

Cabinet

1 December 2021



Working in partnership with **Eastbourne Homes**

Time and venue:

6.00 pm in the Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG

Membership:

**Councillor David Tutt (Chair); Councillors Stephen Holt (Deputy-Chair)
Margaret Bannister, Jonathan Dow, Alan Shuttleworth, Colin Swansborough and
Rebecca Whippy**

Quorum: 3

Published: Tuesday, 23 November 2021

Agenda

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 (Pages 5 - 8)

2 Apologies for absence

3 Declaration of members' interests (Please see note at end of agenda)

4 Questions by members of the public

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

5 Urgent items of business

The Chairman to notify the Cabinet 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 Cabinet from a member of the public or from a Councillor in respect of an item listed below and to invite the Cabinet to consider taking such items at the commencement of the meeting.

7 Council tax and business rate base 2022/23 (Pages 9 - 18)

Report of Chief Finance Officer
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Stephen Holt

8 Local Council Tax Reduction scheme 2022/23 (Pages 19 - 22)

Report of Director of Service Delivery
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Alan Shuttleworth

9 Corporate performance - quarter 2 - 2021/22 (Pages 23 - 50)

Part A - Portfolio Progress and Performance

Report of Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Colin Swansborough

Part B - Financial Performance

Report of Chief Finance Officer
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Stephen Holt

10 Levelling Up Fund (Pages 51 - 58)

Report of Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor David Tutt

Information for the public

Accessibility:

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Public participation:

Please contact Democratic Services (see end of agenda) for the relevant deadlines for registering to speak on a matter which is listed on the agenda if applicable.

Information for Councillors

Disclosure of interests:

Members should declare their interest in a matter at the beginning of the meeting.

In the case of a disclosable pecuniary interest (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).

Councillor right of address:

Councillors wishing to address the meeting who are not members of the committee must notify the Chairman and Democratic Services in advance (and no later than immediately prior to the start of the meeting).

Democratic Services

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Working in partnership with **Eastbourne Homes**

Cabinet

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 3 November 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor David Tutt (Chair).

Councillors Stephen Holt (Deputy-Chair), Margaret Bannister, Jonathan Dow, Alan Shuttleworth, Colin Swansborough and Rebecca Whippy.

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Homira Javadi (Chief Finance Officer), Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning), Tim Whelan (Director of Service Delivery), Becky Cooke (Assistant Director for Human Resources and Transformation), Oliver Dixon (Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services) and Simon Russell (Head of Democratic Services).

Also in attendance:

Councillor Kshama Shore OBE (Shadow Cabinet Member) and Councillor Robert Smart (Opposition Leader).

26 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021 were submitted and approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

27 Apologies for absence

None were reported.

28 Declaration of members' interests

None were declared.

29 Recovery and Reset Programme

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive, updating them on progress of the Recovery and Reset Programme.

To ensure that the Council achieved a balanced budget in future years, savings of £6.7 million would be required. The budget planning process for 2022/23 was underway and an updated position would be reported to Cabinet in December.

The proposed savings set out at Appendix A were critical in delivering a

balanced budget for 2021/22 and delivering the reductions needed for 2022/23. It was confirmed that future reports containing the programme savings table would illustrate if the target savings rating for a specific area had changed since it was last reported.

A range of key outcomes and benefits had already been delivered through the programme and these were set out in the report. This included the council agreeing a 5-year lease with the Department for Works and Pensions for the vacated space at 1 Grove Road. The arrangement would generate income of £2.37 million for the council over the life of the lease. Thanks were conveyed to officers for their achievements detailed in the report. The Business Rates team were given special mention for their recent “excellence in innovation” award for the online system they developed to ensure a fast and efficient distribution of business grants during the height of the pandemic.

Visiting members, Councillors Shore and Smart, addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Key decision):

- (1) To note the progress made with the Recovery and Reset Programme
- (2) To agree the Priority Based Budget proposals, set out at Appendix A to the report.

Reason for decisions:

The Recovery and Reset Programme provides a structured and accountable approach for delivering the level of significant organisational change needed to respond to current and future challenges.

30 Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Report

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, noting progress to date of the Climate Emergency Strategy and to seek approval to publish the Annual Update, set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

If approved, the report would be published in November and coincide with the UN Climate Summit, COP26, being hosted in Glasgow. The report detailed a 15% reduction on the council’s carbon footprint and 6.8% reduction in the borough’s carbon footprint.

The Strategy contained 68 actions that were being closely monitored and the Council would continue to implement changes to work towards hitting its target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

Visiting members, Councillors Shore and Smart, addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To approve the 'Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030' Annual Update as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, for publication on the Council's website.

(2) To note progress to date on the strategy action plan as contained within Appendix 1 to the report.

Reason for decisions:

To progress toward the aims of achieving Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030, as resolved in July 2019.

The meeting ended at 6.48 pm

Councillor David Tutt (Chair)

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Agenda Item 7

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	1 December 2021
Title:	Council Tax Base and Non-Domestic Rates income for 2022/23
Report of:	Homira Javadi, Chief Finance Officer
Cabinet member:	Councillor Stephen Holt, Cabinet Member for Financial Services
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To approve the Council Tax Base and net yield from Business Rate Income for 2022/23 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
Decision type:	Key Decision
Officer recommendation(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Agree the provisional Council Tax Base of 34,754.0 for 2022/23.ii) Agree that the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, determine the final amounts for the Council Tax Base for 2022/23.iii) Agreed that the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, determine net yield from Business Rate income for 2022/23.
Reasons for recommendations:	Cabinet is required to approve the Tax Base which will be used for the purposes of calculating the 2022/23 Council Tax.
Contact Officer(s):	Name: Homira Javadi, Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01323 415512 or email Homira.Javadi@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The Council is required to set its Council Tax Base for the forthcoming year. This calculation is used as the basis for the amount of income the Council will precept from the Collection Fund.
- 1.2** The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 prescribe that the billing authority (this council) must supply the precepting authorities (the

County, Police and Fire authorities) with the calculation of the Council Tax Base. This information must be supplied between 1 December and 31 January in the financial year proceeding the financial year for which the calculation is being made.

- 1.3 Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 also sets out a timetable for informing the Government and precepting authorities of the business rate income calculation. This information is completed via a Government return (NNDR1) which must be submitted by 31 January in the financial year preceding the financial year for which the calculation is being made.
- 1.4 In order to assist the precepting authorities with their financial planning it is helpful to provide the information during December rather than wait for the January deadline.

2. Council Tax Base 2022/23

- 2.1 The Council Tax Base is the estimated full year equivalent number of chargeable dwellings. This is expressed as the equivalent number of Band D dwelling with two or more liable adults.
- 2.2 In making this estimate, account must be taken of discounts, disabled relief and property exemptions. Movements on and off the valuation list during the year must also be taken into account – e.g., where new properties have been built or old ones converted or demolished.
- 2.3 The basic calculation as determined by primary legislation is that the Council arrives at its Council Tax Base by multiplying its Relevant Amount by its estimated Collection Rate.

3. Relevant amount

- 3.1 The Relevant Amount for each Band is the estimated full year equivalent number of chargeable dwellings in the Band expressed as the equivalent number of Band D dwellings. The Government’s Valuation Office assesses the relative value of each property with the borough and places it in one of the eight bands. A conversion factor is then applied to each band in order to obtain the equivalent number of Band D property as set out below:

Band	Valuation (at 1 April 1991)	Conversion Factor as proportion of Band D
A	Less than £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 - £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 - £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 - £88,000	9/9
E	£88,001 - £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 - £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 - £320,000	15/9
H	Over £320,001	16/9

- 3.2 Deductions are made to the aggregate number of properties in each band in respect of various discounts such as empty properties and single persons. An adjustment is also made to reflect the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 3.3 The results for each Band are then added together to arrive at the overall Band D or Relevant Amount. For 2022/23 this totals 36,179.5 equivalent properties.
- 3.4 The Relevant Amount has increased by 402.2 (1.12%) Band D equivalent dwellings from 2021/22. This is the net impact of increases in the total number of properties, less increased discounts and increases in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

4. Collection Rate

- 4.1 The Collection Rate is the Council's estimate of the proportion of the overall Council Tax collectable for 2022/23 that will ultimately be collected.
- 4.2 The key elements in making this calculation are losses on collection, appeals against valuation, changes in circumstances (e.g. application for discounts in respect of single person's occupancy or disability) and other adjustments. These other adjustments to bills can arise for a variety of reasons including bankruptcy, death and exemptions, plus an allowance for uncollectable debts.
- 4.3 The current level of Council Tax collection is forecast to show an in-year deficit balance of £0.996m at the end of 2021/22. This would indicate that the current collection rate of 96.52% is too high and therefore the rate has been reduced to 96.06%.
- 4.4 It should be noted that, under new accounting regulations brought in by Government in response to Covid-19, deficits can be spread over three financial years from 2021-2024 in respect of 2020/21 deficits.

5. Council Tax Base

- 5.1 Taking the Relevant Amount of 36,179.5 and applying the Collection Rate of 96.06% produces a Council Tax Base for 2022/23 of 34,754.0.
- 5.2 The Council Tax Base has increased by 0.64% compared with 2021/22. This is equivalent to an increase of 221 Band D dwellings. The detailed number of properties is shown at Appendix 1.
- 5.3 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy is updated annually to take account of movement in the Council Tax Base. The assumed tax base for the current MTFS was 34,532.2, therefore this would represent an increase in assumed Council Tax income of £57k based on the current Band D Council Tax rate of £256.74.

6. Business Rate Income

- 6.1 The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a new system for the local retention of business rates. This means that the Council is required to formally approve the expected business rate income for the forthcoming year. The estimate for the 2022/23 financial year must be approved by 31 January 2022.
- 6.2 The Business Rate income is collated on the Government's NNDR1 form which shows the net rate income yield for the central and local shares of the business shares of the business rates. The actual NNDR1 form and guidance notes have not yet been received.
- 6.3 The net business rate yield is calculated using the total expected gross income by multiplying the Rateable value by the nationally set multipliers (for 2021/22 these are 51.2p standard and 49.9p for small businesses). These multipliers are uplifted annually by the September CPI rate which was 3.1%, but this increase is still to be confirmed by Government and rates may be frozen. This gross yield is then adjusted for mandatory and discretionary reliefs, an allowance for cost of collection, adjustment for changes in Rateable Value due to growth or reduction in property numbers, estimated losses on collection and an allowance for appeals.
- 6.4 The resulting calculation is the net business rate yield which is shared as follows:
- 50% to Central Government
 - 40% to Local Billing Authority (this council)
 - 9% to the County
 - 1% to the Fire Authority.
- 6.5 The local share is then payable to the Council's General Fund. All other adjustments to the overall level of Business rate income are then accounted for within the General Fund.
- 6.6 The final amount of business rates income retained by the Council is adjusted by deduction tariff and levy payments.
- 6.7 The system of tariff or top up is to redress the balance of Business Rate income nationally to ensure that no local authority is worse off as a result of business rate income at the outset of the rates retention scheme in 2013. This authority currently makes a tariff payment, and information on the level of tariff payment will be announced as part of the Government grant settlement figures.
- 6.8 Levy payments allow authorities to retain a proportion their growth. The levy has been set at 50% of the growth over the baseline allowance set by Government.

7. Setting the Business Rate Income

- 7.1 As the final figures required to set the Business Rates Income are not yet available, Cabinet is asked that delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finance.

8. Business Rate Pooling

- 8.1 The Council is working within a Business Rate Pool with the other East Sussex Borough and District Councils, East Sussex County Council and East Sussex Fire Authority. Under this arrangement, 50% of any growth in business rate income which would otherwise be paid as level to the Government can be retained by the Pool to be redistributed to its participating authorities in accordance with an agreed memorandum of understanding.
- 8.2 In recognition of the current economic climate and the impact Covid-19 is having on businesses, no redistribution from the Pool has been assumed for 2022/23.

9. Collection Fund Performance

- 9.1 As at 31 March 2021 the Collection Fund showed a net deficit of £27,353,279 (£504,974 Council Tax surplus and £27,858,253 Business Rates deficit). £25,588,965 deficit is currently being distributed across Council Tax and Business Rates preceptors during 2021/22, leaving a balance of £1,794,314 to be recovered in 2022/23.
- 9.2 The Council has to estimate the overall surplus/deficit at 31 March 2022 and inform precepting authorities in January 2022 of this estimate in order that the amount is included in the 2022/23 precept figures.
- 9.3 Current monitoring figures indicate a surplus by 31 March 2022 of £996,016 for Council Tax; this will be revisited in January and the results reported to members as part of the budget report to the February Cabinet. Any surplus or deficit is allocated to preceptors in 2022/23 in proportion to the 2021/22 Band D Council Tax. For this council this represents a 12.15% share of the total.
- 9.4 The calculation on the Business Rate income element of the Collection Fund currently indicates a deficit balance of £11,431,605 (excluding reliefs funded by s31 grant). Any surplus or deficit is allocated in 2022/23 in accordance with the proportions given at paragraph 6.4 above.

10. Outcome expected and Performance Management.

- 10.1 Once the Council Tax Base and the estimate balance on the Council Tax element of the Collection Fund has been determined, East Sussex Council, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and East Sussex Fire Authority will be notified.
- 10.2 Once the NNDR1 2022/23 has been completed and the estimated balance on the Business Rate element of the Collection Fund has been determined, this will be submitted to Central Government and both East Sussex County Council and East Sussex Fire Authority will be notified.
- 10.3 Council Tax and Business Rates income and payments to precepts are accounted for in the Collection Fund which is regularly monitored and reported to members as part of the quarterly performance monitoring report.

11. Financial appraisal

- 11.1 The Council Tax Base will be used to calculate the level of Council Tax requirement that will be recommended to the Council on 9 February 2022.
- 11.2 The net yield from Business Rates income will be used to calculate the amount of retained Business Rates to be credited to the General Fund.

12. Legal implications

- 12.1 The Council Tax Base must be calculated in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012.
- 12.2 Under these Regulations, the billing authority (this council) is required to calculate its Council Tax base by 31 January for the next financial year and inform all its preceptors of this calculation.

The legislation further provides that, where a billing authority fails to notify each of the major precepting authorities of this calculation, it can be determined by those precepting authorities on the basis of all the information available and with reference to the preceding year's amount.

- 12.3 It is a requirement of the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 for the billing authority (this council) to notify DLUHC and precepting authorities of its calculation of expected rate income by 31 January preceding the commencement of the next financial year.

If the billing authority fails to comply with this requirement then the Secretary of State may make the calculation instead and inform precepting authorities of the calculation.

13. Risk management implications

- 13.1 If the Council did not set a Council Tax Base, this can be imposed by the precepting authorities with the potential that an incorrect Band D Council Tax could be set. This would have implications for the Council Tax income for the Preceptors, this Council and the performance of the Collection Fund.

14. Equality analysis

- 14.1 There are no equality implications to this report.

15. Conclusion

- 15.1 The provisional Council Tax Base for 2022/23 has been calculated in accordance with the relevant legislation. Summary calculations are set out within the attached appendix.

- 15.2 The figures required to set the Business Rate Income are not yet available as the NNDR1 form and guidance notes have not yet been received from the DLUHC.
- 15.3 It is recommended that delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Finance, to agree the final figures for both calculations.

16. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Summary of property numbers and Council Base Calculation.

17. Background papers

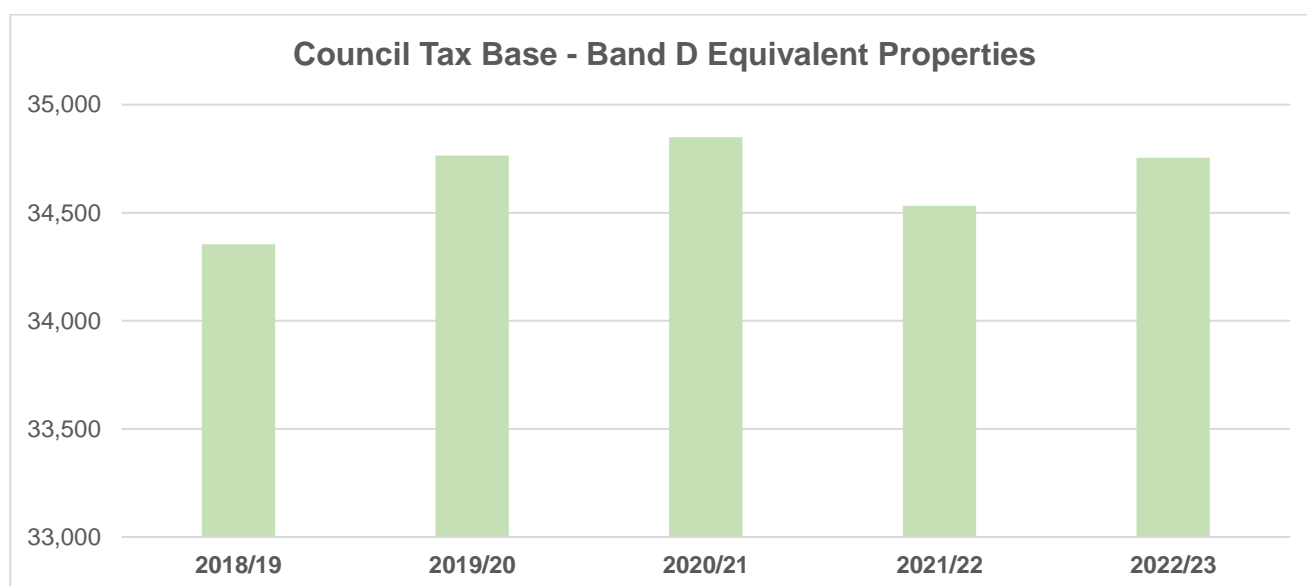
The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- Local Government Finance Act 1992
- The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992
- The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003
- Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulation 2013
- Calculation of Council Tax Base – CTB (October 2021) form.

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COUNCIL TAX BASE COMPARISON

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS					
Valuation List at November	47,749	47,841	48,077	48,080	48,368
Less: discounts equated to properties	(4,817)	(4,989)	(4,891)	(4,956)	(4,986)
Total equivalent property numbers	42,932	42,852	43,186	43,124	43,382
Estimated changes in the year	73	165	20	183	109
Less: Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(5,598)	(5,330)	(5,067)	(5,115)	(4,953)
Total Number of Properties	37,406.5	37,687.6	38,138.8	38,192.1	38,537.9
% increase / (decrease)	1.15%	0.75%	1.20%	0.14%	1.01%
TAXBASE CALCULATION					
Relevant Amount (Band D Equivalent)	35,145.2	35,384.5	35,742.2	35,777.3	36,179.5
% Collection Rate	97.8%	98.3%	97.5%	96.5%	96.1%
Council Tax Base	34,354.4	34,765.3	34,848.6	34,532.2	34,754.0
% growth / (reduction)	1.27%	1.20%	0.24%	(0.91%)	0.64%



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Agenda Item 8

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	1 December 2021
Title:	Local Council Tax Reduction scheme 2022/23
Report of:	Tim Whelan, Director of Service Delivery
Cabinet member:	Councillor Alan Shuttleworth, Cabinet member for direct assistance services
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To gain Cabinet's recommendation to Full Council that the 2021/22 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is adopted as the 2022/23 scheme.
Decision type:	Budget and policy framework
Officer recommendation(s):	(1) That Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the 2021/22 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is adopted as the 2022/23 scheme. (2) That the Exceptional Hardship Scheme is continued in 2022/23.
Reasons for recommendations:	The 2022/23 scheme meets the principles of supporting the most vulnerable with the Exceptional Hardship Scheme providing an extra level of support for those most affected.
Contact Officer(s):	Name: Bill McCafferty Post title: Lead for Income Maximisation and Welfare E-mail: bill.mccafferty@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Telephone number: 01323 415171

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The government abolished the national Council Tax Benefit scheme from April 2013 and required local authorities to develop and adopt their own scheme of support for working age claimants. This change came with a 10% cut in funding; for the Council this was c£1m.
- 1.2 To protect pensioners from any reduction in support, the government put in place a national scheme that local authorities had to adopt. Therefore, any reduction in support had to come from those of working age.
- 1.3 The Council, on 16 January 2013, adopted a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTR) of support for 2013/14 which, in the main, followed the rules of

the Council Tax Benefit scheme, as well as agreeing changes to certain council tax discounts and exemptions.

- 1.4 On 20 November 2015 the Council adopted a revised scheme for 2016/17 that:
- Limited a Council Tax Reduction to 80% of the council tax liability
 - Assumed a minimum income for claimants who have been self-employed for more than 12 months
- 1.5 There have not been any changes to the scheme since 2016/17 so the current 2021/22 scheme follows the principles of protecting the most vulnerable, incentivising individuals into work and takes into account the financial pressures on the Council and the major preceptors.
- 1.6 An Exceptional Hardship fund of £47,499 was established for 2016/17 to provide additional support to those most affected by the reduction in the award to a maximum of 80% of council tax liability and the change to the way self-employed claims are assessed. The Council contributed £6,426 to the fund with the remainder coming from the major preceptors in proportion to their share of the Council Tax. Of the £47,499 there was £21,526.80 remaining in September 2021.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 That the LCTR 2021/22 scheme is adopted for 2022/23.
- 2.2 That the Exceptional Hardship Scheme continues in 2022/23.

3 Outcome expected and performance management

- 3.1 That the LCTR scheme supports those on low incomes to meet their council tax liabilities and that the Exceptional Hardship Scheme provides additional support to those facing exceptional hardship.
- 3.2 The cost of the LCTR scheme and the Exceptional Hardship scheme will be monitored monthly.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 There is no requirement to consult as no changes to the scheme are being proposed.

5 Corporate plan and council policies

- 5.1 The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme supports the Council's objective of addressing deprivation through helping residents on a low income meet their council tax liabilities.

6 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

6.1 No alternatives considered as it is a statutory requirement to have in place a Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

7 Financial appraisal

7.1 The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme has an impact on the Council Tax base as it reduces the amount of Council Tax billed to eligible households.

7.2 The cost, in terms of a reduction in tax base, of the 2022/23 scheme will be in the region of £8.7m. The actual cost of the discount scheme for 2022/23 will not be known for certain until the end of the financial year and will be dependent on the actual caseload in year as well as the levels of Council Tax set by the Council and the major precepting authorities.

8 Legal implications

Recommendation (1) of this report reflects the duty on the Council under paragraph 5 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to consider, for each financial year, whether to revise its council tax reduction scheme or to replace it with another scheme. It is open to the Council to decide to make no changes to the scheme from one financial year to the next.

If, despite the recommendation (1), the Council is minded to revise or replace the scheme for 2022/23, it must do so no later than 11 March 2022, following consultation with the major preceptors and other interested parties.

Under section 67 of the 1992 Act, adoption of a Council Tax Reduction Scheme is reserved to full Council. The role of Cabinet is to consider the proposed scheme and make a recommendation to Council, with any amendment to the proposed scheme it considers appropriate

*Lawyer consulted 01.11.21
010532-EBC-OD*

Legal ref:

9 Risk management implications

The main risk to the Council is that the cost of the scheme rises substantially. This could happen if there is an upturn in the number of people who become eligible for, and claim, CTR. This risk has to be accepted as the Council has no mechanism to prevent this happening.

9.1 Monthly monitoring will identify any unexpected rise in the amount of CTR being awarded and this will be notified to the relevant Finance officers.

10 Equality analysis

As there are no changes to the scheme being proposed there is no requirement for an Equality Analysis as one was carried out on the 2016/17 scheme.

11 Environmental sustainability implications

Nothing arising from this report has any detrimental Environmental impact.

12 Appendices

- None

13 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- [Eastbourne S13A Scheme 202223 Draft.pdf](#)

Agenda Item 9

Body:	Cabinet
Date:	1 December 2021
Subject:	Corporate Performance Quarter 2 2021-22
Report of:	Homira Javadi, Chief Finance Officer Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning
Cabinet member:	Councillors Colin Swansborough and Stephen Holt
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of the report:	To update Members on the Council's performance against Corporate Plan priority actions, performance indicators and targets for the second quarter of the year 2021-22.
Decision type:	Non Key
Recommendation:	Cabinet is recommended to: i) Note the achievements and progress against Corporate Plan priorities for 2021-22, as set out in Part A of this report. ii) Note the General Fund, HRA and Collection Fund financial performance for the quarter, as set out in Part B of the report.
Reasons for recommendations:	To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council's progress and performance.
Contact:	Homira Javadi: Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01323 485512 or e-mail homira.javadi@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Lee Banner: Transformation Programme Manager Tel: 07894 237929 or email: lee.banner@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

1.0 Consultation

- 1.1 The priority themes in the Corporate Plan were developed in consultation with residents.

2.0 Financial appraisal

2.1 Project and performance monitoring and reporting arrangements are contained within existing estimates. Corporate performance information should also be considered alongside the Council's financial update as there is a clear link between performance and budgets/resources.

2.2 All the financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

3.0 Legal implications

3.1 Comment from the Legal Services Team is not necessary for this routine monitoring report.

4.0 Equality analysis

4.1 The equality implications of individual decisions relating to the projects/services covered in this report are addressed within other relevant Council reports or as part of programmed equality analysis.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 This report provides an overview of performance against the authority's priority actions and indicators for 2021-22.

Appendices

Part A

Appendix 1 – Quarter 2 Performance Overview

Part B

Appendix 1 – Housing Revenue Account

Appendix 2 – Capital Programme

Background Papers:

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

- Corporate Plan 2020/24 <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/about-the-councils/corporate-plans/>

Part A: Portfolio Progress and Performance Q2 2021-22

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The performance of the Council is of interest to the whole community. People expect high quality and good value for money services. Performance monitoring, and a strong performance culture helps us to ensure we continue to deliver excellent services and projects to our communities in line with planned targets.
- 1.2 This report sets out the Council's performance against its targets and projects for the second quarter of 2021/22 (1 July - 30 September 2021).
- 1.3 The Council has an annual cycle for the preparation, delivery and monitoring of its corporate and service plans. This cycle enables us regularly to review the Council's work, and the targets it sets for performance, to ensure these continue to reflect customer needs and Council aspirations.

2 Themes and Priority Visions

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan was developed with four themes to focus delivery of improvement activity for the borough. Each of these themes had its own priority vision for how the authority and its stakeholders wanted Eastbourne to develop. Performance is measured against these themes and objectives.

Growth & Prosperity	Housing & Development	Quality Environment	Thriving communities
Outstanding in tourism & leisure as well as facilitating exciting cultural events	Address homelessness	Promote inclusion and address deprivation	Effectively tackling waste
Attractive and thriving town	Promote homes that sustain health & well-being	Promote physical health and mental well-being	Protecting the environment
Supporting and attracting business	Good access to housing that meet modern standards	Actively engaged communities	A low carbon place
Improved infrastructure	Locations regenerated and more housing	Safe communities and safe residents	

3 Format

- 3.1 Appendix 1 provides a high-level summary of progress and performance. The summary shows where performance and projects are 'on track/on target' and where there are areas of risk, concern or under-performance. Where performance or projects are 'off track/below target', an explanation of the management action being taken to address this is also provided.
- 3.2 A list of projects is provided and updates can be requested, as required, from project managers. This allows more detailed and bespoke reports rather than short paragraph updates.
- 3.3 The last section of Appendix 1 details the devolved budget spend by ward and the projects that have been supported through this scheme for 2021/22. Each ward had a total of £5,000 available to spend on schemes requested by the local community.

4 Financial Appraisal

- 4.1 Project and performance monitoring and reporting arrangements are contained within existing estimates. Corporate performance information should also be considered alongside the Council's financial update reports (also reported to Cabinet each quarter) as there is a clear link between performance and budgets/resources.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Comment from the Legal Services Team is not necessary for this routine monitoring report.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 It is important that corporate performance is monitored regularly otherwise there is a risk that reductions in service levels, or projects falling behind schedule, are not addressed in a timely way.

7 Equality Analysis

- 7.1 The equality implications of individual decisions relating to the projects/services covered in this report are addressed within other relevant Council reports or as part of programmed equality analysis.








Appendices

Appendix 1 – Portfolio Progress and Performance Report (Quarter 2 2021/22)













Appendix 1













Eastbourne Borough Council Corporate Performance Report Q2 2021-22















- **Councillor David Tutt** - (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) - Cabinet member for responsibilities aligned with the Chief Executive.
- **Councillor Stephen Holt** - (Deputy Leader) - Cabinet member for financial services.
- **Councillor Margaret Bannister** - Cabinet member for tourism and leisure services.
- **Councillor Jonathan Dow** - Cabinet member for climate change.
- **Councillor Alan Shuttleworth** - Cabinet member for direct assistance services.
- **Councillor Colin Swansborough** - Cabinet member for place services and special projects.
- **Councillor Rebecca Whippy** - Cabinet member for disabilities and community safety.











Key			
	Performance that is at or above target		Performance that is below target
	Data with no performance target		Performance that is slightly below target but is within an acceptable tolerance
	Direction of travel on performance indicator: improving performance		Direction of travel on performance indicator: declining performance
	Direction of travel on performance indicator: no change		

KPIs

KPI Description	Annual Target 2021/22	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22			Latest Note	
		Value	Value	Target	Status		Short Trend
1. Finance: Percentage of Council Tax collected during the year - Eastbourne	96.06%	28.56%	54.97%	54.70%			The collection rate is 0.27% above target and remains on track.
2. Finance: Percentage of Business Rates collected during the year - Eastbourne	97.50%	18.96%	45.62%	53.73%			The collection rate is 8.11% below target. There are 68 businesses who have not claimed expanded retail discount (66%) who could be eligible. This equates to a combined £1 million net liability over the remainder of this financial year. Work is under way to call these businesses during October to establish why they didn't re-apply and to encourage them to either re-apply or start paying the arrears which currently stands at £337k to date.
3. Benefits: Average days to process new claims for housing/council tax benefit	22	21	24	22			98% of claims processed in Q2 were within the target of 22 days. 2% of the claims processed took, for a variety of reasons, over 100 days to process. This small number of complex claims skewed the outturn.
4. Benefits: Average days to process change of circs (housing/council tax benefit)	8	6	6	8			Performance remains on target.
5. Customers: Increase the percentage of calls to the contact centre answered within 60 seconds	80%	52.25%	21.15%	80%			<p>Customer Contact has continued to experience high call demand.</p> <p>In Q1 we had managed to successfully recruit to 8 of our 9 vacancies that we had. Recruitment days have already taken place with interviews during October scheduled to fill the remaining vacancies, caused by staff moving into different roles, specialising in council tax and rent collection. Given the movement of staff, we are over recruiting to the numbers in the team.</p> <p>Although Q2 saw an overall reduction in call volumes, we still experienced on average 10,600 calls a month and over 150,00 emails since the start of the year (averaging 300 emails a day). Our re-opened receptions from April continue to be busy with visitors, as does webchat. Recovery action from when the Magistrate courts re-opened continues at pace as the Council catches up on recovery letters being sent.</p> <p>Early indications are that the Q3 performance is improving, during week commencing 8 November, 41.7% of calls were answered within 60 seconds.</p>
6. Customers: Reduce the numbers of abandoned calls to the contact centre - Ebn	5%	9.01%	23.73%	5%			Same as KPI 5.

KPI Description	Annual Target 2021/22	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22				Latest Note
		Value	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	
7. Housing: Number of households living in emergency (nightly paid) accommodation	Data only	116	123	Data only			<p>At the end of Q2 there were 123 households in emergency accommodation (EA), up 6 compared to Q1.</p> <p>Q2 is the busiest quarter for the service. Across the service, the number of people presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness was up 17.5% compared to Q1, on top of an annual increase in demand following the global pandemic.</p> <p>Historically, the number of households in EA reduces over Q3 as demand tends to reduce before it peaks again around Christmas. This reduction will help enable the service to focus on outcomes for customers and in turn move households on from EA.</p> <p>However, following the global pandemic, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) has anticipated that homelessness applications will double from October, as measures to prevent homelessness, such as extended notice periods, end. It is too early to say if applications will double but if correct, this could impact annual trends and we may not see the same reduction in households in EA over Q3.</p> <p>During Q2, the Housing Needs and Standards team carried out a restructure of its service.</p> <p>As of October, the service is mobilising the new structure. Following the successful mobilisation, it is intended that we will see further improvements to performance in Q4 as the team settle into the new structure</p> <p>The team will be able to house EA placements, that qualify, into a more permanent housing solution and tenancy at Victoria mansions as the properties become available in Q3.</p>
8. Customers: Number of new sign-ups to the Councils' social media channels	600	315	460	150			A strong performance. This is partially down to our increased use of Instagram and LinkedIn - both of which are now reflected in the figures.
9. Customers: Number of people registering for our email service (GovDelivery)	1,800	3,318	1,553	600			We have seen a levelling off in the number of new email alert subscribers - this is partially due to us not having run any high profile consultations in this period, which usually leads to an increase in subscribers (who have chosen the option to join our news and consultation mailing list).
10. Customers: Percentage of local searches that are returned within 10 working days of receipt	80%	98.89%	100%	80%			Above target
11. Growth: Town centre vacant retail business space	11.5%	10.94%	10.94%	11.5%			Town centre vacancy reporting remains at 10.94% for Q2. Reporting is below the national rate of 11.8%. The Beacon has seen the opening of a new store and a pop-up shop has opened for Christmas trade. An independent butcher has also opened.
12. Housing: Average void relet time key to key (month & YTD)	20.0	43.8	31.1	20.0			While the Q2 outturn is an improvement on the previous reporting period, there continues to be delays in void relet times due to a national material supply shortage and labour shortages

KPI Description	Annual Target 2021/22	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22			Latest Note	
		Value	Value	Target	Status		Short Trend
							due to staff isolating due to Covid-19, although an action plan developed with the contractor has seen an improvement from Q1.
13. Housing: DFGs - Time taken from council receiving a fully complete application to the council approving the grant	14 days	3 days	2 days	14 days			Performance remains on target
14. Housing: Number of Licensed HMOs Inspected per Quarter	50	10	No inspections during Q2	13			We are currently undergoing a recruitment drive for Specialist Advisors to carry out HMO inspections. In the interim, we have identified an additional resource to undertake the high-risk HMOs. So far in Q3, 5 inspections have been carried out which indicates an improved performance for Q3.
15. Housing: Rent arrears of current tenants (expressed as a percentage of rent debit)	3%	3.81%	3.83%	3%			Eastbourne Homes Limited (EHL) arrears are at 3.81% which is 0.85% below the pre-pandemic level (4.66% in March 2020). Figures collected by HouseMark showed a 30% nationwide increase in outstanding rent arrears since March 2020 and Citizens Advice reports a 24% increase in average arrears over the last year. EHL did not follow that trend and the percentage of annual current rent arrears is lower than pre-pandemic. Further improvement is expected in Q3 as recruitment for additional staff is underway and we are utilising Discretionary Housing payments to reduce tenant arrears.
16. Planning: Increase the percentage of Major Planning Applications processed within 13 weeks	65%	100%	100%	65%			Continues to be above target
17. Increase the percentage of minor planning applications processed within 8 weeks	75%	81%	68%	75%			19 out of 28 minor planning applications processed within 8 weeks. Annual performance of 75% remains on target.
18. Increase the percentage of other planning applications processed within 8 weeks	75%	75%	81%	75%			Continues to be above target
19. Recycling & Waste: % Container Deliveries on Time (SLA)	99%	14.68%	22%	99%			Delays in supplies from container manufacturers caused July and August to be the lowest 'on time' deliveries since the start of AWC. The demand for containers remains high – SEESL has been experiencing a 40% increase since the start of AWC – impacting negatively on the SLA container delivery target for Q2.

KPI Description	Annual Target 2021/22	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22			Latest Note	
		Value	Value	Target	Status		Short Trend
							September saw an improvement as stock issues eased and extra resources were dedicated to deliveries. It is anticipated 'on time' deliveries will be back on target for Q3.
20. Recycling & Waste: Missed Assisted Collections	1%	0.67%	0.49%	1%			<p>Q2 performance is within target and has improved compared to the previous quarter. Collection crews have become more familiar with their new AWC refuse rounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July = 0.7% Aug = 0.5% Sept = 0.3% Q2 average = 0.5% <p>N.B. The total number of customers receiving an assisted collection across the service = 3,198 Total number of assisted collections made across the services per month (and adjusted to include refuse AWC) = 14,249</p>
21. Recycling & Waste: Number of missed bins (per 100,000)	100	89	71	100			Q2 sees an average of 71 missed bins per 100,000 per month across the quarter, although still within target. This is an expected increase while residents are still settling into their new refuse collection days.
22. Recycling & Waste: Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	45.00%	38.40%	39.87%	45.00%			<p>Q2 estimated = 39.8% (average across previous quarter until ESCC data is available)</p> <p>A positive impact on the recycling rate is starting to be seen from the start of AWC in April 2021. The rate has increased by 5.6% from 2020/21 (32.8%) and the Q1 outturn (38.4%).</p>
23. Recycling & Waste: Total number of reported fly-tipping incidents	400	194	219	100			<p>Fly-tipping incidents in Q2 were up by 25 compared to the previous Q1 (194). Encouragingly, Q2 is down by 45 incidents compared to Q2 in 20/21 (264). The hotspot ward for this quarter is Devonshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July = 67 Aug = 66 Sept = 86 Q2 Average = 73 Q2 total = 219 incidents <p>There were 8 fly tipping fines issued during Q2 amounting to £1,625</p>
24. Staff: Average days lost per FTE employee due to sickness	8.0 days	1.82 days	2.42 days	2.0 days			Sickness levels are slightly above target for Q2. In Q1, we predicted that during Q2 we would likely see an increase in staff absence as an impact of restrictions easing. During Q2, all national Covid-19 restrictions were removed, and we have seen a slight increase in both Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 related absences. In addition, we had 15 staff absent due to a reaction following vaccination.

KPI Description	Annual Target 2021/22	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22			Latest Note
		Value	Value	Target	Status	
						<p>Excluding Waste Services, the corporate Q2 figure reduces to 1.44 days (within target). The Waste Services figure on its own is 8.6 days. The Q2 figure for Waste Services is attributed to a number of staff who were absent for the entire period – as the majority of members of staff have now returned to work or left the organisation, we anticipate a decrease in the Q3 figure. It is worth noting that Waste Services staff have continued to operate normally throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>Although sickness levels remain comparatively low, HR Business Partners continue to support managers in robustly managing any attendance issues that arise.</p>

Projects

Project / Initiative	Description	Target completion
Winter Garden Improvements	Upgrade of the Winter Garden including use of recent central government grants	Q3 2022/23
Sovereign Centre Review	Under review	To be confirmed
Hampden Retail Park	The acquisition and development of Hampden Retail Park as part of the Property Acquisition and Investment Strategy (PAIS).	Ongoing. Phase 1 is end of March 2022.

Devolved ward budget scheme 2021/2022 – Summary by ward to end of Quarter 2 (1 April – 30 September 2021)

Ward	Project	Description	Project Spend to Date
Devonshire	BourneOut Pride event	Contribution to BourneOut for Eastbourne Pride Event.	£350.00
	Friends of Seaside Rec	Contribution to the Friends of Seaside Rec. Fun Day.	£350.00
	Sober Eastbourne website maintenance	Funding for a computer needed to maintain a local resources directory website, Sober Eastbourne	£400.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£1,100.00
Hampden Park	No schemes to end of Quarter 2		
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£0
Langney	Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing	Contribution towards a new Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing, to provide an outreach service.	£350.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£350.00
Meads	Seven Sisters Camera Club	A new projector for the Seven Sisters Camera Club	£1,000.00
	Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing	Contribution towards a new Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing, to provide an outreach service.	£500.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£1,500.00
Old Town	Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing	Contribution towards a new Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing, to provide an outreach service.	£400.00
	Community Fridge at Victoria Baptist Church	Funding for a fridge to help tackle food poverty in the area.	£500.00
	Re-wilding St Mary's Churchyard	Re-wilding St Mary's churchyard	£400.00
	Community Centre	Funding for improvements at local Community Centre	£450.00
	Gingerbread Cafe mural	Contribution towards a largescale mural at the Cafe in Gildredge Park, to improve the environment and deter graffiti.	£350.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£2,100.00
Ratton	Tree planting	Tree planting to replace dead trees in Halland Close and Stanmer Drive.	£2,000.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£2,000.00
St Anthony's	Car Free Day printing	Printing work in support of Eastbourne Car Free Day.	£25.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£25.00

Ward	Project	Description	Project Spend to Date
Sovereign	Eastbourne Sea Cadets	Funding to replace dingy sails for Eastbourne Sea Cadets.	£250.00
	Plastic Free Eastbourne	Contribution towards a network of water refill stations across the town for Plastic Free Eastbourne.	£750.00
	Kings Park road signs	To provide road signs around Kings Park (as the roads and pathways are not adopted by ESCC).	£250.00
	Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing	Contribution towards a new Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing, to provide an outreach service.	£250.00
	Harbour walkway benches	Additional seating for the Harbour walkways.	£750.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£2,250.00
Upperton	Re-wilding St Mary's churchyard	Re-wilding St Mary's churchyard	£400.00
	Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing	Contribution towards a new Gazebo for East Sussex Hearing, to provide an outreach service.	£500.00
	Eastbourne Allotments raised beds	Additional raised beds to help more people enjoy the benefits of gardening.	£600.00
	Gingerbread cafe mural	Contribution towards a largescale mural at the Cafe in Gildredge Park, to improve the environment and deter graffiti.	£350.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 2			£1,850.00
Number of schemes to end of Quarter 2			22
All wards total spend to end of Quarter 2			£11,175.00

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Part B

Financial Performance Q2 2021/22

1.0 General Fund

1.1 General Fund performance of the quarter is shown in the table below:

	Current Budget	Profiled Budget	Actual to 30 Sept 2021	Variance to date
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
SUMMARY				
Corporate Services	4,104	2,543	2,533	(491)
Service Delivery	9,258	5,171	3,941	(906)
Regeneration & Planning	606	56	690	638
Tourism & Enterprise	3,853	1,925	1,914	159
Net Cost of Services	17,821	9,695	9,078	(600)
Levy (Pevensey)	229	119	119	0
Contingency (year-end adj)	250	0	0	0
Reserves (year-end adj)	6	0	0	0
Capital Financing/Interest (R&R)	2,318	(7)	(7)	0
Costs/Redundancy Provision	1,850	386	386	0
Corporate Savings (R&R)	(438)	0	0	0
Income Recovery- estimate	(300)	(300)	(839)	(539)
Capitalisation Direction	(6,000)	0	0	0
Net Expenditure	15,736	9,893	8,737	(1,139)
Financing				
Council Tax	(8,911)	(4,455)	(4,455)	0
Business Rates	(5,057)	(2,528)	(2,528)	0
Government Grants	(918)	(459)	(459)	0
Total Financing	(14,886)	(7,442)	(7,442)	0
(Surplus)/Deficit	0	2,451	1,295	(1,139)
			Net Variance	(1,139)

1.2 The position at the end of September shows a net surplus of £1.139m. Key variances for the Net Cost of Services are set out in the following table:

	Net Full year Budget £000's	Profiled Q2 Variance £000's	Total Q2 Variance £000's
Corporate Services			
IT – salaries	689	(8)	
IT – network costs	284	95	
Corporate R&R savings	850	(559)	
CMT savings	438	(26)	
Finance – insurance claims	27	7	(491)
Service Delivery			
Account Management - salaries	477	123	
Licensing additional income	(226)	(19)	
Crematoria income shortfall	(1,610)	57	
B&B Accommodation – net reduction in spend	616	(140)	
Case Management – salaries	434	(261)	
Neighbourhood First – salaries	328	(57)	
Public Conveniences – contract reduction	390	(56)	
Homes First – agency staffing	0	60	
CF Functional Leads	0	40	
Customer Contact Team	1,761	(36)	
Specialist Advisory – salaries	903	(68)	
HB Subsidy underspend	2,004	(394)	
Summons Cost Income	(216)	(102)	
Green Waste – additional income	(689)	(53)	(906)
Regeneration & Planning			
Property - salaries	272	(50)	
Corporate Landlord – business rates	61	45	
Investment Properties – NNDR/rental income	(2,147)	659	
Housing Delivery Team – salaries	431	(13)	
Development Control – salaries	194	143	
Development Control – additional fee income	(229)	(113)	
Planning Policy – salaries	224	(30)	
Regeneration – salaries	110	(3)	638
Tourism and Culture			
Director of Tourism – salary saving	108	(23)	
Stage Door – staffing costs	(73)	57	
EDGC Catering – staffing costs	(5)	21	
EDGC Golf – additional income	48	(60)	
Theatre Operations Team - salaries	155	13	
Devonshire Park Grounds– operational costs	272	3	
Heritage Eastbourne – income shortfall	50	40	
Professional Tennis – increased costs	52	10	
Airbourne – net saving	145	(137)	
Sovereign Centre – net saving	258	(41)	
Bandstand – income shortfall	(162)	155	
Beach and Sea bathing – staff costs	8	3	
Redoubt Event – reduced income	(9)	29	
The Pavilion – increased operating costs	6	40	
Conferences – salaries	304	(36)	
Winter Garden Kitchen – income shortfall	(80)	71	
ILTC Kitchen – net income shortfall	(28)	14	159
NET COST OF SERVICES SURPLUS			(600)

- 1.3 The recent announcement regarding the removal of the public sector pay freeze will impact the budget outturn position further. During the medium-term financial planning process for 2021/22 no additional funding was factored in for pay inflation. Any new pay agreements will be partially funded by the £250k contingency currently available. Any additional costs will be reflected in the outturn.

1.4 The Cultural Recovery Fund grant of £1.3m and its associated budgets remain outside of the General Fund monitor. An update of that expenditure and grant usage will be provided at the Q3 update.

2.0 HRA

2.1 HRA performance of the quarter is as follows:

	Full Year Budget	Profiled Budget	Actual to 30 Sept 2021	Variance to date
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
HRA				
Income	(15,819)	(35)	(35)	0
Expenditure	13,866	4,215	4,075	(141)
Capital Financing & Interest	1,564	0	0	0
Contribution to Reserves	389	0	0	0
Total HRA	0	4,180	4,040	(141)

There is a positive variance of £141k at the end of quarter 2. The main variance relates to a £141k underspend on the supervision and management costs. A further breakdown is shown at **Appendix 1**.

3.0 Capital Expenditure

3.1 The detailed capital programme at **Appendix 2**, provides a summary of spend for quarter 2 compared to the budget for 2021/22 and the total spend for each scheme as of 30 September. The current expenditure totals £17.6m against the latest programme of £54.8m. Comments are provided for each scheme in the appendix.

4.0 Collection Fund

4.1 The Collection Fund records all the income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates and its allocation to precepting authorities.

4.2 The Collection fund for the year is as follows:

	Council Tax	Business Rates
	£'000	£'000
(Surplus)/Deficit Brought Forward 01 April 2021	(505)	27,858
Total Collectable Income for year*	(74,655)	(28,520)
Net Payments to Preceptors	73,332	11,767
Write offs, provisions for bad debts and appeals	832	327
Additional Business Rate Relief s31 grant	-	(11,784)
Estimated Balance 31 March 2022 – (Surplus) / Deficit	(996)	(352)
Allocated to:		
Government	-	(176)
East Sussex County Council	(728)	(32)
Eastbourne Borough Council	(121)	(141)
Sussex Police	(101)	-
East Sussex Fire Authority	(46)	(3)
	(996)	(352)

** This represents the latest total amount of income due for the year and allows for changes as a result of discounts, exemptions and reliefs, as well as increases in the Council Tax and Business Rate bases.*

4.3 The allocation to preceptors reflects the operation of the Collection Fund for Council Tax and Business Rates which are distributed on different bases under regulations. The distributions have now been finalised for 2021/22 in line with the above allocations.

4.4 Council Tax is showing a surplus of £996k for the quarter, which represents an in-year improvement of £167k after allowing for the brought forward surplus of £505k. The Council's share of the overall forecast surplus is £121k.

4.5 There is a Business Rates surplus of £0.352m at the end of September, of which the Council's share is £141k. The position is changing on a monthly basis as the impact of reliefs and s31 grants are applied, and a more accurate position will be known when the final surplus or deficit position is formally set in January 2022.

5.0 Treasury Management

5.1 The Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators were approved by Cabinet and Council in February.

5.2 Annual Investment Strategy

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2021/22 which includes the Annual Investment strategy, was approved by the Full Council on Wednesday, 19th February. It sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of Capital
- Liquidity
- Yield.

Approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the period ending 31 October 2021, except for the balance held with Lloyds Bank, which exceeded the £5m limit for 13 days during the period.

5.3 Investment performance for the quarter ending 31 October is as follows:

Benchmark	Benchmark Return	Council Performance	Interest Earning
7-day LIBID	-0.08%	0.04%	£2,500

The budgeted investment return for 2021/22 is £50,000. Due to cash flow requirements and current low interest rates, investments held are at minimum and it is unlikely that this budget will be achieved, but this will be offset by reduced borrowing. The continuous use of internal balances is in line with the Council's strategy and reduces the amount of interest payable on loans and investment income.

5.4 TM Borrowing – Q2 2021/22

In taking borrowing decision, the Council carefully considered achieving best value, the risk of having to borrow at higher rates at a later date, the carrying cost of the difference between interest paid on such debt and interest received from investing funds which would be surplus until used, and that the Council could ensure the security of such funds placed on temporary investment.

- **Rescheduling** – no debt rescheduling was carried out during the quarter as there was no financial benefit to the Council.
- **Repayment** – None

Borrowing – The Council has not borrowed more than, or in advance of its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. No new loans were drawn down from PWLB (Public Works Loan Board) during the quarter to fund the net unfinanced capital expenditure and/or to replace maturing loans. Various temporary loans were taken to cover cash flow requirements. All loans drawn were for fixed rate as detailed within the table below.

Lender - Temp Debt	£m	Start Date	End Date	Rate
				%
Loans held:				
North Yorkshire County Council	5.0	23-Nov-20	22-Nov-21	0.25
North Yorkshire County Council	5.0	24-Nov-20	23-Nov-21	0.25
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	7.0	20-Sep-21	20-Jun-22	0.07
West Midlands Combined Authority	10.0	21-May-21	21-Jan-22	0.07
Loans repaid:				
Wokingham Borough Council	10.0	15-Mar-21	15-Sep-21	0.12

5.5 **Debt Rescheduling**

Debt rescheduling opportunities have been very limited in the current economic climate and following the various increases in the margins added to gilt yields which have impacted PWLB new borrowing rates since October 2010. As short-term borrowing rates will be considerably cheaper than longer term fixed interest rates, there may be potential opportunities to generate savings by switching from long term debt to short term debt.

However, these savings will need to be considered in the light of the current treasury position and the size of the cost of debt repayment (premiums incurred). The reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:

- The generation of cash savings and / or discounted cash flow savings;
- Helping to fulfil the treasury strategy;
- Enhance the balance of the portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

Consideration will also be given to identify if there is any residual potential for making savings by running down investment balances to repay debt prematurely as short term rates on investments are likely to be lower than rates paid on current debt. No debt rescheduling has therefore been undertaken to date in the current financial year.

5.6 **Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits**

It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. The Council's approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators (affordability limits) are included in the approved TMSS.

During the quarter to 31 October the Council has operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices, except for temporary balances exceeding limits with Lloyds Bank.

5.7 Climate change and environmental implications

Treasury management is a Council-wide function and its climate change, environmental and sustainability implications are the same as for the Council itself. The Council and its TM Advisors will have regard to the environmental activities of its Counterparties (where reported) but: -

- Prioritises Security, Liquidity and Yield,
- Recognises that as large, global institutions our high-quality counterparties operate across the full range of marketplaces in which they are legally able to, and as a result climate change considerations are an increasingly important and heavily-scrutinised part of their overall business.
- Excluding any one counterparty will likely mean others will similarly have to be avoided and thus impact the Council's capacity to mitigate risk through diversification.

5.8 Interest Rate Forecasts

The Council appointed Link Group as its treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1st November 2012.

The latest forecast on 29th September is compared below to the previous forecast on 10th May. A comparison of these forecasts shows that some PWLB rates have increased marginally and there are now three increases in Bank Rate, to end at 0.75%, instead of one to only 0.25%. However, many PWLB rates were significantly lower than forecast during the earlier part of quarter 2.

Link Group Interest Rate View		29.9.21									
	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	
BANK RATE	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	
3 month ave eamings	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70	
6 month ave eamings	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.70	0.80	
12 month ave eamings	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	
5 yr PWLB	1.40	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.70	
10 yr PWLB	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10	
25 yr PWLB	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.60	
50 yr PWLB	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	

Link Group Interest Rate View		10.5.21										
	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24
BANK RATE	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.25
3 month ave earnings	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.30	0.30	0.30
6 month ave earnings	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.40
12 month ave earnings	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.50
5 yr PWLB	1.20	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.50
10 yr PWLB	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
25 yr PWLB	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.60
50 yr PWLB	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.40

The coronavirus outbreak has done huge economic damage to the UK and to economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut Bank Rate to 0.10%, it left Bank Rate unchanged at its subsequent meetings, although some forecasters had suggested that a cut into negative territory

could have happened prior to more recent months when strong recovery started kicking in. However, the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee in February 2021 made it clear that commercial banks could not implement negative rates within six months; by that time the economy would be expected to be recovering strongly and so there would be no requirement for negative rates.

As shown in the forecast table above, one tentative increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% has now been pencilled in for quarter 2 of 2023/24 as an indication that the Bank of England will be moving towards some form of monetary tightening around this time. However, it could well opt for reducing its stock of quantitative easing purchases of gilts as a first measure to use before increasing Bank Rate so it is quite possible that we will not see any increase in Bank Rate in the three-year forecast period shown.

Forecasts for Bank Rate

Bank Rate is not expected to go up fast after the initial rate rise as the supply potential of the economy has not generally taken a major hit during the pandemic, so should be able to cope well with meeting demand without causing inflation to remain elevated in the medium-term, or to inhibit inflation from falling back towards the MPC's 2% target after the surge to around 4% towards the end of 2021. Three increases in Bank rate are forecast in the period to March 2024, ending at 0.75%. However, these forecasts may well need changing within a relatively short time frame for the following reasons: -

- There are increasing grounds for viewing the economic recovery as running out of steam during the summer and now into the autumn. This could lead into stagflation which would create a dilemma for the MPC as to which way to face.
- Will some current key supply shortages e.g., petrol and diesel, spill over into causing economic activity in some sectors to take a significant hit?
- Rising gas and electricity prices in October and next April and increases in other prices caused by supply shortages and increases in taxation next April, are already going to deflate consumer spending power without the MPC having to take any action on Bank Rate to cool inflation.
- On the other hand, consumers are sitting on around £200bn of excess savings left over from the pandemic so when will they spend this sum, in part or in total?
- There are 1.6 million people coming off furlough at the end of September; how many of those will not have jobs on 1st October and will, therefore, be available to fill labour shortages in many sectors of the economy? So, supply shortages which have been driving up both wages and costs, could reduce significantly within the next six months or so and alleviate the MPC's current concerns.
- There is a risk that there could be further nasty surprises on the COVID-19 front, on top of the flu season this winter, which could depress economic activity.

In summary, with the high level of uncertainty prevailing on several different fronts, it is likely that these forecasts will need to be revised again soon - in line with what the new news is. It also needs to be borne in mind that Bank Rate being cut to 0.10% was an emergency measure to deal with the COVID-19 crisis hitting the UK in March 2020. At any time, the MPC could decide to simply take away that final emergency cut from 0.25% to 0.10% on the grounds of it no longer being warranted and as a step forward in the return to normalisation. In addition, any Bank Rate under 1% is both highly unusual and highly supportive of economic growth.

Forecasts for PWLB rates and gilt and treasury yields

The current PWLB rates are set as margins over gilt yields as follows: -

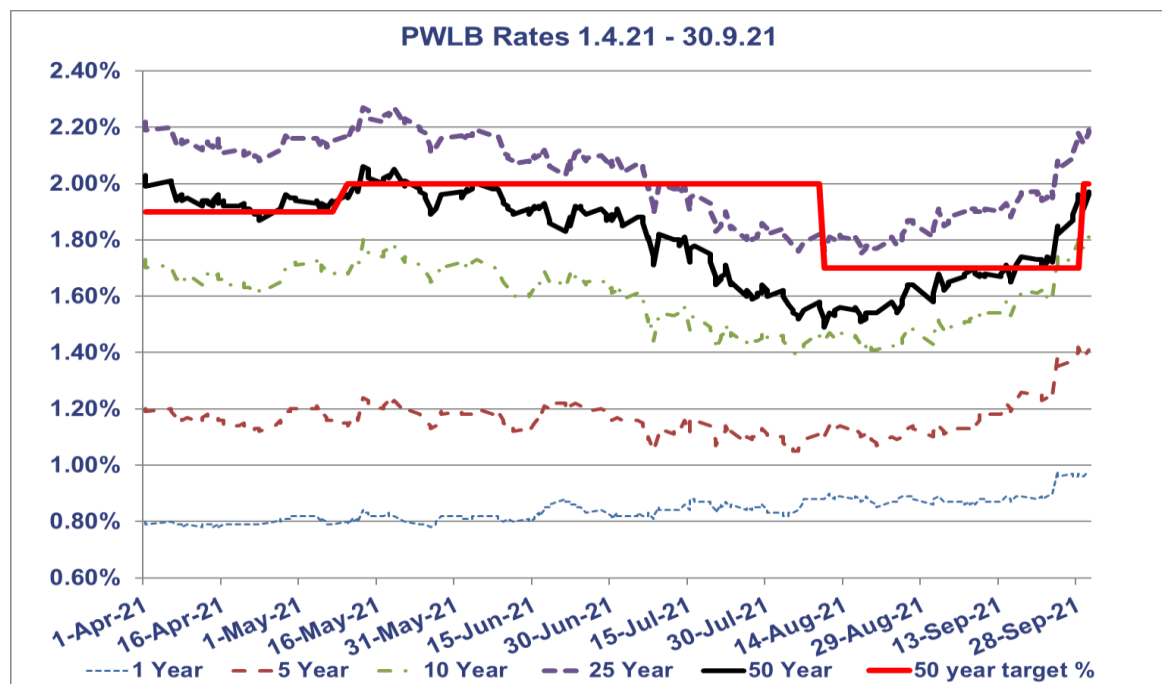
- PWLB Standard Rate is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- PWLB Certainty Rate is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
- PWLB HRA Standard Rate is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- PWLB HRA Certainty Rate is gilt plus 80bps (G+80bps)
- Local Infrastructure Rate is gilt plus 60bps (G+60bps).

Gilt yields. Since the start of 2021, we have seen a lot of volatility in gilt yields, and hence PWLB rates. During September, gilt yields from 5 – 50 years have steadily risen and rose further after the hawkish tone of the MPC’s minutes last week. Our forecasts show a steady, but slow, rise in both Bank Rate and gilt yields during the forecast period to March 2024. While monetary policy in the UK will have a major impact on gilt yields, there is also a need to consider the potential impact that rising treasury yields in America could have on gilt yields.

There are also possible DOWNSIDE RISKS from the huge sums of cash that the UK populace have saved during the pandemic; when savings accounts earn little interest, it is likely that some of this cash mountain could end up being invested in bonds and so push up demand for bonds and support their prices i.e., this would help to keep their yields down. How this will interplay with the Bank of England eventually getting round to not reinvesting maturing gilts and then later selling gilts, will be interesting to keep an eye on.

5.9 PWLB maturity certainty rates year to date to 30th September 2021

Gilt yields and PWLB rates were on a falling trend between May and August. However, they rose sharply towards the end of September. The 50-year PWLB target certainty rate for new long-term borrowing started 2021/22 at 1.90%, rose to 2.00% in May, fell to 1.70% in August and returned to 2.00% at the end of September after the MPC meeting of 23rd September.



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	0.78%	1.05%	1.39%	1.75%	1.49%
Date	08/04/2021	08/07/2021	05/08/2021	17/08/2021	10/08/2021
High	0.98%	1.42%	1.81%	2.27%	2.06%
Date	24/09/2021	28/09/2021	28/09/2021	13/05/2021	13/05/2021
Average	0.84%	1.16%	1.60%	2.02%	1.81%
Spread	0.20%	0.37%	0.42%	0.52%	0.57%

5.10 Budget and Outlook for the remainder of 2021/22

Chancellor Rishi Sunak outlined his budget in October 2021, outlining the government's tax and spending plans for the year ahead. The Government were trying to push ahead with a post-COVID-19 focus. The Chancellor outlined the current situation in the economy and the state of public finances. It wasn't as grim listening as some forecasters had expected, however there were some still rather punchy numbers issued by the Office for Budget. The remainder of the budget speech focused on adjustments to universal credit taper rate, a confirmation of business rates and the associated reform, and significantly an increase to the national living wage of 6.6% to £9.50/hour.

Government spending is set to increase totalling £150 billion over the course of this Parliament. The Levelling Up fund will mean £1.7bn invested in local areas across the UK. Various tax adjustments including tax relief for museums, alcohol duty changes and domestic air travel. In what some will consider a boost for the housing market, £24bn has been earmarked for housing, including £11.5bn for up to 180,000 affordable homes, with brownfield sites targeted for development. Also included was a 4% levy on high rise property developer with profits over £25 million to help fund the removal of unsafe cladding.

Ahead is a significant engagement for climate action, the COP26 conference in Glasgow will see leaders from around the world agree on climate action. Releases should indicate the direction of motion for agreements to come.

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EBC Housing Revenue Account 2021/22

	Original Budget £000's	Revised Budget £000's	Profiled Budget £000's	Q2 Actual £000's	Variance £000's
INCOME					
Gross Rents	(14,783)	(14,783)	(35)	(35)	0
Charges for Services	(1,036)	(1,036)	0	0	0
GROSS INCOME	(15,819)	(15,819)	(35)	(35)	0
EXPENDITURE					
Management Fee	7,834	7,834	3,917	3,917	(0)
Supervision and Management	1,479	1,623	298	158	(141)
Provision for Doubtful Debts	205	205	0	0	0
Depreciation & Impairment of Fixed Assets	4,348	4,348	0	0	0
GROSS EXPENDITURE	13,866	14,010	4,215	4,075	(141)
NET COST OF HRA SERVICES	(1,953)	(1,809)	4,180	4,040	(141)
Loan Charges - Interest	1,579	1,603	0	0	0
Interest Receivable	(15)	(15)	0	0	0
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	(389)	(221)	4,180	4,040	(141)
Contribution to Capital Expenditure	3,085	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Reserves - FundiMg Capital Expenditure	(3,085)	0	0		0
Transfer to Reserves - Major Works					0
HRA (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	(389)	(221)			

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT WORKING BALANCE	Original Budget	Revised Budget
Working Balance at 1 April	(5,245)	(5,245)
(Surplus) or Deficit for the year	(389)	(221)
Funding of Capital Expenditure	3,085	0
Working Balance at 31 March	(2,549)	(5,466)

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						APPENDIX 2
Line No.	Scheme	Original 2021-22	Updated 2021-22	Spend Q2 2021-22	Q2 variance to budget	Comments
1	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT					
2	Major Works	4,442	4,442	1,788	- 2,654	Slow start due to COVID-19. Planned works on target.
3	Sustainability Initiatives Pilot	439	-	-	-	Now revenue scheme
4	New Build	10,237	9,910	583	- 9,327	Law Courts site - planning application submitted Aug 2021. Brede Close entered into contract July 2021. Bedfordwell Road - planning approved August 2021. Cavalry Crescent - planning approved September 2021. Fort Lane - due to re-tender this year. Southfields Road - entered into contract November 2021
5	Acquisitions	4,702	7,485	881	- 6,604	Available properties being identified. Full allocation not likely to be needed this year
6	Total HRA	19,820	21,837	3,252	- 18,585	
7	Other Housing					
8	EHIC - Loan Facility (Private Properties)	141	26	-	- 26	Available for drawdown as required
9	EHIC - new mixed tenure homes facility	100	186	-	- 186	Available for drawdown as required
10	AH - Credit facility	-	35	-	- 35	Available for drawdown as required
11	AH - Facility	2,956	16,502	12,491	- 4,011	Available for drawdown as required
12	Bedfordwell Road - GF	1,405	2,095	-	- 2,095	Planning approval secured August 2021.
13	Total Other Housing	4,602	18,844	12,491	- 6,353	
14	COMMUNITY SERVICES					
15	Disabled Facilities Grants	1,200	1,270	213	- 1,057	Slow start due to COVID-19. Unlikely to spend full allocation.
16	BEST Grant (housing initiatives)	-	24	-	- 24	Grant to be fully allocated by year end
17	Coast Defences Beach Management	300	300	-	- 300	On target to complete works up to £400k dependent on weather; fully grant funded
18	Cycling Strategy	41	41	-	- 41	Consultation completed 2020. Reviewed and due to be considered by ESCC Cabinet later this year
19	Play Area Sovereign Harbour	27	27	-	- 27	Ongoing works to get match funding for this project
20	Shinewater Park - Scoping	-	10	-	- 10	Ongoing
21	Mulberry Close Play Equip	-	30	30	-	Completed
22	Langney Cemetery - Road Improvements	30	30	-	- 30	Currently drawing up the specification for the works
23	Ocklynge Cemetery - Road Improvements	15	15	-	- 15	Currently drawing up the specification for the works
24	Crematorium - Road Improvements	15	15	-	- 15	Currently drawing up the specification for the works
25	Crematorium - Cesspit Replacement	25	25	-	- 25	Works currently being scoped
26	Crematorium - Chapel Improvements	80	80	-	- 80	Works expected to commence in 2022-23
27	SEESL Loan	168	180	-	- 180	Available for drawdown as required
28	Waste & Recycling Equipment	-	85	51	- 34	On target to complete in 2021-22
29	Total Community Services	1,901	2,132	294	- 1,838	
30	TOURISM & LEISURE					
31	Sovereign Centre - Existing building	500	500	154	- 346	The focus to date has been on essential fabric, services, mechanical and compliance items to ensure the facility continues to operate commercially, efficiently and safely. Further fire related and lighting costings are awaited which are expected to absorb the remaining budget for the FY 21/22. There will remain other M&E items thereafter not to mention remedial work to the internal and external fabric which, budgets permitting, will be investigated further in FY22/23
32	Total Tourism & Leisure	500	500	154	- 346	

Line No.	Scheme	Original 2021-22	Updated 2021-22	Spend Q2 2021-22	Q2 variance to budget	Comments
33	CORPORATE SERVICES					
34	IT - Block Allocation	250	250	149	- 101	On target to complete in 2021-22
35	Contingency	250	65	-	- 65	Available for schemes as required
36	Recovery & Reset	250	-	-	-	Included in new allocation
37	Recovery & Reset - New	601	601	-	- 601	On target to complete in 2021-22
38	COVID-19 Capitalisation	6,000	6,000	-	- 6,000	Available if required
39	JTP Finance Transformation	80	87	1	- 86	Requirements being considered
40	Retail Refurbishment	1,500	1,486	124	- 1,362	Phase 1 works in progress and due for completion December 2021. This will include a new Costa unit drive thru and refurbished car park.
41	Statue Sculpture Installation	20	20	-	- 20	Location to be confirmed; works on hold pending a decision.
42	Total Corporate Services	8,951	8,509	274	- 8,235	
43	Asset Management					
44	Winter Garden	1,000	1,147	833	- 314	Phase 1 virtually complete. Due to open Q3.
45	Victoria Mansions Commercial	950	75	-	- 75	Final phase has started with completion expected Q1 2022-23
46	Congress Theatre Roof	80	80	-	- 80	Scope of works being reviewed and extended
47	Bandstand & Promenade Renovations	500	501	1	- 500	Works being undertaken to protect the asset awaiting outcome of Environment Agency flood defence works.
48	EDGC Improvements (Workshop)	-	100	-	- 100	New allocation in planning stage
49	Seafront Lighting	100	100	26	- 74	Works to commence end November, £160k needed this financial year
50	Leisure Estate	250	250	-	- 250	Trying to agree legal documentation to include the transfer document and a grant agreement to cover the expenditure.
51	Food Street	100	100	30	- 70	The first phase of 6 units are all ready for tenant fit out
52	ILTC - Improvements	60	87	22	- 65	Main works complete. Work needed to renew rainwater pipework.
53	Towner Improvements	200	200	-	- 200	Investigative works have commenced
54	Fort Fun	-	221	221	-	Lease surrender completed
55	1 Grove Road	-	126	50	- 76	Works due to complete in Q3
56	Asset Management - Block Allocation	240	49	-	- 49	Available for projects under review
57	Total Asset Management	3,480	3,036	1,183	- 1,853	
58	General Fund	19,434	33,021	14,396	- 18,625	
59	HRA	19,820	21,837	3,252	- 18,585	
60	Total	39,254	54,858	17,648	- 37,210	

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	1 December 2021
Title:	Levelling Up Fund
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning
Cabinet member:	Councillor David Tutt, Leader of the Council
Ward(s):	All Wards
Purpose of report:	To provide an update on the successful bid for Levelling Up Funding and to secure the necessary delegations to enable the programme of works to commence.
Decision type:	Key decision
Officer recommendation(s):	<p>(1) To note the successful bid to the Levelling Up Fund, which has secured £19,847,287 towards the regeneration of Eastbourne.</p> <p>(2) To approve an allocation of up to £19.9m in the General Fund Capital Programme, to be financed in full by the grant funding secured as per the recommendation above.</p> <p>(3) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Planning to enter into the Funding Agreement that will set out the commercial terms associated with the grant award, including use, access, and ongoing monitoring.</p> <p>(4) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, in conjunction with any Project Oversight Board, to carry out all necessary actions to facilitate the recommendations and deliver the programme of works including feasibility, financing, appointment of professional services, development, contract award(s), lettings, and determining the terms of, and authorising the execution of, all necessary documentation, in accordance with the funding parameters.</p>

Reasons for recommendations:

(1) A funding offer of £19,847,287 for Eastbourne was announced on 27 October.

(2) There is a need to move at pace since the Levelling Up Fund award must be spent by March 2024 in line with Government guidance.

(3) To enable Officers to deliver in an effective and timely manner, the necessary delegations to Lead Members and Executive Officers are required to ensure that the Council can deliver the programme within the context of the timeframe.

Contact Officer(s):

Name: Peter Sharp
Post title: Head of Regeneration
E-mail: peter.sharp@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Telephone number: 07826 903742

Name: Nathan Haffenden
Post title: Head of Commercial Business and Development
E-mail: nathan.haffenden@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Telephone number: 01323 436422

1 Introduction

1.1 The £4.8billion Levelling Up Fund (LUF) was announced by Government in March 2021 and was set up with a view to investing in infrastructure that improves everyday life in the UK. Each local authority was given a priority ranking according to the perceived level of need for further investment.

1.2 The focus of the LUF is on three specific areas of investment:

- Transport investments
- Regeneration and town centre investments
- Cultural investments.

Government guidance stated that bids (of up to £20million) should focus on high-profile projects that will make a visible impact in local areas.

1.3 Eastbourne was identified as a Priority 1 Area for investment, offering the opportunity for the Council to put together an impactful project that would make a visible impact on our communities and help to 'level up' some of Eastbourne's most deprived wards.

1.4 To support Officers, a Stakeholder Group was set up. Members of the Group including selected Councillors, Caroline Ansell MP, Chamber of Commerce, Eastbourne Hospitality Association, the Your Eastbourne Business Improvement District and the East Sussex College Group.

1.5 Following extensive discussions of in excess of 45 project suggestions, a bid was identified that sought to regenerate a key part of Eastbourne town centre and link more closely to the seafront and the South Downs National Park.

2 Linking Town Centre Regeneration with a Strengthened Visitor Economy

2.1 With the support of the Stakeholder Group, the Council submitted a bid for £19,847,287. This bid was focused on three core interventions:

- **Victoria Place:** to create a new year-round 'destination' for residents and visitors, incorporating the refurbishment of commercial units, pedestrianisation and creation of a 'Las Ramblas'-style centre for Eastbourne's night-time economy.
- **Black Robin Farm:** to create a world-class cultural, education and visitor centre that will firmly establish Eastbourne as the eastern gateway to the National Park, creating in excess of 5,000 learning opportunities per year.
- **Towner 2023:** to link with the centenary celebrations of the Towner Gallery, a programme of public art and visitor trails to celebrate the history and culture of Eastbourne. This combines with some small-scale investments in the gallery itself to enhance learning and visitor facilities.

More information on the bid is provided within the Bid Summary included as a Background Paper to this report.

2.2 On 27 October 2021, the Council's submission was announced as one of the successful bids. This is a notable achievement and the award of £19.8million is one of the higher awards announced. Eastbourne was one of just 4 Councils across East and West Sussex to be successful.

2.3 The LUF funding must be spent by March 2024. As such, Officers have mobilised to ensure that the funding can be invested within the allotted timeframe.

3 Project Delivery

3.1 Following the LUF announcement, subject now only to the signing of the Funding Agreement, the interventions as set out in the bid documentation must be developed into a deliverable project, using the core concepts to form a detailed programme of capital works. This will include the development of project briefs, feasibility and survey work, legal/financial/commercial due diligence, and engagement with key stakeholders as well as the South Downs National Park.

3.2 It will also be important to establish appropriate governance in the delivery of the project, specifically to ensure that the programme of works continues to align with and meet the objectives of the funding criteria and outputs. As such, a Stakeholder Oversight Board will be established, and Terms of Reference developed, to ensure that the proper governance is in place.

3.3 In order to ensure the project progresses at pace it is necessary to establish clear lines of delegation and authority, as reflected within the recommendations. However, in addition to this, future reports will be presented to the Council's Cabinet to provide updates on the project specifically at key milestones including:

- Planning approval
- Business case sign-off
- Contract award
- Practical Completion / pre-occupation.

This will also include any evolving risks and new areas of concern that will need further decisions outside of the delegations granted.

4 Consultation

4.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken as part of bid development. This includes detailed discussions with the Stakeholder Group as well as wider engagement undertaken by the Council and key partners, including:

- Surveys of, and presentations to, affected traders at Victoria Place by the Business Improvement District and Chamber of Commerce.
- Ongoing business and community engagement led by East Sussex County Council as part of the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package.
- Initial discussions with the South Downs National Park Authority, Team East Sussex and the Arts Council.

4.2 This consultation culminated in securing a wide range of letters of support for the successful submission from Caroline Ansell MP, Eastbourne Hospitality Association, Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce, Your Eastbourne BID, Eden Project, Victoria Place Traders, SELEP, East Sussex College Group, Eastbourne Schools Partnership and many others.

5 Corporate plan and council policies

5.1 The project aligns strongly with the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24. The delivery of these interventions will build upon existing investments to help create a prosperous, thriving and sustainable economy that provides new opportunities for businesses, whilst enhancing learning, employment and skills prospects for our communities.

5.2 The project will accelerate and broaden delivery of the vision for hospitality, leisure, art, culture, and the environment to be key drivers of Eastbourne's future economic success. The project complements other major town investments, including the redevelopment of the Devonshire Quarter, the Beacon Centre, and the pedestrianisation of Terminus Road. It is a key part of a package of measures that is strengthening Eastbourne's cultural and visitor offer, restoring its status as one of England's most impressive coastal towns in the post Brexit and pandemic era.

6 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

6.1 As part of the development of the LUF bid, Officers considered more than 45 initial project suggestions that were submitted. These suggestions were considered through a two-stage assessment process:

- **Stage 1: Thematic Fit.** A number of project suggestions were ruled out because they did not align with the stated investment priorities for the Levelling Up Fund.
- **Stage 2: Deliverability.** This stage incorporated an assessment of the level of detail available, anticipated delivery timescale and an understanding of the broad aspirations of key stakeholders.

6.2 This resulted in the final successful submission to Government. It must be noted that all the initial projects put forward could have been supported in principle, but the criteria and timescales for the LUF are particularly challenging, which meant that some projects would not be deliverable within the timeframes identified.

7 Financial appraisal

7.1 The Government announced its plan for the LUF in March 2021 for decentralising power and working more directly with councils, local partners and communities across England. Following the announcement, Officers liaised and prioritised the bids that will have the greatest likelihood of success including ensuring that they met the expectations and strict eligibility criteria of ‘Levelling Up’ Funding. This is critical to ensure that the bids recommended to Members are those that are most likely to be successful.

7.2 The report highlights that the Council has been successful and the Government has provided capacity funding of £19.9m to the Council, which will be allocated into the Council General Fund Capital Programme and financed in full by the grant funding secured. Projects will be prioritised, and it is expected that all funding will be spent by 31 March 2024.

7.3 The full financial details of the three core interventions would continue to be monitored, and the responsibility for their delivery sits with the Council. Further contributions will not be provided, and any cost overruns will need to be managed by the Council.

8 Legal implications

8.1 As the accountable body EBC will be expected to enter into a funding agreement with Central Government that will set out the detailed terms. The council will in turn need to enter agreements with each funding recipient to ensure that any funding conditions are met and the council protected from any clawback. The nature of those agreements will depend on the project being funded and the conditions attached by Central Government. The council will be the direct recipient of the funding in several cases.

8.2 There will be a need for additional agreements to be put in place in relation to the operation of certain projects, such as leases.

8.3 Some projects may be subject to the public procurement rules when being delivered. This may depend on the status of the grant recipient (if they are a contracting authority procuring goods, works or services when spending the funding) or if the projects fall to be considered as “subsidised contracts”. The

council will ensure that any procurement obligations are clear and incorporated into any funding agreements.

- 8.4 The council will need to consider the application of any applicable subsidy rules before passing on any funding to ensure that any funding given is lawful. Under the Subsidy Control regime applicable from 1 January 2021 the UK has committed to introducing its own domestic subsidy control regime which includes the requirements set out in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) and other trade agreements. The Government introduced the Subsidy Control Bill to parliament on the 30 June 2021 which will apply to any funding granted after it becomes law. The council has already reviewed the LUF projects in the light of the existing rules and satisfied itself that these are capable of being delivered in a compliant manner.

[010389-LDC-CJEC 16/11/2021]

9 Risk management implications

- 9.1 The following risks may arise if the recommendations are implemented. It is proposed to mitigate these risks as follows:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Failure to secure LUF funding	Low	High	A funding offer has been received, although detailed grant agreements and conditions are awaited. It is considered highly unlikely that Government will reverse their funding offer.
Failure to deliver projects within LUF programme timeframe	Low / Medium	High	Deliverability is one of the key criteria that was assessed as part of the Government's review of EBC's submission. However, there is considerable work required at pace and the recommendations in this report reflect the timeframe for delivery.
Funding does not meet needs of Eastbourne's resident and business communities	Low	High	The LUF bid was informed by engagement undertaken through partner organisations as set out in Section 4. An ongoing stakeholder engagement plan will be developed as part of the next stage of work.
Failure to secure appropriate planning consents	Low	High	Positive initial conversations were held with SDNPA during bid development and EBC Head of Planning has also been consulted.

10 Equality analysis

10.1 An Equalities & Fairness Analysis was prepared in May 2021 as part of the development of the LUF submission. Further assessments will be undertaken once feasibility work has been completed and planning applications are being prepared.

11 Environmental sustainability implications

11.1 The project aligns with the Council's sustainability policy and ambition to meet the target of carbon neutral by 2030. A summary of this alignment is set out below:

- 11.2
- **Victoria Place:** A substantial allocation for green energy infrastructure has been included within the project costs. This will enable the installation of renewable energy measures to support delivery of a new year-round night-time economy.
 - **Black Robin Farm:** Work is ongoing to explore opportunities for sustainable transport connections for visitors, including e-bikes and public transport. This will be augmented by energy saving and green energy measures, as well as the delivery of enhanced learning and education in partnership with East Sussex College Group and the Towner.
 - **Towner:** Delivery of a public art trail and works of art will encourage visitors to traverse Eastbourne by foot/cycle/public transport. Materials used in art installations will be carefully considered to ensure sustainability and accordance with the Council's target.

12 Appendices

- None

13 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- [Eastbourne Borough Council – Levelling Up Fund Bid Summary](#)

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