prior written notice has been given (total time allowed 15 minutes).

5 Urgent items of business.

The Chairman to notify the Committee of any items of urgent business to be added to the agenda.

6 Right to address the meeting/order of business.

The Chairman to report any requests received to address the Committee from a member of the public or from a Councillor in respect of an item listed below and to invite the Committee to consider taking such items at the commencement of the meeting.

7 The Towner Art Gallery.

Members will receive a presentation from the Executive Director Towner on the future of the Towner. This will be followed by a Question and Answer session.

8 Financial Performance - Provisional Outturn 2015/16. (Pages 7 - 18)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.

9 A27 - Member Briefing. (Pages 19 - 24)

Members to discuss the attached notes and agree how they wish to proceed following the Briefing session held on 15 March 2016.

Inspection of Background Papers – Please see contact details listed in each report.

Councillor Right of Address - Councillors wishing to address the meeting who are not members of the Committee must notify the Chairman in advance.

Public Right of Address – Requests by members of the public to speak on a matter which is listed in this agenda must be **received** in writing by no later than 12 Noon, 2 working days before the meeting e.g. if the meeting is on a Tuesday, received by 12 Noon on the preceding Friday). The request should be made to Local Democracy at the address listed below. The request may be made by letter, fax or e-mail. For further details on the rules about speaking at meetings please contact Local Democracy.

Disclosure of interests - Members should declare their interest in a matter at the beginning of the meeting, and again, at the point at which that agenda item is introduced.

Members must declare the existence and nature of any interest.

In the case of a DPI, if the interest is not registered (nor the subject of a pending notification) details of the nature of the interest must be reported to the meeting by

the member and subsequently notified in writing to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

If a member has a DPI or other prejudicial interest he/she must leave the room when the matter is being considered (unless he/she has obtained a dispensation).

Further Information

Councillor contact details, committee membership lists and other related information is also available from Local Democracy.

Local Democracy, 1 Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4TW

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Monday, 1 February 2016
at 6.00 pm



Scrutiny Committee

Present:-

Members: Councillor Smart (Chairman) Councillor Ungar (Deputy-Chairman)
Councillors Blakebrough, Miah, Rodohan, Sabri and Smethers

18 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2015 were submitted and approved, and the Chairman was then authorised to sign them as an accurate record.

19 Apologies for absence.

Councillor Murray.

20 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct.

There were none.

21 Matters Arising.

The Chairman requested that the Local Democracy Officer update the committee on the Annual Scrutiny programme actions from the 7 December 2015 committee.

A27 - The committee was advised that as yet no response had been received from Highways England regarding the proposed special meeting to discuss the improvements to the A27. That Chairman confirmed that he would contact Caroline Ansell, MP to request her assistance in encouraging a response from Highways England.

Towner – The Local Democracy Officer proposed a more detailed discussion regarding the Towner review at the next Scrutiny Monthly meeting on Wednesday 3 February 2016.

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed the current Capita report had been distributed to Members prior to the meeting.

Following the presentation at the last Scrutiny committee members had agreed to conduct a review into the financial impact and impact on joint working following the introduction of the emerging Local Policing Programme. As yet the timescale had not been agreed and the Local

Democracy Officer agreed to contact the District Commander to discuss this further.

NOTED.

22 Corporate Performance Quarter 3 2015 - 2016.

Members considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Senior Head of Corporate Development and Governance updating Members on the Council's performance against Corporate Plan Priority actions, indicators and milestones for Quarter 2 2015/16.

The committee was advised that Appendix 1 to the report provided a detailed report on the 2015/16 activities and outturns of the performance indicators listed within the Corporate Plan.

Of the 23 key Performance Indicators reported this quarter, 3 were currently showing as red, 10 were showing as green, 4 were showing as amber and 6 were data only or contextual PIs. The off target PIs were:

- CD_008 – Decent Homes Programme
- CD_051 – Difficult properties remedied/brought back into use
- CD_056 - Number of days for assistance with adaptations (Disabled Facilities Grants)

Members requested further information regarding the LTA deferred decision on player facilities until February 2016, and an update around the outstanding milestones on the feasibility work for the new flood mitigation measures. Officers agreed to discuss with the relevant responsible Officers and respond to Members following the meeting.

NOTED.

23 General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 and Capital Programme 2015/19.

The committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance officer setting out the general fund revenue budget proposals for 2016/17 and a 3-year capital programme 2015/19. The medium term financial strategy (MTFS) had been revised in July 2015 and the cabinet had agreed a draft 2016/17 budget proposal last December. The MTFS and resulting draft budget had been subject to extensive consultation and previously reported to cabinet and members of the scrutiny committee.

The budget proposals included:

- An increase in the council tax in 2016/ 17 of 1.9%; the first increase for five years.
- Overall savings/new income totalling £0.6m (4% of the net budget).
- Efficiency savings of £0.5m (3% of the net budget)
- Inflation and unavoidable costs of £0.8m (5% of the net budget)
- Other recurring service growth of £0.1m.
- Non recurring service investments of £0.6m.

- General reserves averaging in excess of £4m (against a minimum recommended of £2m).
- Capital receipts of £0.4m invested in new capital schemes.

The budget represented management of financial risks by:

- Building on a favourable outturn position.
- Balancing the base budget requirement without needing to use reserves for recurring expenditure.
- Identifiable and deliverable savings with accountability and no general unidentified targets.
- Reserves well above the minimum level.
- Zero basing of minor reward grants.
- Providing the funding required for the DRIVE change programme to deliver the future savings required by the MTFS via the strategic change fund.

The underlying methods of local government financing had changed significantly in recent years including the wrapping up of grants in the base "Standard Funding Assessment" notably:

- The council tax freeze grants (2011-15)
- Some new burdens grants
- Homelessness grant

For Eastbourne the headline figures of the government settlement were:

- A further reduction in revenue support grant of £0.9m (30%) to £1.8m (reduced from £10.4m in 2010).
- Partially offset by new homes bonus and section 31 grants (additional £0.2m in 2016/17).
- Eastbourne would receive the second largest reduction in "spending power" of all local authorities in the 4 year period to 2020.
- The government headline figure was a reduction of 16.4%; however this took into account the ability to raise council tax, predicted growth in the tax base as well as increases in the new homes bonus.

The government had announced that the council would receive £1.2m in total of new homes bonus (NHB) due to the growth in housing in the area. The grant was paid in tranches for six years. The 2016/17 figure included all 6 tranches. The funding was not guaranteed beyond the 6 year horizon for each tranche. The government was financing the additional NHB from reductions in rate support grant (RSG), therefore, whilst volatile, it was currently the preferred method of distribution of resources. A further proposal to limit future awards to 4 years was currently under consideration. At the time of writing, retention of an element NHB/RSG had been made that could equate to £100,000 for the council.

The government had asked local authorities to say whether they wished to have a four year settlement from 2016/17. There was a requirement to publish a four year efficiency statement that could only be varied by the full council. Current advice was that the efficiency target element of the MTFS would suffice in this respect and cabinet was recommended to accept the proposal.

It was proposed that council tax increase by 1.9% for 2016/17; which would result in a band D rate of £228.51. This would be the first increase for 5 years. The council was required to give an indication of likely future council tax rises. Within this context, for 2016/17, the council would raise £7.7m from its share of the council tax. In addition, there would be a distribution of £180,000 payable by the council to the collection fund due to a small collection fund surplus.

In order to achieve a balanced budget without using reserves, the council would need to set a net expenditure budget for 2016/17 of £15.2m.

The detailed budget proposals were set out in appendix 1 to the report. Details of proposed growth and savings were given in full in appendix 2 to the report. The proposals set out in the report would allow full council on 17 February to approve a balanced budget in line with available resources and without the need to use reserves.

The report detailed the principal financial risks the council was likely to face, as follows:

- Housing benefit performance.
- Inflation on goods and services.
- Income from services linked to customer choice (theatres, tourism; sports centres, car parking).
- Legal challenges.
- Savings being delayed.
- Excessive demand for services.
- Failure to realise capital receipts to finance the capital programme.

Comment was made on the scale of the £74 million capital programme and its proposed funding, including £29 million of capital receipts, £19 million of grants and contributions and £27 million of additional borrowing. The appropriate forum for a line by line review of this programme and the low levels of non- Devonshire Park capital expenditure after next year was also queried. The Chief Finance Officer responded that the programme was dynamic and regularly reviewed with quarterly reports to Scrutiny in year new items are added to the programme annually with any substantive schemes subject to specific reports to Cabinet. It was agreed to circulate the assumptions on available capital receipts to the Committee.

Members discussed the Homelessness Grant and the effect of recent Government cuts. The committee was advised that the process for reducing homelessness was robust and that where possible every effort was made to prevent homelessness. The committee also considered the use of capital receipts, Future Model phase 2, and Eastbourne Homes Investment Company.

The Chairman queried the absence of a draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for presentation to the Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that although it had not been presented in the past it would be appropriate to do so. The omission could not be corrected for this meeting but that the

2016/17 draft HRA budget would be circulated to members of the committee as it would be in future years. The Chairman also requested a further breakdown of the headings contained within the capital programme of projects to help better understand the detail and the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that this would be done.

NOTED.

24 Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020.

The committee considered the report of the Senior Head of Corporate Development and Governance and Senior Corporate Development Officer updating Members on the development of the Council's new Corporate Plan 2016-2020. Members noted that the Council remained committed to supporting the delivery of our 2026 Partnership Vision for the town:

"By 2026, Eastbourne will be a premier seaside destination within an enhanced green setting. To meet everyone's needs, Eastbourne will be a safe, thriving, healthy and vibrant community with excellent housing, education and employment choices, actively responding to the effects of climate change."

A copy of the current working draft of the 2016-20 Corporate Plan was attached at Appendix 1 of the report. The content and layout aligns with the previous version for continuity but was still subject to updating and editing as information became available. Once the final version was completed and approved, work would start on developing ways of communicating the key messages to stakeholders and the public in accessible ways.

The new Corporate Plan continued with the same 4 priority themes as the previous version – Prosperous Economy, Quality Environment, Thriving Communities and Sustainable Performance which were summarised within the report. They continued to be important areas of focus both locally and nationally and this approach would also add a degree of continuity to the projects and targets set within the plan. In order to streamline the performance reporting and focus on the chosen priority outcomes of the Corporate Plan, it was proposed that a number of changes were made to the Key Performance Indicators used; the changes were detailed within the report.

The Corporate Plan was a key document which set out the Council's medium-term objectives and priorities that were important for the town as a whole. It was important that these were chosen and developed using the consultation and statistical evidence available in order to ensure resources were allocated appropriately. Ongoing financial and performance reporting had been aligned to improve the quality of management information that was regularly reported to committees.

The committee was advised that the Corporate Management and the Leadership Team would be holding sessions dedicated to developing the updated vision statements and priority projects on 16 February and 1 March respectively. Scrutiny members were invited to submit any suggestions for consideration via the Senior Corporate Development Officer ahead of those meetings.

The Chairman requested that a priority reference to Conferencing in Eastbourne be included given the development of Devonshire Park, which should link to indicators relating to economic prosperity and the capital programme.

NOTED.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

Councillor Smart (Chairman)

BODY: SCRUTINY

DATE: 6 June 2016

SUBJECT: Financial Performance – Provisional Outturn 2015/16

REPORT OF: Chief Finance Officer

Ward(s): All

Purpose: To update Members on the Council's financial performance against the approved budgets for Quarter 4 2015/16.

Contact: Pauline Adams, Financial Services Manager
Tel 01323 415979 or internally on ext 5979.

Recommendations: Members are asked to:

- i) Note the provisional general fund outturn on services expenditure for 2015/16 of £16.427m, a net favourable variance of £195,000 against the revised budget.
- ii) Note the transfers to and from reserves as set out at Appendix 2.
- iii) Note the provisional Housing Revenue Account surplus for 2015/16 of £559,000.
- iv) Note the final Capital Programme and outturn for 2015/16 of £18.0m.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report provides cabinet with the provisional outturn results for the general fund, the housing revenue account (HRA) and capital programme for 2015/16.

1.2 Although service accounts have now been closed, other balance sheet and suspense accounts have yet to be finalised. So it is possible that there could be some further adjustments that may marginally affect the figures in this report.

1.3 The final outturn will form part of the statement of accounts that will be reported to the next Cabinet meeting in July.

2.0 General Fund Revenue Account

2.1 There was a net spend on service expenditure of £16.4m for the year analysed over services as follows:

General Fund Service Provision Outturn

	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate Services	5,457	5,836	5,807	(29)
Community Services	6,249	6,058	5,870	(188)
Regeneration, Planning Policy and Assets	(42)	49	(5)	(54)
Tourism & Enterprise	3,085	2,958	2,795	(163)
	14,749	14,901	14,467	(434)
Contingencies	(447)	(239)	-	239
Capital Financing Costs	1,834	2,195	2,195	-
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves	-	(235)	(235)	-
Service Total	16,136	16,622	16,427	(195)

2.2 The table at **Appendix 1** shows the Council's provision financial outturn compared to the agreed budget at service level. A more detailed breakdown at code or transactional level is available from Financial Services.

2.3 Service expenditure variance for the year is principally as a result of:

- Theatres Show increased income achieved (£203k)
- Savings on Street Cleansing contract (£102K)
- Surplus on Catering Trading Account (£101k)
- Additional income and expenditure savings on bereavement service (£74k)

These have been offset in part by the following negative variances:

- Redundancy payments £109k
- Rental income from corporate properties £83k.

2.4 Work is still underway reconciling some accounts and in particular the Housing Benefit Subsidy and Housing Benefits overpayments. It has been assumed for this report that these budgets will be on target, but experience from past years has indicated that this could vary considerably and any changes will be reported as part of the final outturn report to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

2.5 The General Fund Summary figures include the transfers to and from reserves as shown in **Appendix 2**. In many cases these transfers reflect items previously agreed, or at the very least where the principle of a transfer from reserves had been established as part of the overall budget strategy. The figures that have been applied take into account more up-to-date information and anticipated circumstances.

3.0 Housing Revenue Account

- 3.1 The table at **Appendix 3** summarises the HRA performance for 2015/16 and shows a surplus of (£559,000). This represents a variance of (£218,000) against the revised budget of (£341,000).
- 3.2 The principle reason for this variance is due to savings in council tax on void properties, lower insurance premium, low demand on the under occupations transfer scheme and savings resulting from Future Model restructuring.
- 3.3 The difference between the budget figure for depreciation based on the 30 year Business Plan and the actual calculated amount of £728,825 is transferred into the Housing Regeneration and Investment reserves in line with the Budget Strategy to provide flexibility for funding future major projects or the repayment of debt.

4.0 Capital Programme

- 4.1 A summary of capital expenditure for the year is shown in **Appendix 4**.
- 4.2 The revised capital programme for 2015/16 was £19.9m and the outturn was £18.0m. This is a variance of £1.9m; (£0.3m) for general fund and £2.2m for HRA.
- 4.3 A detailed reason for the variance against each scheme is shown at **Appendix 4**.
- 4.4 The variance is a timing issue rather than a genuine under spend. The capital programme for 2016/17 will be updated to reflect the re-profiling changes required.

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 Not applicable

6.0 Implications

- 6.1 There are no significant implications of this report.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Revenue expenditure is in line with budget monitoring predictions and the outturn variance represents 1.2% of net budgeted expenditure. There is still some work to be done on balance sheet, suspense and control accounts which may impact on the final outturn.
- 7.2 The council continues to have general balances in excess of the declared minimum which provides flexibility for future investment in corporate plan priorities over the medium term as well as providing funding for invest to save schemes and asset management requirements.
- 7.3 The Housing Revenue Account outturn delivered a surplus representing 1.3% over turnover. The HRA balance is in line with expectations and is

sufficiently robust to support the housing self-financing 30 year business plan.

- 7.4 Over 90% of the capital programme was delivered in year and in line with resources allocated.
- 7.5 Work is still continuing in finalising the council accounts and the final statement of accounts will be reported to Cabinet in July and the Audit and Governance Committee at the end of September .

Pauline Adams
Financial Services Manager

Background Papers:

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

*Quarters 1, 2 and 3 monitoring to Cabinet September, December and February
Quarter 4 2015/16 Budget monitoring working papers*

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT 2015/16

	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance	Comments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
CORPORATE SERVICES					
Corporate Management	409	386	347	(39)	
Joint Transformation Programme	-	176	176	-	Funded from Reserves
Financial Services Team	1,286	1,281	1,281	-	
Corporate Finance	294	314	290	(24)	
Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud	236	237	223	(14)	
Strategic Finance	1,816	1,832	1,794	(38)	
Human Resources	375	300	288	(12)	
Legal Services	233	231	240	9	
Systems Admin and Support	1,650	1,657	1,683	26	
Projects and Performance	77	329	294	(35)	
IT Services	1,727	1,986	1,977	(9)	
Corporate Development	181	157	151	(6)	
Local Democracy	716	768	834	66	
Corporate Development and Governance	897	925	985	60	
TOTAL CORPORATE SERVICES	5,457	5,836	5,807	(29)	
COMMUNITY SERVICES					
Service Management	(75)	(71)	(72)	(1)	
Strategy and Commissioning Community	54	52	14	(38)	
Service Management	75	77	82	5	
Service Improvement and Development	90	22	16	(6)	
Specialist Advisory	5,863	4,909	4,839	(70)	
Customer Contact	465	736	668	(68)	Salary underspend due to turnover and high level of vacancies
Case Management	408	545	531	(14)	
Account Management	(92)	285	371	86	Salary cost to be offset against savings in Customer Contract Team
Neighbourhood First	434	473	465	(8)	
Customer First	7,243	7,047	6,972	(75)	

	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance	Comments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Bereavement Services	(973)	(970)	(1,044)	(74)	
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	6,249	6,058	5,870	(188)	
REGENERATION, PLANNING POLICY & ASSETS					
Service Management	100	69	62	(7)	
Regeneration and Planning Policy	193	356	292	(64)	
Corporate Landlord	(536)	(585)	(617)	(32)	
Facilities Management	201	209	258	49	
Estates and Property	(335)	(376)	(359)	17	
TOTAL REGENERATION, PLANNING POLICY & ASSETS	(42)	49	(5)	(54)	
TOURISM AND ENTERPRISE					
Service Management	104	99	121	22	
Towner	685	623	621	(2)	
Tourism and Enterprise	373	414	440	26	
Catering	32	(4)	(99)	(95)	
Heritage	173	177	170	(7)	
Tourist Information	81	83	101	18	
Tourism and Enterprise	659	670	612	(58)	
Sports Delivery	322	226	254	28	
Seafront	(11)	(13)	(22)	(9)	
Events	586	601	553	(48)	
Theatres	740	752	656	(96)	
TOTAL TOURISM AND ENTERPRISE	3,085	2,958	2,795	(163)	
TOTAL SERVICE EXPENDITURE	14,749	14,901	14,467	(434)	

Revenue Transfers to/(from) Reserves			
Reserve and Purpose	Transfer to (from) General Fund £	Transfer between reserves £	Comments/ Approval
GENERAL FUND EARMARKED RESERVE - z10112			
Improvement Fund Cems and Crem	(25,760.00)		TBC
Taxi & Private Hire	(66,004.86)		TBC
Sports Park - Astro Park	(10,000.00)		
HPSC - Multi Court	(3,301.02)		
Redoubt - Cannon Appeal	(10.00)		
Tennis Development Project	(16,000.00)		
Devonshire Park Buildings - replacement windows and doors	9,090.00		Approved Cabinet 01/06/15
STRATEGIC CHANGE RESERVE - z10125			
IESE 15/16	75,000.00		Approved Cabinet 09/12/15
Civica Subsidy Service - Revs and Bens	20,865.00		Approved Cabinet 23/03/16
Transformation fund	(184,912.14)		
JTP	26,684.27		Approved Cabinet 21/10/15
Future Model	149,126.88		Approved Cabinet 10/07/13
CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE - z10127			
Town Hall Vending Machine	6,000.00		
REVENUE GRANTS RESERVE - z10128			
Grants received in advance	13,840.31		Grants receive in advance where expenditure incurred in future year. Accounting technical adjustment TBC
REGENERATION RESERVE - Z10130			
Eastbourne Brand Development - A Shared Identity	30,000.00		Approved Cabinet 16/07/14
Town Team	18,988.15		Approved Cabinet 30/05/12
Heritage Lottery Fund	10,000.00		Approved Cabinet 23/03/16
Inward Investment/Partnership schemes (3 year scheme) - Year	22,700.00		See Cabinet 11/07/12
DEVONSHIRE PARK REVIEW RESERVE			
Investment Properties/Services Charges		(1,000,000.00)	Approved Cabinet 18/03/15
Total Movement in Transfer to and from Reserves	76,306.59	(1,000,000.00)	
GENERAL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT - z10190			
RV finder licence	6,667.00		Approved Cabinet 23/03/16
Creation of Devonshire Park Review Reserve		1,000,000.00	Approved Cabinet 18/03/15
Total Movement in Transfer to and from General Fund balance	6,667.00	1,000,000.00	

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HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2015/16

Comments

	ORIGINAL BUDGET £' 000	REVISED BUDGET £' 000	ACTUAL £' 000	VARIANCE £' 000	
INCOME					
Gross Rents	(14,710)	(14,710)	(14,781)	(71)	
Charges for Services	(1,037)	(1,037)	(982)	55	
TOTAL INCOME	(15,747)	(15,747)	(15,763)	(16)	
EXPENDITURE					
Management Fee (Eastbourne Homes Limited)	7,375	7,375	7,375	0	
Supervision and Management	1,060	1,060	878	(182)	
Provision for Doubtful Debts	126	81	81	0	
Depreciation and Impairment of Fixed Assets	4,212	4,212	3,406	(806)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	12,773	12,728	11,740	(988)	
NET COST OF SERVICE	(2,974)	(3,019)	(4,023)	(1,004)	
Loan Charges - Interest	1,896	1,896	1,875	(21)	
Interest Receivable	(2)	(2)	(1)	1	
NET OPERATING (SURPLUS) DEFICIT	(1,080)	(1,125)	(2,149)	(1,024)	
Appropriations					
Transfer to Reserve	784	784	1,590	806	See comments on Depreciation
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	(296)	(341)	(559)	(218)	
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT WORKING BALANCE					
In Hand at 1st April 2015	(3,116)	(3,116)	(3,116)		
Surplus for 2015/16	(296)	(341)	(559)		
In Hand at 31st March 2016	(3,412)	(3,457)	(3,675)		

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Scheme	Total Scheme Approved	Total Spend to 31 Mar 2015	Spend in 2015-16	Revised Budget 2015-16	Variance to revised budget	Variance to scheme where completed	%	Comments
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT								
Managed by Eastbourne Homes	Ongoing		4,213,702	5,079,750	-866,048			Re-profiled to 2016-17. Works committed in April & May
Other Schemes								
Empty Homes Programme Ph1		3,140,496	2,720,156	402,662	39,100	363,562		Practically complete
New Build Phase 1		4,514,637	2,553,450	1,949,452	1,979,194	-29,742		Practically complete
New Build Phase 2		838,258	68,613	53,028	1,417,436	-1,364,408		Completion expected 2016-17
Empty Homes Programme Ph2		2,864,354	897,519	500,235	853,521	-353,286		Completion expected 2016-17
Total HRA		6,239,738	7,119,080	9,369,001	-2,249,921			
COMMUNITY SERVICES								
Ocklynge Cemetery Chapel		150,000	5,750	76,573	69,250	7,323		Remaining works to be completed in 2016-17
Disabled Facilities Grants	Ongoing		2,894,584	494,241	769,450	-275,209		Remaining spend re-profiled to 2016-17
BEST Grant (housing initiatives)	Ongoing		1,825,519	36,330	30,450	5,880		Planned works completed
Social Housing Enabling								
Coast Defences Beach Management	Ongoing		4,821,722	213,616	181,150	32,466		Planned works completed
Allotment Upgrade		114,000	112,893	1,145	1,100	45	38	0% Completed
Hampden Park Skate Park		170,000	169,907	1,011	0	1,011	918	1% Completed
CIL - Software		14,000	0	0	14,000	-14,000		Software ordered. Installation due 2016-17
Sov Harbour Community Centre		1,600,000	60,107	222,081	89,900	132,181		Main works will be 2016-17
Highfield Allotments		25,000	22,855	2,145	2,150	-5	0	0% Completed
B&X Track Hampden Park		46,000	1,150	43,000	43,000	0	-1,850	-4% Completed
Hampden Park Path		25,000	0	25,000	25,000	0	0	0% Completed
Bodiam Cres Play Area Path		20,000	0	12,000	20,000	-8,000		Works started. To be completed in 2016-17
Greenedge Park - Toddler Equipment		22,000	0	20,026	20,000	26	-1,974	-9% Completed
Princes Park - Bowls Roof		40,000	0	37,646	37,650	-4	-2,354	-6% Completed
Hampden Park - Multi Play Unit		50,000	0	49,979	50,000	-21	-21	0% Completed
Motcombe Pond		50,000	0	24,270	50,000	-25,730		Works commenced Feb 2016. Completion due in 2016-17
Allotments - Improvements		16,000	0	7,750	0	7,750		2016-17 scheme but works started early
Total Community Services		9,914,486	1,266,812	1,403,100	-136,288			
TOURISM & LEISURE								
Signage		40,000	23,917	0	16,100	-16,100		Design in progress. Completion planned for 2015-16
Re-surface Tennis Courts		265,000	208,946	27,146	27,050	96		Considering alternative ways of delivering access to tennis courts
Wish Tower - Catering Outlet		40,000	36,000	0	4,000	-4,000		Generator to be purchased.
Serco Contract	Ongoing		297,988	31,672	31,650	22		On target to complete in 2015-16
ILTC - Air Conditioning		60,000	0	0	60,000	-60,000		Planned to complete in 2015-16
ILTC - Public Address System		40,000	15,000	27,857	25,000	2,857	2,857	7% Complete
ILTC - Fire Alarm		10,000	0	16,877	10,000	6,877	6,877	69% Complete, higher cost than estimated
Sports Park Railings		11,000	0	7,272	11,000	-3,728	-3,728	-34% Completed under budget
Devonshire Park - Roller		14,000	0	14,000	14,000	0	0	0% Complete
Devonshire Park - Verti Drain Aerator		14,000	0	14,000	14,000	0	0	0% Complete
Devonshire Park - Hollow Corer		15,000	13,250	1,750	1,750	0	0	0% Complete
Devonshire Park - Grounds Van		7,500	0	7,232	7,500	-268	-268	-4% Complete
New Beach Huts		235,240	0	158,362	172,250	-13,888		Traditional huts to be installed March 2016. Iconic huts will be installed 2016-17 with completion June 2016

Scheme	Total Scheme Approved	Total Spend to 31 Mar 2015	Spend in 2015-16	Revised Budget 2015-16	Variance to revised budget	Variance to scheme where completed	%	Comments
Total Tourism & Leisure		595,101	306,169	394,300	-88,131			
CORPORATE SERVICES								
Carbon Reduction Works	467,500	0	144,383	143,000	1,383			Planned works completed. Further works due 2016-17
1 Grove Road - Redesign CCC	370,000	423,675	59,190	0	59,190	112,865	31%	Works complete. Overspend due to additional fire safety requirements
Future Model Phase 2	2,990,000	2,459,398	951,935	951,150	785			Programme nearing completion
Capital Contingencies	Ongoing	3,704,976	7,853	0	7,853			Subject to legal process
Sovereign Harbour Innovation Mall	1,400,000	0	1,400,000	1,400,000	0	0	0%	Complete
Solar Panels (2nd Programme)	500,000	303,778	232,871	196,200	36,671	36,649	7%	All works completed. Over spend relates to Phase 1
IT - Block Allocation	Ongoing	241,726	278,615	251,250	27,365			Planned works completed.
EHIC - Loan (Seaside)	1,850,000	0	1,560,000	1,560,000	0			Property purchase 26.11.15. Full loan not yet drawn down
Total Corporate Services		7,133,554	4,634,847	4,501,600	133,247			
Asset Management								
Devonshire Park Review Stage 1-4a	2,875,000	762,164	2,160,856	2,112,850	48,006	48,020	2%	Complete
Devonshire Park Project Incl Stage 4b	44,000,000	0	567,866	125,000	442,866			Separate Cabinet reports
Congress Theatre redesign & restoration	1,950,000	1,109,316	694,150	810,700	-116,550			Practically complete
Downland Pumps/Pipes Replacement	24,900	24,376	56,025	56,000	25			Scheduled works completed. Remaining budget re-profiled to 2016-17
Tratched Shelters - re-roofing	23,600	0	24,973	25,000	-27	1,373	6%	Completed under original budget of £40k
Devonshire Park Theatre - rendering & Towers	197,000	833	622,886	576,750	46,136			Significant additional work identified including structural defects and effect of subsidence. Work will continue into 2016-17.
Motcombe Dovecot	17,000	0	24,296	18,500	5,796	7,296	43%	Works completed
Shinewater Boiler replacement	45,000	0	33,845	45,000	-11,155	-11,155	-25%	Works completed
Total Asset Management		1,896,689	4,184,898	3,769,800	415,098			
Pier Grant & Coastal Communities Grant								
Wish Tower Restaurant	1,200,000	0	36,444	30,000	6,444			Works due to commence 2016-17. Consultant costs only in 2015-16
Princes Park - Café Refurbishment	394,556	0	265,423	149,556	115,867			Works started 1.2.16. Completion due June 2016
Princes Park - Public Realm Work	512,359	81,872	23,860	30,487	-6,628			Works due to start 28.3.16. Majority of works will be in 2016-17
Sea Houses Sq - Plaza Improvements	169,500	20,677	22,000	8,823	13,177			Works planned to start May 2016
Seaside Rd - Elms Bdg Façade	172,826	5,743	99,641	167,083	-67,442	-67,442	-39%	Works complete under budget
Seaside Rd - 67-69 Seaside refurb	68,687	0	0	68,687	-68,687			Re-profiled to 2016-17
		108,291	447,368	454,637	-7,269			
General Fund		19,648,121	10,840,094	10,523,437	316,657	103.0%		% completed
HRA		6,239,738	7,119,080	9,369,001	-2,249,921	76.0%		% completed
Total		25,887,859	17,959,174	19,892,438	-1,933,264	90.3%		% completed

Scrutiny Briefing - A27 Wednesday 2 March 2016 2.00pm Court Room, Town Hall

Councillors

Smart (Chairman)
Ungar (Deputy Chairman)
Coles
Holt
Taylor
Di Cara
Smethers
Belsey
Rodohan
Choudhury
Miah
Shuttleworth

Highways England

Martin Wright,
Peter Philips, Route Sponsor
Paul Harwood, Regional Lead Economic Development
Tom Beasley, Lead, Major Projects
Andy Cleaver, Atkins Consultants

Ian Lucas for MP Caroline Ansell

Introduction:

Highways England (HE) briefed the Cllrs with regard to the feasibility study looking at hotspots along the A27. There was currently no Economic Case for a dual carriageway the A27 to the east of Lewes. There would be a 'sustainable transport measures' (STM) project to make improvements to this section of the highway, HE had met with local MP's and ESCC and agreed to develop plans for these improvements.

The STM would include an investment of £75m as part of the 'Road Investment' Strategy for the south east, it was noted that this was relatively small scale and would large focus on improving the capacity issues along this stretch of the highway.

A suite of options would be available which included:

Improvements to junctions (accessibility and safety)
Improvements to access the South Downs National Park
Improving the junctions at Polegate and Willmington Village

A detailed plan had not yet been developed and the improvements were still in the early stages of consultation. The £75m was a ball park figure and could be increased or reduced depending on value for money and the final agreed plans for improvements.

There was a process for any investment scheme a 'project control format' which included the need to establish the requirement and evidence for any investment,

a 'developing options' phase – looking at capacity enhancement and improvement and improving safety.

Discussions with key stakeholders regarding options would be held later in the year with a view to formulating a suitable package. Any scheme would ideally commence before 2020.

Q and A

Councillor – the timescales were too long and would be a major issue for the residents and businesses in Eastbourne

Councillor – The current road is too short and too narrow to cope with the volume of traffic – ideally there would be a new road between Polegate and Beddingham to run alongside the rail tracks, was this included in any plans?

HE –this was not included as the current sustainability plans for this route had already been set by ministers. A larger scheme may be put forward at a later date likely 2020 -25 when more funding may become available to make larger improvements.

Councillor – Therefore it could be considered that any spending at present could be a waste of money? There are currently major hold ups due to the sheer amount of traffic without including the delays accidents cause.

MP – would the first phase include a potential new scheme to link to the improvements?

HE – There was currently no case for a new road – as per the government prescribed feasibility requirements.

MP – can we see the criteria for the feasibility for a new road?

HE – The Department for Transport Website - Green Book.

Councillor – There is a case, a recent survey of businesses supported a new road. It could be considered that making improvements would push us further down the 'priority list' for a new road. Can we retaining the £75m and look for other sources of funding to aid the development of a new road? How can we ensure we gets what is best for Eastbourne?

HE – Future growth is key, the Polegate junction requires improvement regardless of any other plans for the A27, any scheme has to show value for money, as previously stated HE would have to evidence the need for an investment of £300-£400m – the funding required for the development of a new road. Any improvements would of course be of benefit to anyone using the A27.

Councillor – Will we be consulted as part of any feasibility study?

HE – there is a structure and process that should be challenged to show that it is value for money for the public purse – if not it would not be funded. There are a

number of issues that need to be considered such as safety and environmental improvements against the cost of any proposed scheme.

Councillor – discussions about improvements to A27 have been going on for years! If the scheme has to be economically viable it becomes a 'chicken and egg' situation as a new road would bring improvements to the economy. What about the social benefits? The Green Book allows for a balance of both economic and social benefit. Has a financial viability assessment been undertaken?

HE – the feasibility study looked at all of the aspects mentioned – it should also be remembered that the South Downs National Park (SDNP) would impact on any decisions made with regards to improvements.

Councillor – What if the £75m improvements are harmful to the environment? SDNP wants any improvements to benefit the Park.

HE – Topography is a consideration, it is better to make improvements to sections of the road now than do nothing whilst discussing longer term schemes. Options had not yet been developed and it will always be difficult to balance all of the wants/ desires /opinions. SDNP had been consulted on smaller schemes and had raised concerns.

Councillor - improvements had been promised many years ago, many businesses had left the area due to poor infrastructure.

HE – Schemes had been withdrawn due to the economic downturn, any scheme would only be an aspiration until the funding was available, Councils would of course be consulted with regard to long term growth opportunities.

Councillor – why had the business case for a new road failed? What could we do?

HE – there was a 5year period for funding at which point ministers would revisit and look at route strategies. In 2020 -25 the country as a whole would be reconsidered – which could include a proposed new road. The A27 east of Lewes currently supports 22-23K vehicles per day (2013 figures). The A23 near Crawley support s 60k vehicles per day.

Councillor – Can these figures be updated and reported back the Councillors with the most accurate information?

Councillor – please don't just 'tweak' Cophall farm roundabout, which is the cause of major problems.

HE – we currently have £75m of funding available and will use this opportunity to get the best possible outcome with regard to the environment, safety, capacity and accessibility.

Councillor – we have a great deal of investment / improvement happening in Eastbourne at present and we need the infrastructure to help with this. We will have 900 new homes built in and around Polegate soon – with a potential 3000 new homes within a mile radius of Polegate.

HE – long term growth prospects, including housing development would be considered.

Councillor – A strategic route along the South coast should be a priority.

HE – the DoT, ESCC and HE would be involved in the final design / use of the £75m, SDNP would be seeking improvements for villages – including local schools. Middle Farm to Selmeston was considered the worst section of the road.

Councillor – when would consultation on proposals be taking place and what was the deadline for spending?

HE – Timescale for the list of options would be November 2016 at which point it would be discussed with stakeholders. Public consultation would take place in Spring 2017, 2020 would be the start of agreed improvements with 'spades in the ground'. The consultation was very prescriptive.

Councillor – would the cost of consultation be taken from the £75m available?

HE – this was not yet known and would be dependent on the scheme.

Close.

The Chairman (Councillor Smart) made the following observations following the discussion

- * For the 5th largest economy in the world in the 21st century the transportation links for Eastbourne are pathetic.
- * We were very surprised how remote Highways England is from the local population (for which the A27 is a big issue) and of their complete lack of transparency and urgency.
- * There is complete disagreement with HE about the "business case" and it is extraordinary that it has not been published by HE for debate.
- * HE need to run in parallel, rather than sequentially (which is the absurd way in which they work) discussion of the full solution (an additional road for 7 miles ?) and how they spend £75 million in the shorter-term.
- * That HE writes to us with responses to the questions asked and that we meet again within a few months.

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