

Cabinet

2 November 2022



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, Peter Diplock, Alan Shuttleworth and Colin Swansborough**

Quorum: 3

Published: Tuesday, 25 October 2022

Agenda

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2022 (Pages 5 - 14)

2 Apologies for absence

3 Declaration of members' interests

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 Corporate performance - quarter 1 - 2022/23 (Pages 15 - 46)

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

- 8 Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24-2026/27 (Pages 47 - 70)**
Report of Chief Finance Officer
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Stephen Holt
- 9 Recovery and Stabilisation Programme (Pages 71 - 76)**
Report of Chief Executive
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor David Tutt
- 10 Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 (Pages 77 - 112)**
Report of Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Colin Swansborough
- 11 Eastbourne Local Plan - Growth Strategy Consultation (Pages 113 - 142)**
Report of Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning
Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Colin Swansborough

Information for the public

Accessibility:

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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:

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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 13 July 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor David Tutt (Chair).

Councillors Stephen Holt (Deputy-Chair), Margaret Bannister, Helen Burton, 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), Sian Hedger (Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer), Ola Owolabi (Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance)), Simon Russell (Head of Democratic Services) and Kate Slattery (Solicitor).

Also in attendance:

Councillor Penny di Cara (Opposition Deputy Leader), Councillor Jane Lamb (Shadow Cabinet member), Councillor Kshama Shore OBE (Chair of Scrutiny Committee) and Councillor Robert Smart (Opposition Leader).

5 Welcome

Councillor Tutt welcomed Councillor Burton to her first meeting of the Cabinet, following her appointment. Councillor Burton portfolio title was property assets, heritage assets and communications.

6 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2022 were submitted and approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

7 Apologies for absence

None were reported.

8 Declaration of members' interests

Councillor Burton declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 (Cost of Living Crisis) as she manages the Volunteers Network, which runs one of the community ladders that may apply for funding. She remained in the room and voted on the item.

Councillor Holt declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 (Eastbourne Borough Council Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027) as his employer (Your Eastbourne BID) work in partnership with the Rough Sleeping Initiative and Housing Team. He remained in the room and voted on the item.

9 Recovery and Stabilisation Programme

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

Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 July 2022, supported the officer recommendations to Cabinet. They also requested the following additional information, which was noted by the Cabinet:

- (1) That further analysis is provided on the £936,800 delivered on Homes First reshaping; and**
- (2) That an item-by-item comparison on the CIPFA pro-forma, highlighting the status of each item and in particular those items with a six-month time frame that have not yet been enacted, is provided.**

Part (1) of the requested information had been circulated to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, following their meeting. Part (2) of Scrutiny Committee's request would be circulated in due course.

It was further clarified that prior to the pandemic there had been an expediential increase in homelessness in the town. Council officers had worked to provide accommodation for many of those cases. The subsequent work with partners and the Rough Sleeper Initiative had led to greater access to temporary accommodation and less reliance on emergency accommodation, which was financially beneficial to the Council. This was reflected in the subsidy savings on Homes First reshaping.

The Leader commended Cabinet colleagues and officers for their work in securing the achievements as set out in the report.

Visiting member, Councillor Shore addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

- (1) To note the progress made with the Recovery and Stabilisation Programme
- (2) To note the Recovery and Stabilisation savings set out at Appendix A to the report.
- (3) To note and endorse the assurance review update set out at Appendix B to the report.

(4) To note the information requested by the Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on the 11 July 2022 and detailed above.

Reason for decisions:

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

10 Cost of Living Crisis

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, asking them to agree a range of measures to support local people struggling due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Councillor Holt identified a couple of errors in the published report. Section 1.2 should reflect that Full Council at its meeting in May 2022 agreed broader actions in response to the pandemic and it was the Leader of the Council, rather than Full Council, who established a cost-of-living emergency fund, following that meeting, which had led to the proposals set out in the report. The two figures in Section 5.1 also should read £250,000. Officers agreed to update and republish the report following the meeting.

Visiting member, Councillor Lamb, addressed the Cabinet on this item. The Cabinet agreed that work was needed to target those individuals who weren't necessarily willing or able to come forward for the available support.

To reflect the Leader's recent appointment of Councillor Babarinde to the Council's newly created Cost of Living Champion post, the Cabinet unanimously agreed to amend resolution (2) to include the Champion as part of the consultation and this was reflected below.

Councillor Burton declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in this item and remained in the room and voted on the item.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To agree that £250k be allocated from the newly created Cost of Living Support Reserve to establish a cost-of-living crisis fund.

(2) To agree that the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Grants Task Group and Council's Cost of Living Champion, be given delegated authority to allocate the cost-of-living crisis fund.

Reason for decisions:

To help tackle those worst affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

11 Corporate performance - quarter 4 - 2021/22

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, updating them on the Council's performance against Corporate Plan priority actions, performance indicators and targets for the fourth quarter of the year 2021-2022.

Thanks were conveyed to staff, particularly those in the Customer Contact Centre for their performance during an incredibly challenging year.

Following points raised around chasing outstanding arrears, the Chief Finance Officer reported that nationally on average, billing authorities had £21 million outstanding arrears.

Visiting members, Councillor Di Cara and Shore addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

To note progress and performance for quarter 4.

Reason for decision:

To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council's progress and performance.

12 Revenue & Capital Outturn - 2021/22

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer, updating them on the provisional outturn for 2021/22.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To note the provisional outturn for 2021/22.

(2) To approve the transfers from/to reserves as set out in section 3.

Reason for decisions:

To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council's financial performance for 2021/22.

13 Treasury management annual report 2021/22

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer, reporting on the activities and performance of the Treasury Management services during 2021/22.

The Deputy Chief Finance Officer commented that the report fully complied with all regulations as required by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and

Accountancy (CIPFA).

Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 July 2022, supported the officer recommendations to Cabinet. They also requested the following additional information which was noted by the Cabinet:

(1) That a full analysis of the movement of debt from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 be provided.

The information requested had been circulated to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, following their meeting.

The Audit and Governance Committee, at its meeting on 12 July 2022 also considered the report and were supportive of the officer recommendations.

Visiting member, Councillor Smart, addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

To note the information requested by the Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on the 11 July 2022 and detailed above.

Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):

(1) To agree the annual Treasury Management report for 2021/22.

(2) To approve the 2021/22 prudential and treasury indicators included.

Reason for decisions:

Requirement of CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Sector Code of Practice (the Code) and this has to be reported to Full Council.

14 Eastbourne Borough Council Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 - 2027

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery, introducing a new homelessness and rough sleeping strategy and asking them for approval of the strategic goals, objectives, and associated action plan.

The Cabinet commended officers for their work in producing the report and strategy.

Councillor Holt declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in this item and remained in the room and voted on the item.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To consider the final draft of the Eastbourne Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2027, set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

(2) Subject to there being no requirement for significant amendments, to authorise the Director of Service Delivery to adopt the strategy for public release.

Reason for decisions:

(1) To secure Cabinet approval for a new homelessness and rough sleeping strategy, which local authorities have a statutory obligation to review and publish every five years.

(2) The new strategy provides a strategic overview of the current challenges and sets out a framework and action plan addressing these.

15 Review of Planning Policy and Licensing for Houses in Multiple Occupation

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, providing an update on a review of planning policy and licensing for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

Cabinet expressed its thanks to Lisa Rawlinson, Strategy & Partnership Lead (Growth & Prosperity) for her work already undertaken on the subject.

Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 July 2022, supported the officer recommendations to Cabinet. They also requested the following item to be added to the Committee's work programme.

(1) That the consultants commissioned to provide robust evidence to support and justify any future decisions on action regarding HMO planning policy and licensing shall provide an interim update to the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2022

The Cabinet noted the request from Scrutiny Committee, and whilst preferable for an update to be reported in November, until further details and a timescale was established, it would be more appropriate for a commitment to provide an update to Scrutiny Committee but not to confirm a date of which meeting at this stage.

Visiting member, Councillor Lamb, addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

(1) To note the issues and implications associated with the potential courses of action identified in this report relating to the review of planning policy and licensing for Houses in Multiple Occupation and selective licensing of other private sector residential properties

(2) To seek approval to commission robust evidence to fully underpin future strategies to manage and tackle Houses in Multiple Occupation and other

private sector residential properties in the town and to allocate £25,000 to enable this to happen.

(3) To note the Scrutiny Committee's request that the consultants commissioned to provide robust evidence to support and justify any future decisions on action regarding HMO planning policy and licensing provide an interim update to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for decisions:

(1) To enable a full understanding of the current situation regarding HMOs and other private sector residential properties in the town, including future need and impacts on local communities.

(2) To provide evidenced justification for any future decisions relating to local plan policy and additional or selective licensing schemes for HMOs and other private sector residential properties.

16 Methodology for collecting monitoring fees in connection with the compliance with/of S106 Legal Agreements

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, seeking their approval to implement a regime S106 monitoring and apply monitoring fees in accordance with this report.

Visiting member, Councillor Di Cara, addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

To authorise the incorporation of S106 Monitoring fees.

Reason for decision:

The proposal to implement a suite of charges to support the staffing resource in the monitoring and compliance of approved S106 Legal Agreements.

17 Revised Planning Pre-Application Charging Schedule

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, seeking their approval to implement an updated Discretionary Fee Setting Regime.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

To authorise the use of the updated discretionary fee charging schedule.

Reason for decision:

The proposal to implement a suite of charges to support the staffing resource in connection with delivering the

1. pre-application process
2. planning Performance Agreement (PPA)
3. Validation Process
4. CIL Process
5. Local Plan Charges and Additional charges

18 Housing development update

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, providing an update on the progress of the Council's housing delivery programme.

Visiting member, Councillor Shore addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To note the progress of the Council's housing delivery programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

(2) To approve the Cavalry Crescent development, making an allocation within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme of up to £6m, and entering into a construction contract in accordance with the business case as set-out at the Exempt Appendix 2 to the report.

(3) To approve the Fort Lane development, making a revised allocation within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme of up to £3m, and entering into a construction contract in accordance with the business case as set-out at the Exempt Appendix 3 to the report.

(4) To authorise entering into an Access Agreement to enable the Council to use the "Framework Agreement for the Provision of Modular Housing" dated 30th July 2021 between Lewes District Council and Boutique Modern Limited to call off contracts for off-site manufactured house building solutions, to aid in the delivery of the Capital Programme alongside other procurement routes.

(5) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, also the Chief Finance Officer, to carry out all necessary actions to facilitate the recommendations including financing, appointment of professional services, award of contract, development, lettings, and determining the terms of, and authorising the execution of, all necessary documentation, in accordance with the business case(s).

Reason for decisions:

To progress the development of new homes across the borough to provide new affordable housing options.

19 Exclusion of the public**Resolved:**

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the remote meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph of schedule 12A and a description of the exempt information was shown below. (The requisite notice having been given under regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.)

20 Housing development update - Exempt Appendix 2 and 3

The Cabinet considered the exempt appendices in relation to agenda item 16 (Housing development update).

Resolved (Non-key decision):

That the exempt appendices be noted.

Reason for decision:

As detailed in minute 18.

Notes: (1) The appendices remained exempt. (2) Exempt information reasons 3 - Information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The meeting ended at 7.59 pm

Councillor David Tutt (Chair)

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Agenda Item 7

Body:	Cabinet
Date:	2 November 2022
Subject:	Corporate Performance Quarter 1 2022-23
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning Homira Javadi, Chief Finance Officer
Cabinet member:	Councillor Colin Swansborough, Cabinet member for climate change, place services and special projects Councillor Stephen Holt, Cabinet member for financial services
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 first quarter of the year 2022-23.
Decision type:	Non Key
Recommendation:	Cabinet is recommended to : i) Note the achievements and progress against Corporate Plan priorities for 2022-23, 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:	Luke Dreeling: Performance Lead Tel: 07525 351757 or email: luke.dreeling@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Homira Javadi: Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01323 485512 or e-mail homira.javadi@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

1.0 Consultation

1.1 The priority themes in the Corporate Plan were developed in consultation with residents. Following the refresh of the Corporate Plan at Full Council in May 2022, a summary of achievements to date relating to the previous period of the plan (2020-2022) is set out in appendix 2 of this report.

2.0 Solution Sprints

2.1 The council made use of solutions sprints (SS) prior to the Covid-19 pandemic as a way of realising service and performance improvements. Work is underway to relaunch SS and activity this Quarter has included:

- engaging with representatives from the Managers' Reference and Staff Experience Groups to understand what worked well and less well with previous SS and seeking their ideas for improvements,
- Bringing together performance data with feedback received from customers within the Business Transformation Unit to identify additional areas of search for the refreshed SS.

Over the next Quarter, the process for relaunching SS will be finalised and the new approach will be piloted.

3.0 Financial appraisal

3.1 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.

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

4.0 Assurance Review actions relating to performance

4.1 Alongside the usual quarterly performance reporting, we have recently completed a piece of work, as required by the CIPFA assurance review, to assess three categories of expenditure where it was felt that council expenditure may be out of line with other like authorities.

Having completed that review, we are satisfied that the council's spending in these areas has been reasonable and proportionate, when compared with other authorities.

5.0 Legal implications

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

6.0 Equality analysis

6.1 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.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 This report provides an overview of performance against the authority's priority actions and indicators for 2022-23.

Appendices

Part A - Portfolio Progress and Performance

Appendix 1 – Q1 Performance Overview

Appendix 2 – Corporate plan achievements

Part B – Financial Performance

Appendix 1 – Housing Revenue Account

Appendix 2 – Capital Programme









Background Papers:

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











- Corporate Plan 2022/26 <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/about-the-councils/corporate-plans/>

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Eastbourne Borough Council Corporate Performance Report Q1 2022-23









Key			
	Performance that is at or above target Project is on track		Performance that is below target Projects that are not expected to be completed in time or within requirements
	Project has been completed, been discontinued or is on hold		Performance that is slightly below target but is within an acceptable tolerance Projects : where there are issues causing significant delay, changes to planned activities, scale, cost pressures or risks
	Direction of travel on performance indicator : improving performance		Direction of travel on performance indicator : declining performance
	Direction of travel on performance indicator : no change		Data with no performance target

KPIs

KPI Description	Annual Target 2022/23	Q4 2021/22	Q1 2022/23				Latest Note
		Value	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	
1. Finance: Percentage of Council Tax collected during the year - Eastbourne	96.80%	96.29%	28.22%	28.75%			The Collection rate is 0.53% below target this quarter and is 0.34% down from the same period last year. Analysis has identified that in the first quarter of 2021/22 8,300 reminder notices were issued compared to 9,651 reminders issued in Q1 this year which is an increase of 1,351. This suggests that the cost of living crisis is beginning to have an impact on more residents. To help lessen the impact the Income and Welfare teams continue to support the most vulnerable residents through the Governments Household Support Fund and Council Tax Energy Rebate Schemes.
2. Finance: Percentage of Business Rates collected during the year - Eastbourne	97%	96.44%	34.14%	29.53%			The collection rate is 4.61% above target. The increase is mainly due to the award of Covid Additional Relief Fund in the 2021/22 financial year to eligible businesses resulting in £1.7m in overpayments on 328 accounts which is most of the caseload. The credits have subsequently been transferred into the 2022/23 financial year on each account putting most businesses ahead of their current instalment plans.
3. Benefits: Average days to process new claims for housing/council tax benefit	22	21	28	22			The various government schemes that the team are having to administer, along with the need for staff to support the Contact Centre in answering calls, has led to the reduced performance. Resources to tackle new claims have been increased which should lead to an improved performance over the coming weeks and months.
4. Benefits: Average days to process change of circs (housing/council tax benefit)	6	6	8	6			Please see above comment
5. Customers: Increase the percentage of calls to the contact centre answered within 60 seconds	80%	35.95%	23.44%	80%			<p>Customer contact experienced a challenging and demanding start to the new financial year where, like previous years, the first quarter saw high levels of contact where unfortunately we were unable to meet our KPIs.</p> <p>Quarter 1 found us at 23.44% of all calls being answered within 60 Seconds – this was a 12.51% decrease from Quarter 4's 35.95%. The average wait time for a call is currently 8 minutes and 9 seconds.</p> <p>Although call volumes largely remained the same when compared to the previous Quarter, contact is of a more complex nature where Customer Advisors are spending longer on calls dealing with residents who are struggling financially due to the cost-of-living crisis. Advisors have been ensuring that all available information and resources are provided; this is both resources found internally within the Authorities, as well as signposting other 3rd party charities and organisations.</p> <p>In addition to this, due to how the recovery timetable and cycle works, the end of May and June can see some of the highest number of recovery reminders being sent out for Council Tax and Business Rates. With residents struggling with the rise in the cost of living, recovery action is generating more contact and of a complex nature as households find themselves struggling to keep up with instalments.</p> <p>During the 1st Quarter, we had 10 New starters join the team, in addition to those who were already in training. This has meant that although we are slowly reducing the overall number of vacancies, we are currently in a position where a large proportion of the team who are not covering other service areas other than phones, are currently paired and assisting with the</p>

KPI Description	Annual Target 2022/23	Q4 2021/22	Q1 2022/23				Latest Note
		Value	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	
							<p>training. This results in our trained and experienced staff not being able to work at full capacity in answering calls as they navigate and train New Starters on our systems and processes.</p> <p>Recruitment continues at pace within Customer Contact as we try and fill our remaining vacancies, where during Quarter 2 we will start to see our New Starters becoming more confident in their learning and handling contact themselves. Our focus remains on balancing the need to answer calls as quickly as possible, coupled with ensuring that all customers and residents receive the assistance they need and leave the call with as much information and support available.</p>
6. Customers: Reduce the numbers of abandoned calls to the contact centre - Ebn	5%	15.56%	27.49%	5%			Please see above comment
7. Housing: Number of households living in emergency (nightly paid) accommodation	Data only	144	169	Data only			The increase shown can be attributed to the cost of living crisis and customers falling into rent arrears.
8. Customers: Number of new sign-ups to the Councils' social media channels	650	1,002	631	162.5			The number of new followers of the council's social media profiles continues to grow, with Q1 2022-23 being close to double the figure in the same period in the previous year.
9. Customers: Number of people registering for our email service (GovDelivery)	2,000	5,124	1,532	500			PI remains ahead of target
10. Customers: Percentage of local searches that are returned within 10 working days of receipt	80%	100%	100%	80%			Q1 performance above target. 350 out of 350 local searches returned within 10 working days.
11. Growth: Town centre vacant retail business space	11.8%	10.02%	10.17%	11.8%			National vacancy levels have dropped to 11.2% from 11.8%. Whilst local vacancy levels have increased marginally from 10.02% to 10.17.17%.
12. Housing: Average void relet time key to key (month & YTD)	20.0	51.2	48.4	20.0			<p>There is a strong focus on Voids for this year; including an improvement plan following impact from Covid, as this has caused a backlog.</p> <p>Still issues present for some materials and the supply chain, which is being dealt with by Property Services.</p> <p>A review of the processes, housing register and hard to let voids in progress.</p> <p>In person visits are being re-introduced for moving out inspections and viewings now it is safe to do so.</p>
13. Housing: DFGs - Time taken from council receiving a fully complete application to the council approving the grant	14 days	5 days	4 days	14 days			Performance remains above target, continuing a positive trend from 2021/22.
14. Housing: Number of Licensed HMO's Inspected per Quarter	50 (12.5 Quarterly)	0	4	12.5			We have had difficulties in recruiting staff who can carry out HMO inspections. In Q1 we had one Officer, but in August we were able to recruit 2 Agency staff for 6 months, 1 for HMO inspections and 1 for Private Housing Service requests.

KPI Description	Annual Target 2022/23	Q4 2021/22	Q1 2022/23				Latest Note
		Value	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	
15. Housing: Rent arrears of current tenants (expressed as a percentage of rent debit)	3%	3.37%	3.44%	3%			Rent arrears are 0.44% below target. Since April the arrears have decreased by £19,542.. We are currently exploring options with our rent arrears optimisation software supplier Mobysoft, at ways in which we can improve rent arrears collection through improved enhancements to software which will further reduce the arrears. Additional negotiation skills training will be delivered to the team in the coming months to enhance skill levels within the team.
16. Planning: Increase the percentage of Major Planning Applications processed within 13 weeks	65%	83%	80%	65%			Continues to be above target
17. Increase the percentage of minor planning applications processed within 8 weeks	75%	91%	85%	75%			Continues to be above target
18. Increase the percentage of other planning applications processed within 8 weeks	75%	89%	85%	75%			Continues to meet target
19. Recycling & Waste: % Container Deliveries on Time (SLA)	99%	27.99%	51.4%	99%			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April = 30.3% May = 49.7% June = 74.2% <p>Q1 Monthly Average = 51.4%</p> <p>Significant improvement has been achieved as the supply chain stabilised and we are able to access more new containers. The SLA for time to deliver Containers has been changed from 5 working days to 10, our website has been updated so the customer is aware. This allows SEESL to manage both the supply chain and increased demand, especially for recycling containers as Alternative Weekly collection drives improved recycling.</p>
20. Recycling & Waste: Missed Assisted Collections	1%	0.31%	0.14%	1%			<p>SEESL has complete a review of all assisted collection customers meaning significant number of customers not entitled to the service have been removed, 43,236 collections per quarter to 20,771 collections per quarter (not customers)</p> <p>April = 0.4%</p> <p>May = 0%</p> <p>June = 0%</p> <p>A significant improvement.</p>

KPI Description	Annual Target 2022/23	Q4 2021/22	Q1 2022/23				Latest Note
		Value	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	
21. Recycling & Waste: Number of missed bins (per 100,000)	100	43	100	100			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April = 29 May = 39 June = 32 Q1 monthly Average = 33 Quarter total = 100
22. Recycling & Waste: Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	45.00%	32.94%	32.94%	45.00%			<p>Holding figure until data from ESCC is available</p> <p>Average from Q4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April = TBC May = TBC June = TBC
23. Recycling & Waste: Total number of reported fly-tipping incidents	480	196	201	120			<p>Reported incidents breakdown: April 60, May 70 and June 64.</p> <p>Hotspot wards: Devonshire, Hampden Park and Langney.</p> <p>Primary waste types: Other household waste, Construction / demolition / excavation</p> <p>Top 3 by volume type: Car boot load or less, Small van load and Other single item</p>
24. Staff: Average days lost per FTE employee due to sickness (J)	8.0 days	2.27 days	1.62 days	2.0 days			<p>This is the first quarter of reporting average days lost due to sickness for 2022/23. Despite all previous pandemic restrictions having been lifted prior to the start of Q1, we recorded an average of just 1.62 days absence which is a fairly significant reduction from Q4 (2.27 days). Absences for Covid-19 (those staff reporting symptoms) for Q1 reduced by more than half from 85 in Q4 to 40 in Q1.</p> <p>The figure of 1.62 days for Q1 puts us on track to meet our annual target of 8 days per annum.</p> <p>Taking into account LDC Waste Services, when excluded, the Q1 figure reduces to 1.36 days and Waste Services on its own is 3.37 days, which again is a reduction from the previous quarter from 4.25 days in Q4 for Waste Services.</p> <p>HR Business Partners continue to support managers in 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 ended March 2022.

Devolved ward budget scheme 2022/2023 – Summary by ward to end of Quarter 1 (1 April – 30 June 2022)

Ward	Project	Description	Project Spend to Date
Devonshire	No schemes to end of Quarter 1		
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£0.00
Hampden Park	No schemes to end of Quarter 1		
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£0.00
Langney	No schemes to end of Quarter 1		
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£0.00
Meads	St Johns Church Jubilee BBQ	To help St John's Church put on a Jubilee BBQ for residents.	£1,011.24
	360 Camera Vision for Eastbourne	To help buy a 360 camera for use by a number of different Eastbourne community projects.	£456.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£1,467.24
Old Town	Bridge repair in Motcombe Gardens	Repairs to bridge in Motcombe Gardens.	£400.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£400.00
Ratton	No schemes to end of Quarter 1		
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£0.00
St Anthony's	No schemes to end of Quarter 1		
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£0.00
Sovereign	No schemes to end of Quarter 1		
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£0.00
Upperton	Hanging baskets	Funds to Eastbourne Allotments to provide hanging baskets for Crown Street	£239.77
	Cordless drill for Grow Eastbourne	To provide a cordless drill for use by the volunteer group Grow Eastbourne	£70.00
Total spend to end of Quarter 1			£309.77
Number of schemes to end of Quarter 1			5

All wards total spend to end of Quarter 1

£2,177.01

Part A – Appendix 2

Achievements against 2020 – 2024 Corporate Plan

Set out below are some of the main key highlights achieved within the first two years of the corporate plan;

Customer charter

- Delivered **consistently high levels of customer service** – including throughout the pandemic
- **Delivered Community Hub Helpline** and related wraparound services during Covid – including working DEFRA to provide priority shopping slots
- Successfully implemented systems to pay **CV-19 Business Grants** paying out £22.3m to 4,400 businesses, and **Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rate Relief** to 858 businesses totalling £39,038,750 since 2019/20
- **Test and Trace Support Payments** scheme paying out £347,000 to 694 residents
- **Developed Community Directory** to support Covid response
- Establishment of the **Social Value Charter**

Growth and prosperity

- **Congress theatre reopened** along with new **Welcome Building** to provide comprehensive conferencing space
- Restoration of **Victoria Mansions**
- **Delivered Fishermen’s Quay at Sovereign Harbour**
- **Phase 2a of the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package** - In partnership with ESCC agreed detailed design of scheme which runs from Bankers Corner to Bolton Road and Langney Road
- **REVO Award** – EBC won the Re:generate Gold Award for the regeneration of Eastbourne Town Centre for its unprecedented transformational change
- **Levelling Up Fund** – ‘Linking Town Centre Regeneration with a Strengthened Visitor Economy @Victoria Place and @Towner’ - £19.8m funding
 - **£7.623m to convert Victoria Place into a vibrant, pedestrianised cultural district**, including new green energy infrastructure, with awnings, lighting and heating; with excellent independent cafés and restaurants serving high quality, locally sourced food and drink all year round, also developing a night-time economy.
 - **£1.037m investment in the Towner’s Centenary project**, creating a number of legacy public artworks across the town that will provide an arts trail connecting the Seafront, Town Centre and SDNP, as well as enhancing gallery facilities to support the education and outreach programmes that will Eastbourne’s most disadvantaged communities.
 - **£11.186m to create a world-class culture and education centre at Black Robin Farm**, a former dairy farm set on the Downs above the town, connecting the SDNP with the Town Centre and Seafront and providing a new destination for c.100,000 visitors per year, space for

new businesses and work placements for young people during both the construction and operational phases.

- **Welcome Back Fund** – delivered a wide range of projects, events and initiatives with a total spend of £248k including:
 - Pop-up Park in Victoria Place, Town Centre Planters, Destination Boards, Afterlight Festival, Spring Rise Festival, LED Christmas Tree, Christmas Lighting Scheme, Son et Lumiere Music and Light Show, Winter Lantern Event, Arts Trail, 3D Heritage Trail.

Housing and development

- **335 homes developed across the town** (between April 2020 & March 2022), whilst 296 are under construction and a further 984 have planning permission.
- **Twelve affordable homes completed** (in 2021/22), including **10 x new homes as part of the grant funded Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme**. A further 49 affordable homes with planning permission.
- **Reduced the numbers of homeless households** having to stay in emergency accommodation by almost a third – 116 household at the end of March 2022, compared to 148 households in March 2020
- **Solar Together scheme (autumn of 2021)**- to enable the installation of PV panels, battery storage and EV chargepoints within the able to pay private-sector housing market – likely to result in 60 PV installations, 25 domestic batteries and 20 EV chargepoints.

Quality environment

- **introduction of alternate weekly waste/recycling collections** - resulting in reduced waste fleet on the road and increased recycling rates (from a low of 31% in 2019/20 to a high of 41% in 21/22)
- **Electric vehicle charge point contract** in final stages of procurement
 - to install approximately 18 7kW charge points by the end of 2022 for the use of residents and medium/long-stay visitors.
- **15 new wildflower seed areas**, including turning an unused bowling green, into a wildflower meadow
- **Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme** (Environment Agency in partnership with EBC) - 100 million flagship coastal flood and erosion risk management project for Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne - will deliver protection to an estimated 10,000 residential properties as well as key infrastructure, local businesses, heritage sites and nature conservation areas.
- **Biodiversity strategy adopted in 2021**
- **Introduction of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle monthly bulletin** to 15,000 local mailboxes to influence recycling behaviours
- **Treebourne** – working with local residents to increase the number of trees in the borough

Thriving communities

- **Benefit processing times** - Average time to process new claims was 19 days in 2020/21 which was the best result in over five years as was the six day average time taken to process changes.

- **Council tax Hardship scheme** - awarded c£900k
- **Delivery of Sovereign Harbour Community Centre**
- **Changing Places Facilities Funding** – secured £140k to deliver facilities in The Congress Theatre, Sovereign Harbour Community Centre and Langney Shopping Centre
- **Walking Festival** held in September 2021
- **Litter and fly-tipping reduction strategy implemented**
- **£420k Safer streets fund project delivered** in Devonshire ward. Further funding awarded for Gildridge Park for 2022.
- **Distributed £233k Household Support Fund** between Dec 21 & March 2022, providing direct financial assistance to help over 1,000 residents through the cost of living crisis
- **Delivered access audits on council buildings and open spaces** and made access improvements as a result
- **Introduced ward level Community Safety action groups**

Best use of resources

- **Recovery and Reset programme** established to deliver savings and essential digital improvements
- **Implemented Chatbot digital assistant** on the councils' website

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Part B

Financial Performance Q1 2022/23

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The budget approved by Council in February 2022 was balanced over the medium term and was set based on a number of key assumptions including pay and cost inflation. Inflation had been calculated for premises and transport related costs including utilities, business rates and fuel based on latest market intelligence and CPI forecasts from Central Government. Whilst there were concerns about the rapidly rising levels of inflation, the advice at that time indicated a short term and sharp spike rise in inflation followed by a return to previously experienced levels by early spring.

The CPI has since nearly quadrupled which when coupled with the proportion of use and demand for consumables such as utilities, fuel, goods and services has created and continues to give rise to significant budgetary concerns.

UK CPI table

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2022	5.4%	6.1%	7.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.4%	<u>10.1%</u>						
2021	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	1.5%	2.1%	2.5%	2.0%	3.2%	3.0%	4.1%	5.1%	5.4%	2.6%
2020	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%

The Council operates Directorate cash limited budgets and Corporate Management Team/Directors are responsible for ensuring that appropriate action is taken to contain both revenue and capital spending in line with the directorate's overall budget limit. The challenges facing local residents as a result of the cost of living crisis are very real and very urgent. The council cannot singlehandedly resolve these complex and national level issues. There has been a wave of authorities at every level that have revealed their budget plans are in pieces due to the huge spike in costs since April 2022 and authorities across the country are not immune to the national financial pressures while facing increasing demand and increasing cost pressures.

- 1.2 Various authorities are dealing with a very difficult set of circumstances currently and face a real challenge to balance the budget this year, while forecasting a significant overspend with the main causes being record inflation levels, soaring energy prices, pay deal for staff, etc. This is the reality for councils across the country at the moment and it has been widely reported that inflation, energy costs and other current challenges are predicted to lead to £2.4bn in extra cost pressures to councils this year alone, rising to £3.6bn in 2024-25. Therefore, there might be a need for various authorities including this Council to lobby the Government for additional supports.

Another critical issue for the council is that its capital projects are facing an uncertain future due to the increase in material costs. It is too early to have a clear view of the impact of the inflationary pressures while the assumption is that stand-alone projects that are already in-progress will be delivered as planned but that future projects that have not yet started may need to be re-evaluated. In the same way households are struggling with rising costs, it is also becoming more and more expensive for the council to provide the services that people need. This comes at a time when the

Council's budgets are already under immense strain, with savings already required due to the impacts of austerity and the pandemic.

- 1.3 Through the Priority Based Budgeting approach, each area of the Council's expenditure was scrutinised, and a range of ongoing budget reduction options were prepared for members' consideration. Some of the proposals will deliver a level of budget reduction in the current financial year, whilst others will yield savings, or increased income generation for years to come. Future budget setting will be taking into consideration current financial pressures and challenges due to ongoing inflation trajectory. The Council has a robust governance process for tracking delivery of agreed savings through the Recovery and Stabilisation Programme meetings, whilst work is still underway to assess developed savings plans.
- 1.4 The Council's overall annual revenue spend is managed and monitored across a number of areas and at Quarter 1, the budget holders are forecasting a risk of overspend of approximately £0.958m (as shown within the table below), which CMT should in the first instance set out in-service options for mitigation. Where these are considered undeliverable, or pressures cannot be contained across the directorate the budget monitoring/scrutiny process will be triggered and a request may be made for the Cabinet to consider granting a supplementary estimate redirecting funds from an alternative source.
- 1.5 Through careful planning and re-profiling during the 2021/22 year-end, the Council has been able to provide resilience by setting aside specific reserves to address ongoing Cost of living, Inflation, Fuel & Energy Cost and Bad debt along with carry forwards, £1.3m of these have been brought into the position as one-off funding to provide relevant immediate support.

2 General Fund

- 2.1 The General Fund projected out-turn for 2022/23 as at 30.6.22, quarter 1, is shown in the summary table 1 below, as an overspend against budget of £958,910:

Table 1: Summary of projected out-turn as at Quarter 1	Budget 2022-23	Actual & committed	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance at year end
	£	£	£	£
Corporate Services	3,824,350	2,717,480	3,848,450	24,100
Service Delivery	7,538,650	5,161,283	7,723,164	184,514
Regeneration and Planning	(51,850)	2,239,529	1,049,368	1,101,218
Tourism and Enterprise	2,203,550	534,168	2,252,628	49,078
Net Cost of Services	13,514,700	1,216,461	14,873,610	1,358,910
Other Operating Income & Expenditure	487,450	249,351	237,450	(250,000)
Capital Financing	2,103,400	442,414	1,953,400	(150,000)
Transfer from reserves *		0		0
Net Budget	16,105,550	1,908,226	17,064,460	958,910

2.2 The projected out-turn for 2022/23, advised by budget holders as of 30 June 2022 is an overspend against budget of £958,910.

Some of the provisions from 2021/22 were carried forward due to reprofiling and alignment of budget. Where applicable these have been incorporated into relevant budgets. These are for noting at this point and will be formerly updated as part of the mid-year revision and budget setting process.

The residual projected overspend of £958k, in the main is due to the anticipated impact of price inflation for energy costs, currently projected at an additional cost of £500k, increased cost of goods and services and pressures in regeneration and planning, which are explored further below.

Inflation is currently at over 10% and is expected to rise to over 13% by October 2022, fuel prices continue to be the main contributor to this. The bank of England has increased base rates to the highest they have been in over 13 years impacting the cost of borrowing and impacting mortgage interest rates.

The impact on consumer spending power, and bad debts is uncertain especially on income targets in areas such as Tourism, hospitality and Culture which are still recovering from Covid, due to careful planning in 2021/22 we have been able to mitigate against this impact of inflation, pending delivering of solutions and savings.

We afforded and set aside reserves as at 2021/22-year end to provide resilience and as a result we have been able to bring into position £1.322m of one of funds to support 2022/23 position, this affords us a little more time to see delivery of recovery and stabilisation programme and to deliver more efficiency plans to mitigate inflationary impact. Tourism and Culture. has been supported from £755k of one-off funds from earmarked reserves.

Planning have required reserves of £204k to afford the local plan which is required every 4 years. £90k of BCF carry forward has been brought forward to support the service and bottom line and £250k to support increased energy costs are shown in the position to support the pressure on fuel.

The budget includes savings targets of £3.294m, which have been deducted from the relevant service, some alternatives will need to be found and solution to the predicted overspend will need to be considered to deliver a balanced budget by 31 March 2022 and to deliver a balanced budget for 23/24.

Key variances are set out in the following table:

2.3 Corporate Services, projected overspend £24,100:

Corporate Services	Budget 2022-23	Actual & committed	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance at year end
	£	£	£	£
Corporate Management Team	79,850	728,624	79,850	0
Financial Services	1,265,400	(560,981)	1,274,700	9,300
Human Resources	370,250	322,126	376,850	6,600
Total Information Technology	1,204,600	2,103,624	1,175,000	(29,600)
Total Legal	248,450	(249,775)	248,450	0
Total Local Democracy	741,550	406,841	779,350	37,800
Local Land Charges	(85,750)	(32,980)	(85,750)	0
Corporate Services	3,824,350	2,717,480	3,848,450	24,100

Corporate Services are showing a small projected overspend due to:

Financial Services £9k due to staff Agency costs

Human resources £6k due to increased training costs

Information Technology (£29k) savings on staff and server costs

Democratic services £37k unfunded role

2.4 Service Delivery, projected overspend £184,514:

Service Delivery	Budget 2022-23	Actual & committed	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance at year end
	£	£	£	£
Director of Service Delivery	15,700	50,007	15,101	(599)
Customer First	273,800	345,028	291,433	17,633
Customer Contact	671,400	538,817	680,588	9,188
Neighbourhood First	57,900	(82,474)	180,959	123,059
Case Management	345,800	289,612	392,677	46,877
Account Management	(37,800)	(53,093)	(37,800)	0
SA-Licensing, Cemeteries, Coast Protection	1,453,700	654,156	1,496,974	43,274
Specialist Advisory - Revenues	1,402,600	1,282,409	1,447,501	44,901
Specialist Advisory - Waste	4,426,450	1,177,543	4,424,571	(1,879)
Bereavement Services	(1,236,700)	(179,397)	(1,232,114)	4,586
Homes First - Solarbourne	(200,750)	64,705	(200,750)	0
Homes First - Head of Service	29,850	302,786	29,850	0
Homes First - Housing Strategy	3,000	23,380	3,000	0
Homes First - Customer Experience	0	212,618	0	0
Homes First - Housing needs and standards	333,700	127,510	231,174	(102,526)
Homes First - Housing Property Services	0	(0)	0	0
Service Delivery	7,538,650	5,161,283	7,723,164	184,514

The service is predicting overspend against staff costs, and pressure with cost of placements for homeless, details of which are shown below:

Customer First £17k, due to salaries over budget.

Neighbourhood First £123k, due to salaries over budget

Case Management £47k due to agency staff costs

Licensing, Cemeteries and Coastal Protection £43k mainly due to Ash die back

Revenues £44k, due to staff costs

Housing Needs and Standards (£102k), increased cost of rough sleepers' placements of £123k, increased spot purchase rates of B&Bs £50K and increased cost of agency staff £73k, which is being offset by anticipated one off £350k of additional BCF.

Please note the £20k of carry forward from 2021.22 which is to fund litter and dog waste bins and an allocation of £90k of BCF from reserves.

2.5 Regeneration and Planning projected overspend of £1,101,218

Regeneration and Planning	Budget 2022-23	Actual & committed	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance at year end
	£	£	£	£
Service Management - Director	42,750	86,343	43,000	250
Business Planning and Performance	506,000	352,896	489,500	(16,500)
Planning	390,700	1,153,607	579,510	188,810
Asset Management	(1,260,150)	98,204	(757,000)	503,150
Housing Delivery	118,600	417,578	153,800	35,200
Facilities	(68,400)	(102,319)	247,100	315,500
Regeneration	218,650	233,219	293,458	74,808
Regeneration and Planning	(51,850)	2,239,529	1,049,368	1,101,218

Regeneration and Planning is anticipating significant pressures within its service delivery.

Planning £188k includes £108k of salary pressure and £40k loss of income, and £40k set aside for compensation. Please note £204k of consultancy costs to deliver the Local Development Framework is funded from reserves in the position.

Asset Management £503k, includes increased fuel costs of £227k. Please note the release of £250k from reserves and carry forwards for fuel cost pressures is in the position.

Pressures of £554k are against vacant properties within investment properties, further investigation is required to establish a better solution, the position includes £28k of additional income on downs water supply.

Housing Delivery £35k due to reduced income

Facilities £315k - Grove Road £216k overspend is showing due to £130k duplicate savings target left here, £46k maintenance and £40k energy increases. Town Hall £65k pressures including £25k security costs unfunded, reduced lettings income of £27k and £13k increased maintenance costs & £33k on College Road Offices. Further investigation is ongoing to find solutions.

Regeneration: £74k has been shown as anticipated revenue spend, further investigation is required to establish if this is revenue as the levelling up grant is a capital grant and therefore this expenditure is not funded.

Please note in addition to £204k of reserves to fund the local plan there is a small carry forward of £3k for the community environment Partnership

2.6 Tourism and Enterprise projected overspend of £49,078

Tourism and Enterprise	Budget 2022-23	Actual & committed	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance at year end
	£	£	£	£
Towner	420,400	413,880	420,400	0
Tourism and Enterprise	795,450	86,858	789,150	(6,300)
Events	377,700	230,755	397,150	19,450
Theatres	59,950	(748,700)	412,650	352,700
Sports Delivery	605,900	408,401	608,650	2,750
Seafront	51,450	65,065	140,450	89,000
Heritage	67,400	34,487	102,650	35,250
Tourist Information	172,850	53,035	257,150	84,300
Catering	(347,550)	(9,612)	(120,000)	227,550
Transfer from Reserves		0	0	(755,622)
Tourism and Enterprise	2,203,550	534,168	2,252,628	49,078

As above there are a few small variances both positive and negative which should be manageable over the year however larger variances are as follows:

Theatres £352k – off which £254k pressure from unfunded staff costs following re-structure, £68k staff costs relating to Devonshire Park Theatre and £45k pressure anticipated due to delayed opening Winter Gardens to live music events. The savings target of £500k for VAT exemption is delayed and alternative are being found.

Sports Delivery is on target.

Seafront £89k Increased income of £38k for Beach Huts is being offset against £53k of increased staff costs, ice-cream sales no achievable income of £35k and the close of Redoubt Event with £28k of increased costs and bandstand £11k.

Heritage £35k due to beachy Head story predicted reduced income.

Tourist Information £84k is due to increased staff costs.

Catering £227k The Stage Door is anticipated £84k of increased staff costs, EDGC catering is anticipating £30k of additional staff costs, The Beer Festival is anticipating reduction to income target of £15k & Devonshire Park Theatre is expecting £46k less income due to reduced audiences. ILTC are expecting reduced income of £40k, with several small overspends of £12k.

Please note the transfer of £755k, one off, from earmarked reserves, to support the service against the impact on income from anticipated pressure from inflation and reduced spending power of customers.

2.7 Other Operating Income (£250,000) and Capital Financing (£150,000) and Reserves* (£1,322,622)

Other Operating Income and Capital Financing & Reserve movements	Budget 2022-23	Actual & committed	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance at year end
	£	£	£	£
Contingencies	250,000	0	0	(250,000)
Precepts and Levies	237,450	249,351	237,450	0
Other Operating Income & Expenditure	487,450	249,351	237,450	(250,000)
Capital Financing	2,103,400	442,414	1,953,400	(150,000)
Transfers from Reserves *		0	0	
Other				
Capital Finances and Reserves	2,103,400	442,414	1,953,400	(150,000)

Contingencies of (£250k) this budget has no commitments against it and has been fully released to support the bottom line.

Capital Financing (£150k) The savings target is £300k, but £375k was fully delivered in 21/22, with a further £75k further savings anticipated. Further work is being undertaken on the cost of capital, due to impact of increased interest rates.

Transfer from Reserves * Please note the transfer from Reserves and carry forwards of £1,322,622m have been incorporated into relevant budgets. These are for noting and will be formally updated as part of the mid-year revision and budget setting process.

3 HRA

3.1 HRA performance of the quarter is as follows:

The budget is set at £3.093m with a forecast out-turn at £3.063m with the variance being unallocated contingency of £30k

Details can be found at Appendix 1

4 Reserves

4.1 Please note reserves are pending statutory accounts and audit and remain compliant with the newly introduced reserve policy of increasing financial resilience.

Through careful planning and re-profiling in 2021/22-year end, we were able to provide resilience in the form of Cost of living, Inflation, Fuel and Energy Cost and Bad debt earmarked reserves along with carry forwards, £1.3m of these have been brought into the position as one off funding to provide support the position, which is being impacted from the cost of living. Ongoing work will support delivery of savings and efficiencies to mitigate the long-term impact of pay and inflation.

5 Eastbourne Housing Investment Company Ltd. (EHICL)

- 5.1 Eastbourne Housing Investment Company Limited is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and the principal activity of the Company is the development of housing stock and the letting of commercial and residential properties.
- 5.2 The Council has benefited by using the EHICL properties rather than the traditional temporary accommodation to avoid significant increase in homelessness expenditures/costs, which has led to achieving a reasonable budget savings. EHICL requested for a financial contribution (i.e., approximately £150k) in the light of the support provided to the Council's homelessness crisis during the pandemic. This request will be funded from the Council's unallocated resource on the basis that the Council made reasonable savings on emergency/temporary accommodation.
- 5.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance Services on 20th September 2022, agreed that £150k contribution be allocated from the Council unallocated resources to the Eastbourne Housing Investment Company Ltd. This was made under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to the Council constitution, the Leader has authority to delegate to members of his Cabinet to take executive decisions as and when he considers appropriate.

6 Capital Expenditure

- 6.1 The capital programme provides an analysis of spend for quarter 1 compared to the updated budget for 2022/23 and the total spend for each scheme as at 30 June 2022. The current Q1 expenditure totals £1.5m against the latest programme of £41.4m. Additional comments are provided for each scheme within the attached Appendix 2.

Summary - Capital Programme	Original 2022-23	Updated 2022-23	Q1 Spend 2022-23	Q1 variance to updated budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Housing Revenue Accounts	18,210	20,147	676	(19,471)
Other Housing	1,460	3,088	279	(2,809)
Community Services	2,145	2,974	139	(2,835)
Tourism & Leisure	150	107	3	(104)
Corporate Services	3,381	3,973	249	(3,724)
Regeneration	6,371	7,012	0	(7,012)
Asset Management	3,765	4,165	121	(4,044)
Total HRA & General Fund	35,482	41,466	1,467	(39,999)

- 6.2 The 2021/22 capital outturn was reported to Cabinet in July 2022 and the result of that was that there was programme slippage into 2022/23 of £5.98m. This, along with the approved budget and updates since that date, mean a programme of £41.46m for the current year as summarised in the table above.
- 6.3 At the end of Quarter 1 the spend against year 1 of the programme was very low and it is too soon to forecast what level of slippage we might anticipate into future years, but it is unlikely that all aspects of the programme will be deliverable this year and so this will be kept under continuous review by the Capital Programme Overview Board (CPOB).

7 Treasury Management

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

Annual Investment Strategy

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23 which includes the Annual Investment strategy, was approved by the Full Council on Wednesday, 9 February 2022. 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 30 June 2022, except for the balance held with Lloyds Bank, which exceeded the £5m limit for 11 days during the period.

- 7.2 The Council's debt and investment position is organised by staff within Financial Services in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities.
- 7.3 In a relatively short period since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economic fallout was sharp and large. Market reaction was extreme with large falls in equities, corporate bond markets and, to some extent, real estate echoing lockdown-induced paralysis and the uncharted challenges for governments, businesses, and individuals.
- 7.4 **Fixed Term Deposits which have matured in the reporting period**

The table below shows the fixed term deposits which have matured between 1 April to 30 June 2022, in maturity date order. It is important to note that the table includes sums reinvested and that in total the Council's investments have not increased by £65.7m over this period.

Counterparty	Date From	Date To	Days	Principal £'000	Int. Rate %	Long-term rating
					%	
DMO	18/03/2022	19/04/2022	32	1,500	0.55	*
DMO	22/03/2022	05/04/2022	14	1,000	0.55	*
DMO	30/03/2022	01/04/2022	2	7,000	0.55	*
DMO	01/04/2022	11/04/2022	10	8,000	0.55	*
DMO	06/04/2022	14/04/2022	8	4,000	0.55	*
DMO	14/04/2022	28/04/2022	14	3,500	0.55	*
DMO	19/04/2022	26/04/2022	7	3,000	0.55	*
DMO	20/04/2022	25/04/2022	5	2,000	0.55	*
DMO	26/04/2022	03/05/2022	7	4,000	0.55	*
DMO	29/04/2022	04/05/2022	5	5,000	0.57	*
DMO	03/05/2022	17/05/2022	14	3,500	0.81	*
DMO	04/05/2022	11/05/2022	7	3,000	0.82	*

DMO	11/05/2022	20/05/2022	9	5,000	0.80	*
DMO	24/05/2022	21/06/2022	28	2,000	0.88	*
DMO	01/06/2022	22/06/2022	21	4,200	0.86	*
DMO	07/06/2022	28/06/2022	21	2,500	0.94	*
DMO	22/06/2022	24/06/2022	2	6,500	1.05	*
Total				65,700		

***UK Government body and therefore not subject to credit rating**

7.5 Use of Deposit accounts

In addition to the fixed term deposits, the Council has made use of the following interest-bearing accounts in the period covered by this report, with the average amount held being £2.96m generating interest of approximately £7.6k.

	Balance at 30 June 2022 £'000	Average balance £'000	Current interest rate %
Santander Business Reserve Account	1,248	2,120	0.01
Lloyds Bank Corporate Account	10	1,795	0.05
Lloyds Bank Call Account	4,000	4,954	0.50

7.6 TM Borrowing – Q1 2022/23

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 between 1 April and 30 June 2022

7.7 **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:				%
West Midlands Combined Auth.	10,000	21/01/2022	20/01/2023	0.25
Hyndburn BC	2,000	28/02/2022	27/02/2023	0.70
Middlesbrough Council	5,000	11/03/2022	29/07/2022	0.79
Greater Manchester Pension Fd.	5,000	21/03/2022	22/08/2022	0.70
Northern Ireland Housing Exe.	10,000	20/06/2022	19/06/2023	1.20
West Yorkshire Combined Auth.	5,000	23/05/2022	09/05/2023	1.20

Loans repaid:				
Middlesbrough Teeside Pension	5,000	22/11/2021	23/05/2022	0.04
Rotherham MBC	2,000	16/03/2022	16/06/2022	0.75
Northern Ireland Housing Exe.	7,000	20/09/2021	20/06/2022	0.07
Swansea City & County	5,000	01/03/2022	24/06/2022	0.57

7.8 Interest Rate Forecast

The Council has 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 21st June is compared below to the previous forecast (10th May). A comparison of these forecasts shows that PWLB rates have increased generally and show a speed up in the rate of increase in Bank Rate as inflation is now posing a greater risk. The increase in PWLB rates reflects a broad sell-off in sovereign bonds internationally as inflation concerns abound. To that end, the MPC has tightened short-term interest rates with a view to trying to slow the economy sufficiently to keep the secondary effects of inflation – as measured by wage rises – under control, but without pushing the economy into recession.

Links current and previous PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities.

Link Group Interest Rate View 21.06.22												
	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
BANK RATE	1.75	2.25	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.50	2.50	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
3 month ave earnings	2.00	2.50	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.60	2.50	2.30	2.30	2.20	2.20
6 month ave earnings	2.50	2.80	3.00	3.00	2.90	2.90	2.80	2.70	2.60	2.50	2.40	2.30
12 month ave earnings	3.10	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.00	2.90	2.80	2.60	2.50	2.40	2.40	2.40
5 yr PWLB	3.20	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.20	3.10	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.90	2.90
10 yr PWLB	3.40	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.10
25 yr PWLB	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.40	3.30
50 yr PWLB	3.40	3.40	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.00

Link Group Interest Rate View 10.5.22													
	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
BANK RATE	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
3 month ave earnings	1.20	1.50	1.70	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70
6 month ave earnings	1.60	1.90	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.10	2.00	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90
12 month ave earnings	2.00	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.30	2.30	2.20	2.20	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10
5 yr PWLB	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
10 yr PWLB	2.80	2.80	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80
25 yr PWLB	3.00	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
50 yr PWLB	2.70	2.80	2.80	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.80	2.80	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70

- LIBOR and LIBID rates ceased at the end of 2021. In a continuation of our previous forecasts, Links money market yield forecasts are based on expected average earnings by local authorities for 3 to 12 months.

Links forecasts for average earnings are averages i.e., rates offered by individual banks may differ significantly from these averages, reflecting their different needs for borrowing short-term cash at any one point in time.

7.9 Economic background

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, global inflationary pressures have intensified sharply, leading to a sizeable deterioration in the outlook for world and UK growth. The economic backdrop in the April-June quarter was characterised by higher oil, gas and commodity prices, fears of rising and persistent inflation and its damaging impact on consumers' cost of living, little indication of an imminent end to Russia-Ukraine hostilities and supply chain bottlenecks exacerbated by war in Ukraine and lockdowns in China.

In the UK inflation remained elevated. Ofgem, the energy regulator, increased the energy price cap by 54% in April, equivalent to around £700 for a household with average energy consumption (the cap had already increased 12% back in October 2021). May data showed CPI edging higher to 9.1% while the core CPI rate, which removes energy, fuel and food was 5.9%. RPI rose to 11.7%.

The labour market continued to show signs of tightness as employers struggled to fill vacancies with workers with skill sets matching their requirements. The unemployment rate for April fell to 3.8% and is now below pre-pandemic levels. Pay growth was 6.8% for total pay (including bonuses) and 4.2% for regular pay; however, adjusted for inflation, growth in total pay was just 0.4%, whilst regular pay fell 2.2%.

Unsurprisingly, with disposable income squeezed and another energy cap increase due in October, consumer confidence plummeted to the level last seen during the 2008/09 financial crisis. Quarterly GDP growth was 0.8% in the January-March quarter and the Bank of England now expects a decline of 0.3% in Q2 2022.

8 Appendices

- 8.1
 - Appendix 1 – Housing Revenue Account
 - Appendix 2 – Capital Programme

EBC Housing Revenue Account 2022/23

HRA 2022/23	Original Budget £000's	Estimated Outturn £000's	Variance at Year End £000's
INCOME			
Gross Rents	(15,268)	(15,267)	1
Charges for Services	(1,087)	(1,087)	0
GROSS INCOME	(16,355)	(16,354)	1
EXPENDITURE			
Management Fee	8,077	8,077	0
Supervision and Management	1,931	1,932	1
Provision for Doubtful Debts	212	211	(1)
Depreciation	4,547	4,548	1
GROSS EXPENDITURE	14,767	14,768	1
NET COST OF HRA SERVICES	(1,588)	(1,586)	2
Loan Charges - Interest	1,720	1,720	0
Interest Receivable	(3)	(5)	(2)
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	129	129	0
Contribution to Capital Expenditure	2,934	2,934	0
Contingency	30	0	(30)
HRA (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	3,093	3,063	(30)

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT WORKING BALANCE	Original Budget	Projected Outturn
Working Balance at 1 April	(4,884)	(4,884)
(Surplus) or Deficit for the year	3,093	3,063
Working Balance at 31 March	(1,791)	(1,821)

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Line No.	Scheme	Original 2022-23	Updated 2022-23	Spend 2022-23 Q1	Q1 variance to budget	Comments
1	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT					
2	Major Works	5,816	6,566	0	-6,566	
3	Sustainability Initiatives Pilot	160	160	0	-160	
4	Disabled Adaptations	450	450	0	-450	
5	New Build	8,419	9,606	635	-8,971	
6	Acquisitions	3,365	3,365	41	-3,324	
7	Total HRA	18,210	20,147	676	-19,471	
8	Other Housing					
9	EHIC - Loan Facility (Private Properties)	26	26	0	-26	Available for drawdown when required
10	EHIC - Mixed Tenure Properties	466	502	0	-502	Available for drawdown when required
11	AH - Credit facility	0	35	0	-35	Available for drawdown when required
12	AH - Facility	968	2,525	279	-2,246	Available for drawdown when required
13	Total Other Housing	1,460	3,088	279	-2,809	
14	COMMUNITY SERVICES					
15	Disabled Facilities Grants	1,200	1,856	95	-1,761	Q1 always slow, with a third of the budget generally spent in Q4
16	BEST Grant (housing initiatives)	0	15	0	-15	Anticipating a high demand for Boiler grants and budget to be fully spent
17	Coast Defences Beach Management	300	300	0	-300	Works planned for Autumn/Winter after the tourist season
18	Cycling Strategy	41	41	0	-41	This will contribute to the cycle routes ESCC has prioritised for Eastbourne. No progress in Q1.
19	Play Area Sovereign Harbour	0	27	0	-27	Awaiting transfer of land from developer
20	Refurbishment of Public Facilities	50	50	0	-50	Not yet progressed; any work likely to be in 2023/24
21	Langney Cemetery - Road Improvements	30	0	0	0	Completed in 2021-22
22	Ocklynge Cemetery - Road Improvements	15	0	0	0	Completed in 2021-22
23	Crematorium - Road Improvements	15	15	0	-15	Completed
24	Crematorium - Cesspit Replacement	37	36	0	-36	Waiting for final designs before tender
25	Crematorium - Chapel Improvements	120	120	1	-119	Work is due to start September. Currently at tender stage
26	SEESL Loan	73	254	0	-254	Available for drawdown when required
27	Waste & Recycling Equipment	198	194	43	-151	Bulk buy of bins ordered for delivery during 2021-22
28	5 Fleet Vans	66	66	0	-66	Completion expected in Q2
29	Total Community Services	2,145	2,974	139	-2,835	
30	TOURISM & LEISURE					
31	Sovereign Centre - Existing building	150	107	3	-104	Electrical work ongoing. Heating system upgrade being investigated.
32	Total Tourism & Leisure	150	107	3	-104	
33	CORPORATE SERVICES					
34	IT - Block Allocation	150	119	0	-119	
35	Contingency	250	230	0	-230	Available if schemes are identified
36	Recovery & Stabilisation	435	984	30	-954	
37	JTP Finance Transformation	100	186	0	-186	Implementation of Asset Register in progress
38	Retail Refurbishment	2,446	2,434	219	-2,215	
39	Sculpture	0	20	0	-20	Awaiting confirmation of location.
40	Total Corporate Services	3,381	3,973	249	-3,724	
41	REGENERATION (Levelling Up Fund)					
42	Black Robin Farm	3,780	4,079	0	-4,079	Surveys to feed into design underway. Pre-planning agreement in place with Southdowns National Park Planning Authority.
43	Towner Centenary Project	674	818	0	-818	Scheme currently on budget.
44	Victoria Place Pedestrianisation	1,917	2,115	0	-2,115	ESCC has agreed the scope of the detailed design work which will commence in Q2 and continue into Q3 and Q4 of 2022/23
45	Total Regeneration	6,371	7,012	0	-7,012	
46	Asset Management					
47	Winter Garden	1,500	951	0	-951	Developing facade design approach.
48	Dev Park Theatre (H&S)	0	83	0	-83	Quotes received; awaiting a start date.
49	Victoria Mansions Commercial	0	71	0	-71	Phase 2 is 90% complete and now final phase will commence when access allowed
50	Congress Theatre Roof	275	425	0	-425	Equipment tower installed. Scaffolding and access design ongoing. Some delays due to tennis.
51	Bandstand & Promenade Renovations	750	871	0	-871	Phase 1 works (hoarding and associated health and safety works) completed July 2022. Wider works to the Bandstand structure are being designed and will commence in late Autumn 2022.
52	EDGC Improvements (Workshop)	0	100	0	-100	Quotes for works received, work to commence Sept 22
53	Seafront Lighting	200	305	54	-251	Phase 1 (Wishtower to Pier) due for completion late Autumn 22. Phase 2 - Festoon lighting from Pier expected 2023/24
54	Leisure Estate	250	250	0	-250	Currently seeking Counsel advice on proposed transfer mechanism to CIC
55	Food Street	0	41	52	11	Works on target to complete in Q3. Additional external funding being sought to cover over spend
56	Asset Value Improvement Fund	300	300	0	-300	
57	Redoubt-mains supply for café and Fort	50	50	0	-50	Awaiting input from UKPN on new mains supply and Heritage England on proposals.
58	Town Hall	50	50	0	-50	Assembly Hall ceiling improvements are being organised. Also some external façade improvements.
59	The Point Improvements	30	30	13	-17	Spend so far on electrical improvements.
60	Stage Door - fire upgrade	20	20	0	-20	Works to be progressed imminently
61	ILTC - Improvements	0	64	0	-64	Work to stand joints - currently being organised
62	Towner Improvements	150	199	0	-199	Tenders received for roof works. Works due Autumn 2022.
63	Fort Fun	40	40	0	-40	Initial electrical statutory compliance works are underway
64	1 Grove Road	50	50	2	-48	Fire alarm works likely to be undertaken.
65	Asset Management - Block Allocation	100	265	0	-265	Available for allocation
66	Total Asset Management	3,765	4,165	121	-4,044	
67	General Fund	17,272	21,319	791	-20,528	
68	HRA	18,210	20,147	676	-19,471	
69	Total	35,482	41,466	1,467	-39,999	

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Agenda Item 8

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	2 November 2022
Title:	Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24-2026/27
Report of:	Homira Javadi, Chief Finance Officer
Cabinet member:	Councillor Stephen Holt, Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Finance
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To agree the updated General Fund budget and updated Medium Term Financial Strategy, together with the updated Capital Programme position.
Decision type:	Key decision
Officer recommendation(s):	Cabinet is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. note the updated MTFS forecasts and the requirement to identify additional savings of £2.6 million for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27, but also note that this forecast could change significantly based upon outcome of future government funding settlements, the ongoing impact of the pandemic, demand for services and inflationary pressures upon the council;b. note that at this stage a forecast £1.9 million of savings are required to balance the 2023/24 budget; andc. note the planned review of earmarked reserves and reallocate in line with the emerging risks where possible.
Reasons for recommendations:	The provide Cabinet with and update and early sighting of key MTFS and budgetary implications in preparation for the setting of a revenue budget and associated Council tax for the forthcoming financial year by law.
Contact Officer(s):	Name: Homira Javadi Post title: Chief Finance Officer E-mail: Homira.Javadi@Lewes-Eastbourne.gov.uk

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The council is continuing to operate in a period of significant financial uncertainty. When the 2022/23 budget was approved in February 2022, the council was concerned about the ongoing and consequential impact of the pandemic and the uncertainty of future local government finance settlements.
- 1.2 Whilst these concerns remain, they are now overshadowed by the forecast impact of high inflation, especially in relation to fuel and energy prices. The impact of inflation is being experienced across all council services with no part of the council's budget unaffected. Energy costs are significantly above original budget forecasts, despite a provisional increase being built into the base energy budgets this year, along with the majority of other major spend areas such as waste and fleet.
- 1.3 On 8 September 2022, the Government announced a package of measures to cap energy costs for households and businesses, with further detail published on 22 September 2022. At the time of preparing this report more detail on how the support to businesses will work in practice was awaited. The support to business is only for six months and therefore will only help alleviate some of the pressure being experienced in 2022/23 and therefore is not expected to help offset the budget growth that is required in 2023/24. The MTFS forecasts assumes that prices for gas and electricity return closer to 2022/23 budgeted levels over the following two years.
- 1.4 Inflation is also impacting upon bank base rates and expected pay settlements for our employees with future National Living Wage increases expected to exceed previous expectations, which will impact upon the cost of services.
- 1.5 All these issues are making financial planning difficult and are resulting in adjustments to the financial position as compared to that reported to Cabinet earlier in the year, with significant additional pressure falling into 2023/24.
- 1.6 On 23 September 2022, it was announced that the 1.25% increase in National Insurance was being withdrawn from November 2022. This will produce both an in-year saving in 2022/23 (of circa £33k) and a base budget reduction from 2023/24 of circa £80k.
- 1.7 There continues to be significant uncertainty in terms of future financial settlements for local government and how available funding will be shared between local authorities. Local authorities continue to be provided with one-year financial settlements, which provide little financial certainty and security and given the timing of these announcements in late December, provides little time to react.
- 1.8 Local authorities desperately need early notification of how much, if any, additional government support will be provided in 2023/24 to offset the significant financial pressures faced by the sector due to the present high levels of inflation. It appears at this stage however that there will not be early notification of funding levels for 2023/24, leaving local authorities to continue to plan for the worst i.e., no further funding being made available.

- 1.9 Although it was anticipated that in the 2022/23 local government finance settlement that the Fair Funding Review (FFR) would be implemented, it is expected that the implementation of the findings from the FFR, may now be delayed until at least 2024/25 but more likely to be 2025/26.
- 1.10 The lack of clarity in relation to the quantum of future financial settlements and the FFR is exacerbated by uncertainties in relation to future council tax referendum levels, the distribution and retention of business rate, and the ongoing impact of the pandemic upon council services and especially council income.
- 1.11 This level of uncertainty is making financial planning extremely challenging and requires the council to be reactive and adaptable. In this regard the stronger financial position of the council will help the council to react effectively to many outcomes if needed. That said, without significant additional government funding the council will be placed in a challenging situation and will be required to make very difficult decisions to address these pressures in setting balanced budgets in 2023/24 and in future years.
- 1.12 As we continue budget planning for 2023/24, in line with previous practice, the MTFs has been reviewed and the financial forecasts for the next four years updated. Financial plans have been updated to consider the impact of inflation upon council costs with the consumer price index forecast to peak at over 10% by the end of 2023, the forward forecasts of energy costs and the pay increases forecast for the 2023/24 of nearly 7%.
- 1.13 The latest forecasts indicate a funding gap / savings requirement of £2.58 million will be required to balance the budget over the 2023/24 to 2026/27 period, with this figure being required by 2024/25 followed by a softening of requirement in later years of the MTFP.
- 1.14 Savings are forecast to be required in all years of MTFs as budget pressures and the impact of funding reductions outstrip the council's ability to generate additional income from business rates and council tax. The forecasts assume the council will apply the maximum increases in its Council Tax it is allowed to across each of the next four years, in line with government guidance.
- 1.15 The achievement of an additional £2.58 million of savings over the next two years would be extremely challenging and should not be underestimated – more so given the savings that the council has been required to achieve in the last three years. The emphasis since 2011/12 has been to minimise savings from front line services by protecting them wherever possible whilst maximising savings in management and support functions and by targeting increased income. This is becoming much more difficult however, as the scope for further savings is becoming exhausted following the delivery of Recovery and Stabilisation savings since 2019/20.
- 1.16 The total savings required at this stage for 2023/24 to balance the budget amount to £1.9million, although it must be recognised that this figure could change significantly depending on whether the government provide much needed additional resources to the sector in 2023/24 and whether the council experiences

further additional financial pressures due to demand, loss of income or due to the impact of inflation especially in relation to energy.

- 1.17 The previous forecasts, presented to Cabinet in February 2022, identified a forecast funding shortfall of £1.5 million for 2023/24. The updated forecasts show that overall savings requirements across the next four years are not too dissimilar in trend, but the challenge in setting a balanced budget next year is significantly more difficult.
- 1.18 Work will continue over the coming months to identify additional savings options to help to balance next years and future years budgets. In this regard however local government requires confirmation of funding settlements for the future to ensure there is a clear understanding of the financial challenges faced.
- 1.19 To ensure budgets can be balanced whilst clarity is provided and to provide time to work up proposals to reduce expenditure to address the underlying budget position, a thorough review of all earmarked reserves is being undertaken to ensure that corporate reserves are in place to ensure the council can set balanced budgets. This review will result in options to re-prioritise earmarked reserves and increase support for the MTFS. The application of reserves in this way is not a sustainable solution to the financial challenges we face. Until there is greater clarity, the programmes and projects funded from earmarked reserves are being paused at this time.
- 1.20 The MTFS forecasts continue to assume that there will be a 2% council tax increase in 2023/24 along with the later MTFP years, in line with previous assumptions.
- 1.21 Given the increase in inflation and the base rates in recent months and forward forecasts for the cost of borrowing, the capital programme is undergoing a review and risk assessment. Any potential for further increases could reduce the scope of new capital expenditure that could be funded from the prudential borrowing provision factored into the plans at present.
- 1.22 Pre-commitments to existing programmes and business as usual requests could exceed allocated capital resource in MTFS, which together with the impact of construction price inflation, will lead to some difficult choices to be made around re-prioritising existing commitments and scaling back or increasing the pressure on the MTFS by requiring greater provision for prudential borrowing, which would increase the savings targets in MTFS.
- 1.23 Although the position beyond 2024/25 appears to be not as challenging as in 2023/24, this is mainly due to revised assumptions in terms of the outcome of the Fair Funding Review and an assumption that energy prices fall back to 2020/21 budget assumptions across 2025/26 and 2026/27, plus an assumption that provision for new prudential borrowing remains unaltered once the capital bids are assessed. This position will need to be closely monitored to ensure plans are in place for any eventuality

2 Background

Covid 19 Pandemic

- 2.1 In 2020, the Council's financial position like many other public and private sector organisations was put under severe stress by the pandemic. Alongside seeking £12.8m of Capitalisation (over two years 2020/21- 2021/22) from the government and in order to address its financial difficulties, the Council implemented a major Recovery and Reset programme. It aims to ensure that it makes the required savings and transform the Council. The Council delivered c. £2.4m of savings and additional income in 2021/22 and a further £4m in 2022/23 – reducing its net expenditure by over £6m.
- 2.2 Planning for a post COVID council is very challenging. Since there are many unknowns and yet to be tested assumptions. These assumptions will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure any deviations from the budgetary estimates are addressed as promptly as possible.

Recovery and Stabilisation (R&S) Programme

- 2.3 Since 2020, the R&S programme has been the vehicle through which the council has co-ordinated its response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent impact on the economy (both for the council and the borough). R&S oversees and guides the priority activity to address the challenges of the council's new operational context in a sustainable way, and to respond to the changing needs and demands of residents.
- 2.4 Over the last 2 years, the R&S programme has made strong progress in leading and delivering the changes required in support of the council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the work to manage the budget shortfall over the life of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) period. Following the capitalisation direction from central government in early 2021 in response to the extreme financial pressures being experienced, and the subsequent external assurance review being undertaken in the summer of 2021 and the resulting report being published in December, Cabinet agreed in February 2022 that the process of monitoring progress of the external assurance review will be undertaken as part of the R&S activity. Since that time, Corporate Management Team (CMT) has regularly considered the assurance review and progress against the associated recommendations at its twice-weekly Recovery and Stabilisation Oversight meetings. The table below sets out the R&S savings plan which was revised to £2.258m and identified within the 2021/22 budgets alongside the actual delivery £1.902m.

R&S Programme 2021/22	Planned 2021/22	Delivered 2021/22	Additional Savings
Total savings	2,258.25	2,467.05	208.8

- 2.5 The actual delivery against these specific targets was £2.467m, which has been delivered recurrently. Additional and one-off savings have been achieved within 2021/22, and the allocation of these savings and the ability for these to be ongoing will be reviewed. Savings targets for 2022/23 will continue to be monitored

in line with the economic recovery. Additional pressure, due to the increased inflation and increased fuel prices, will increase the funding gap, and opportunities to deliver further efficiencies will be explored.

- 2.6 To ensure the 2023/24 budget and MTFS can be developed effectively, and savings targets delivered in time to produce a balanced budget, it is important that a robust plan and timetable is agreed and followed.
- 2.7 The council is committed to strong financial governance and getting value for money whilst ensuring that any council tax increases are justified and affordable.
- 2.8 It is prudent that the council continues to plan across a four-year timeframe. During this period the council will continue to face significant and unavoidable budget pressures, especially relating to the inflationary impacts on energy and fuel costs, future pay awards to council employees, the National Living Wage uplifts and Waste pressures whilst facing the uncertainty over the impact of the Fair Funding Review (FFR).
- 2.9 Planning across the medium term in this way ensures that decisions can be made in the knowledge of the likely financial position of the council and provides a basis for effective decision-making taking account of the best estimates of income and expenditure.
- 2.10 Savings plans will continue to be developed for consideration for 2023/24 and in future years. These plans were initially developed in the context of the Recovery and Stabilisation. Unless there is a significant uplift in the level of local government financial settlements, additional savings are inevitable.
- 2.11 The council will be able to utilise some earmarked reserves to help balance the budgets in the short-term as a last resort whilst savings proposals are developed and or implemented. The unallocated General Fund reserves balances as at end of 2021/22 were £3.2 million.
- 2.12 The use of reserves to balance the budget is not a sustainable position and is only recommended where there is a need for a temporary injection of resources to allow for more sustainable budget solutions to be developed.
- 2.13 At this stage of the planning cycle for MTFS the following areas are presented for consideration by Cabinet:
 - (a) an update on the development of the 2023/24 budget since the Feb 2022 MTFS report to Cabinet;
 - (b) an update on the MTFS savings forecast for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27;
and
 - (c) a review of reserves to align to MTFS risks.
- 2.14 The financial outlook for the council continues to be extremely challenging. Prior to the pandemic the national finances were in a reasonably healthy state for the first time in ten years. The impact of the pandemic upon the national finances however alongside the impact of the Governments response to the cost-of-living

crisis is forecast to have long term impacts on the flexibility for increases in expenditure across the public sector.

- 2.15 Local authorities continue to lobby strongly for a long term sustainable financial settlement, but it is becoming less likely that this will occur in the short term due to ongoing uncertainty in the national finances linked to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, Brexit, and the inflationary impact of the crisis in Ukraine.
- 2.16 The council will need to continually review its MTFS projections and savings requirements over the coming months in light of future announcements and as more information becomes available on the longer-term impacts of the pandemic and inflation upon the council's budgets going forward.
- 2.17 The assumptions underpinning the development of MTFS continue to be reviewed. This has resulted in a number of significant changes to the core assumptions for 2023/24 and in future years as well as consideration of increased costs and demand increases specifically linked to the impact of high levels of inflation. The key adjustments and major areas for consideration are detailed below:

(a) Council Tax

The Chart below demonstrates the change in Council Tax over the years. The 2023/24 position assumes 2% in Council Tax and 0.5%.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£	£	£	£
Council Tax	-9,492,972	-9,757,619	10,025,853	-10,276,499

(b) Fair Funding Review

It now appears more likely that the FFR will not be implemented until at least April 2025 and that local government will not face funding reductions, mainly due to the significant inflationary budget pressures now faced. On that basis it has been assumed that the settlement the council received in 2022/23 will be 'rolled over' into 2023/24 and that no funding reduction will be encountered in 2024/25. All of these financial planning assumptions could change in the coming months as a result of government announcements.

(c) Business Rates & Section 31 Grant

These sums have been uplifted by a 2.5%. However, should there be any additional uplifts in line with the current CPI rates of 10%, these assumptions will be updated accordingly.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£	£	£	£
National Non-Domestic Rates Baseline	-3,652,186	-3,725,230	-3,799,734	-3,875,729
Business Rates Retained Growth and Renewables Disregard	-644,207	-644,207	-644,207	-644,207

(d) Pay Inflation

The 2022/23 budget includes 2.5% in the base for pay inflation. In July the Local Government Employers made an offer of a £1,925 flat increase pay offer to 'green book' employees, which represents the majority of employees in the council, is presently being considered by trade unions through a consultative ballot. If this offer is ultimately accepted and a similar pay award is agreed with non 'green book' employees also, it will cost a forecast £0.5 million more than the 2.5% budget provision in the base. The content of the current pay offer and the likelihood of ongoing higher rates of inflation have also resulted in revised assumptions in terms of pay awards in future years. The updated forecasts for the cost of future pay rises in 2023/24 and 2024/25 have been increased to 7% and 3% respectively. In total, accommodating assumed pay inflation has added £0.5m in 2022/23 and a further £0.6m in 2023/24, in total a £1.1m in base budget increase in 2023/24 making up a significant proportion of pressures in that year.

(e) National Insurance

A 1.25% increase in employers national insurance contributions was introduced in April 2022. On 23 September, 2022, it was announced that this was being withdrawn from November 2022. This will produce both an in-year saving in 2022/23 (of circa £0.03 million) and a base budget reduction from 2023/24 of circa £0.08 million.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£	£	£	£
Pay Related costs	£1,082,874	£374,141	£319,323	£327,252

(f) Price Inflation

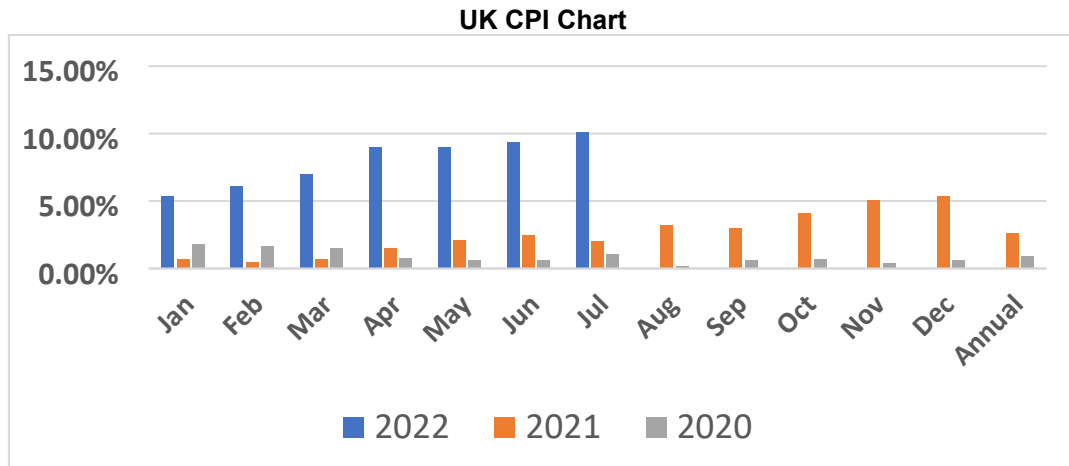
Forecasts of price inflation in 2023/24 have been increased from 3% to over 10% based upon forecast levels of price inflation next year – which has added an additional pressure into the MTFs in 2023/24. Where possible, the services are expected to absorb an element of the inflation pressures they will face in terms of supplies and services and agency and contracted services.

(g) CPI

When the budget was approved by Council in February 2022, it was set based on a number of key assumptions including pay and cost inflation. Inflation had been calculated for premises and transport related costs

including utilities, business rates and fuel based on latest market intelligence and CPI forecasts from Central Government. Whilst there were concerns about the rapidly rising levels of inflation, the advice at that time indicated a short term and sharp spike rise in inflation followed by a return to previously experienced levels by early spring.

The CPI has since nearly quadrupled which when coupled with the proportion of use and demand for consumables such as utilities, fuel, goods and services has created and continues to give rise to significant budgetary concerns.



(h) Energy Price Increases

The 2022/23 base budget included a 3% uplift in energy costs based upon forecasted inflationary increases last year. Over the last six months however, mainly driven by the conflict in Ukraine, prices have been extremely volatile and have increased significantly. In July, an additional £0.150 million increase in the 2022/23 budget provision was added to the earmarked reserves to be off set against the raising costs when required. More recently, energy prices have continued to increase significantly, mainly because of the closure of the Nord Stream gas pipeline between Russia and Europe. Gas and electricity commodity prices are presently trading at rates ten times higher than they were eighteen months ago.

On 8 September 2022 the Government announced a package of measures to cap energy costs for households and businesses, with further detail published on 22 September 2022. At the time of preparing this report more detail on how the support to businesses will work in practice was awaited. The support to business is only for an initial six months and therefore will only help alleviate some of the pressure being experienced in 2022/23 and therefore is not expected to help offset the £1.5 million of budget growth that is required in 2023/24. This position will be kept under review and forecasts amended, if necessary, as more information emerges. The MTFs forecasts assumes that prices for gas and electricity return nearer to 2020/21 budgeted levels over the following three years. There are differing views on this within the sector and within the markets and there is a risk that prices rates do not return to 2020/21 budgeted levels in future. Energy prices continue to be volatile, and this budget will continue to be closely monitored.

(i) Forecast increase in major contracts resulting from high levels of inflation

A number of the council's major contracts have annual inflationary uplift calculations built into them linked to CPI or RPI uplifts and sometimes linked to key materials inflation e.g. diesel prices. Whilst some provisional estimates have been made, these are currently under review and any changes will be incorporated in the future MTFS updates.

(j) Prudential Borrowing

Based on current interest rates and forward forecasts for the cost of borrowing, £1 million capital financing cost will fund circa £20 million of new capital expenditure. In previous MTFS planning rounds, when interest rates were lower and much more stable, £1 million of prudential borrowing provision would have serviced circa £25 million of new capital expenditure. This position may need to be reviewed in line with increases in base rates in recent months and potential for further increases, which could reduce the scope of new capital expenditure that could be funded from the prudential borrowing provision factored into the plans at present.

Pre-commitments to existing programmes and business as usual requests, together with the impact of construction price inflation are expected to result in requests for new capital expenditure exceeding capital resource availability. Capital bids are currently being finalised and careful consideration will be given to these and all other existing capital programme commitments considering the financial position the council is facing. There will undoubtedly need to be some difficult choices to be made around re-prioritising existing commitments and scaling back or increasing the pressure on the MTFS by increasing the provision for prudential borrowing, which would increase the savings targets in MTFS.

2023/24 Savings Forecast

- 2.18 Based upon the revised assumptions detailed in this report, the savings requirement for 2023/24 is forecast to be £1.9 million. At this point our forecasts assumes no further government support. The forecast also assumes energy prices are contained within the updated forecasts, with no additional government support.
- 2.19 Although the budget deficit of £1.9 million in 2023/24 is the latest forecast, it should be recognised that this figure could and will likely change before Council ultimately sets the budget in February 2023.
- 2.20 The MTFS forecasts continue to be predicated on a 2% council tax increase being applied in 2023/24 and across the remainder of the MTFS planning period.
- 2.21 Future updates of this report will provide details of additional savings plans, which will assist in closing the forecast £1.9 million shortfall next year.
- 2.22 If government provide additional funding to local government in the financial settlement for 2023/24, this gap could be reduced significantly. However, there is also a likelihood of further cuts to public sector spending as part of the chancellor

plans to reduce his budget deficit. It is currently unclear whether and the extent to which any additional or reduction in funding will be provided. However, there is a clear risk that the gap widens if cost pressures, particularly in relation to energy, pay and contracts continue to escalate.

- 2.23 At this point it is likely the council would need to utilise significant levels of additional savings to balance the budget in 2023/24.

Equality Impact Assessment of the Medium Term Financial Plan

- 2.24 Consideration of equality analysis and impacts is an essential element that members must consider in approving the savings plans at Appendix 4. This section updates Members on the outcomes of the equality analysis of the MTFS savings proposals.

Review of Reserves

- 2.25 To ensure budgets can be balanced whilst clarity is provided and to provide time to work up further proposals to increase income and reduce expenditure to address the underlying budget position, a thorough review of all earmarked reserves is being undertaken. Please see Appendix C for further details.
- 2.26 It is important to recognise that the application of reserves to balance the budget is not a sustainable solution to the financial challenges we face. Whilst the review is undertaken and until there is greater clarity, some programmes and projects funded from a range of earmarked reserves may need to be paused at this time.
- 2.27 Further details of the review of reserves and the impact of redirecting these resources will be provided in the next update report.

Capital Programme

- 2.28 The latest Capital Investment Strategy was reported to Cabinet in February 2022, it sets out a framework for funding and investment decisions in respect of capital assets, in the context of our vision and priorities and available financial resources. The Capital Investment Strategy demonstrates that we take capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly take account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability, and affordability.
- 2.29 It sets out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made and considers the risk, reward, and impact on the achievement of the Council's priority outcomes.
- 2.30 When setting its capital programme, the Council takes into consideration the following:
- Service objectives – the capital spending plans should be consistent with the Corporate Plan;
 - Stewardship of assets – as demonstrated by our asset management planning approach;

- The value for money offered by investment plans – as demonstrated by the appraisal of the options;
- The prudence and sustainability of investment plans – their implications for external borrowing;
- The affordability of capital investment plans – the implications for the council tax; and
- The practicality of capital expenditure plans – whether the forward plan is achievable.

2.31 Decisions on the Capital Programme have an impact on the Revenue Budget, in relation to:

- The revenue costs of financing capital, including prudential borrowing; and
- The ongoing running costs and/or income generated by new capital assets such as buildings. Capital investment decisions therefore have implications for the Revenue Budget.

2.32 The revenue costs over the lifetime of each proposed capital project are considered when the project is being developed to ensure that the impact can be incorporated within our financial plans and to demonstrate that the capital investment is affordable. Our revenue and capital budgets are integrated with the financial impact of the proposed Capital Programme, being reflected in the Revenue Budget estimates.

2.33 The Council will only invest where capital spending plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable. The key constraint on capital investment is the scope to afford the financial implications in terms of acceptable council tax levels. As supported by the Capital Investment Strategy, the Council's capital investment plans over the next 4 years are set out in the Capital Programme.

2.34 The efficient and effective use of capital resources, including sound asset management, is fundamental to achieving our long- and medium-term aims and objectives. It is also critical to achieving the delivery of the required savings and income across the Council to secure a balanced budget.

2.35 The Council's Capital and Investment Strategy is reviewed and reported to Full Council on an annual basis to reflect the changing needs and priorities of the Council including residents, businesses, and places.

Medium Term Capital Programme

2.36 While Revenue Budget expenditure is concerned with the day-to-day running of services our Capital Programme is concerned with investment in the assets required to deliver services or delivery new income streams. The Medium-Term Capital Programme sets out how capital resources will be used to achieve the Council's vision and corporate priorities.

2.37 The Council must have an affordable Capital Programme; affordability is assessed against business cases considering the level of future resources required to support project delivery and ongoing asset maintenance.

2.38 The strategic objectives of our Capital Programme can be summarised as follows:

- To maintain a four-year rolling Capital Programme which remains within the approved affordable, sustainable, and prudential limits;
- To ensure capital resources are aligned with our strategic vision and corporate priorities by ensuring all schemes are prioritised according to the Council's prioritisation methodology;
To identify opportunities for investment in new schemes that result in capital growth and/or new revenue income streams;
To maximise available resources by actively seeking external funding to support Council priorities and disposing of surplus assets; and
- To use internal resources alongside external resources where appropriate to support the Capital Programme and minimise any borrowing costs.
- That decisions on the financing of the capital programme are taken with consideration to the impact on the revenue budget, the treasury management strategy, and the investment strategy.

Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27

2.39 The Council forecasts its Capital Programme over a 4-year period and the latest position is set out in Appendix D.

Capital Programme -Revenue Budget Implications

2.40 With the exception of earmarked s106 funds, the Council do not have significant capital reserves, therefore, while a small number of schemes will be continued to be funded from capital grants and other contributions, the majority of the approved Capital Programme might be funded through prudential borrowing.

2.41 The costs of repaying this borrowing fall on the revenue budget as treasury management costs in Central budgets. Treasury management budgets have been updated to reflect the costs of borrowing for the approved Capital Programme for 2022/23 onwards net of interest on forecast balances and company loan repayments.

Capital Programme Oversight Board

2.42 A Capital Programme Oversight Board (CPOB) has been established to provide strategic direction, oversight and corporate assurance for the General Fund capital programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan across Council. The CPOB will be responsible for addressing programme issues, reviewing risk and financial implications, driving through the Assurance Review recommendations in respect of the capital programme and move towards a fully sustainable capital programme and asset release.

CPOB Responsibilities are to:

2.43

- Be responsible and accountable for feeding into the annual Service & Financial Planning process;

- Establish and embed a robust and effective governance framework through which all Councils capital projects will be evaluated, prioritised for development and delivery, subject to Member approval;
- Provide oversight of the capital programme and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan;
- Agree recommendations to relevant Committee(s), as required, to ensure the programme achieves its objectives in-line with initial proposals, Business Cases and assessed options appraisals;
- Scrutinise and challenge programmes and projects at a strategic level in relation to budgets, actual spend, timing, and overall financial strategy;
- Monitor the achievement of the capital programme's core aims and objectives;
- Monitor the HRA Business Plan assumptions in line with Section 76 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- Monitor the critical path for delivery across the capital programme and take timely decisions as the capital programme evolves, while ensuring that the capital programme is delivered in a joined-up way across Council departments.
- Assist with resolving issues across Council departments while ensuring appropriate resources, capacity and capability are in place to deliver the capital programme and where necessary, commit resources as required;
- Ensure risks are being effectively managed and updated, and mitigations are identified appropriately required.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 The council continues to face significant financial uncertainty for the MTFS planning period, covering the financial years 2023/24 to 2026/27. The uncertainty relating to future government financial settlements is exacerbated by the ongoing impact of the pandemic alongside increases in base budget pressures from inflation, national living wage, and waste services.
- 3.2 The MTFS forecasts at this stage would indicate a significant budget gap next year and the need for additional savings to be identified for 2023/24. The council may therefore be in the unenviable position of having to potentially utilise some reserves to balance its budget next year.
- 3.3 The application of reserves to balance the budget is not a sustainable solution to the financial challenges we face. Whilst the review is undertaken and until there is greater clarity, the programmes and projects funded from a range of earmarked reserves will need to be paused at this time.
- 3.4 Planning will continue in relation to the identification of further savings to enable future years budgets to be balanced, which alongside the review of reserves currently underway will ensure the council is well placed to respond to the financial forecasts as they are firmed up over the coming months.
- 3.5 The Earmarked and General Reserves at the end of 2022/23 is forecast to be circa £10.5 million. This reserve needs replenishing. Further details of the review of reserves and the impact of redirecting these resources will be provided in the next MTFS update report.

4 Financial appraisal

- 4.1 The S151 Officer will submit her Section 25 report on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves to Full Council in February 2023. This report will be based on a detailed financial resilience and stress test of the Council's proposed income and expenditure plans.

5 Legal implications

- 5.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that every local authority decide for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.
- 5.2 Sections 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires local authorities to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating their budget requirement.
- 5.3 The Chief Finance Officer, appointed under section 151 mentioned above, has a duty to report on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

6 Risk management implications

- 6.1 An analysis of risks associated with the MTFS and mitigating actions will be provided in the next MTFS update.

7 Equality analysis

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

8 Appendices

Appendix A - Budget Summary and Key Assumptions
Appendix B - Budget Summary by Directorates
Appendix C - Reserves
Appendix D - Capital Programme

9 Background papers

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

- Local Government Finance Act 1992
- Welfare Reform Act 2012
- The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations (as amended)
- The Impacts of Localised Council Tax Support Schemes – Institute for Fiscal Studies Report January 2019

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Eastbourne Borough Council				Appendix A
Budget Summary				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Net Budget Requirement b/f	£16,105,550	£18,043,519	£18,100,751	£18,284,256
Adjustments to Base Budget	£	£	£	£
Pay Related costs	£1,082,874	£374,141	£319,323	£327,252
Contract Inflation - TBC	£0	£0	£0	£0
Unavoidable Budget Pressures	£653,190	£0	£0	-£959,160
Service Investment	£468,653	£0	£0	£0
Efficiencies	-£17,748	£0	£0	£0
Income Generation	-£249,000	-£316,909	-£135,818	-£135,818
Technical Adjustments	£0	£0	£0	£0
Net Budget Movement	£1,937,969	£57,232	£183,505	-£767,726
Net Budget Requirement	£18,043,519	£18,100,751	£18,284,256	£17,516,530
FINANCED BY:				
Council Tax	-9,492,972	-9,757,619	-10,025,853	-10,276,499
Council Tax (Surplus)/Deficit	-121,000	-121,000	-121,000	-121,000
National Non-Domestic Rates Baseline	-3,652,186	-3,725,230	-3,799,734	-3,875,729
Business Rates Retained Growth and Renewables Disregard	-644,207	-644,207	-644,207	-644,207
New Homes Bonus	-91,487	-76,424	-61,361	-61,361
Disabled Facility Grant - Conversion	-878,658	0	0	0
Homeless Prevention Grant	-690,600	-690,600	-690,600	-690,600
2022/23 Services Grant	-345,000	-345,000	-345,000	-345,000
Lower Tier Services Grant	-164,000	-164,000	-164,000	-164,000
TOTAL FINANCING	-16,080,109	-15,524,080	-15,851,755	-16,178,396
FORECAST BUDGET GAP	1,963,410	2,576,671	2,432,501	1,338,134

Eastbourne Borough Council - Budget 2023/24 & MTFP

Headline Assumptions

Adjustments to Base

A revised categorisation of proposals agreed with the Council's S151 officer has been embedded along with a change in presentational style compared to previous years.

All prior year base budget salary adjustments have been reflected. This includes an adjustment to reflect the change in employer NI rates.

Salary inflation related to spinal point increments have been modelled and reported separately to aid transparency.

A pay award of £1,925 per spinal point has been reflected for 2022/23 and the previous assumption of 2.5% reversed from base budget adjusted.

Pay assumptions for future years have been modelled:

2023/24 - £1,925 per spinal point

2024/25 - 3%

2025/26 - 2.5%

2026/27 - 2.5%

Amendments to grow (service investment) and/or reduce (service reduction or efficiency) have been reflected under those categorisations rather than under pay awards.

An adjustment to decrease by 5% the allocation of staff resources dedicated to EBC has been made (under efficiencies). An equal and opposite adjustment has been made on LDC.

Financing

LG Futures have been engaged and financing elements will be adjusted w/c 10 Oct - grants and Council Tax

Data (NNDR3 & Collection Fund) has been provided to LG Futures and we now await an update on Business Rates from LG Futures shortly.

**Eastbourne Borough Council
Budget Summary By Directorate & Service
2023/24**

Appendix B

Directorate	Service	Base Gross Budget	Service Pressures, inflation and service investment	Efficiencies	Gross Budget	Income Generation Proposals	Service Income	Technical Adjustments	Net Budget
Corporate Services	Business Transformation	2,237,450	285,292	0	2,522,742	0	-1,032,850	0	1,489,892
Corporate Services	Corporate Management Team	398,150	0	0	398,150	0	-276,050	0	122,100
Corporate Services	Finance	3,285,700	0	0	3,285,700	0	-1,770,300	0	1,515,400
Corporate Services	Human Resources	797,200	0	0	797,200	0	-515,100	0	282,100
Corporate Services	LDC EHL Rechargeable Salaries	62,300	0	0	62,300	0	-62,300	0	0
Corporate Services	Legal and Local Democracy	1,725,150	181,561	0	1,906,711	0	-689,250	0	1,217,461
Corporate Services	Local Land Charges	59,450	0	0	59,450	0	-145,200	0	-85,750
Regeneration and Planning	Business Planning and Performance	1,007,100	0	0	1,007,100	0	-501,100	0	506,000
Regeneration and Planning	Director of Regeneration & Planning	169,800	0	0	169,800	0	-127,050	0	42,750
Regeneration and Planning	Estates and Property	2,859,500	0	0	2,859,500	0	-4,188,050	0	-1,328,550

Regeneration and Planning	Head of Commercial Business and Property	86,300	0	-17,748	68,552	0	-42,950	0	25,602
Regeneration and Planning	Housing Delivery Team	222,200	0	0	222,200	0	-146,950	0	75,250
Regeneration and Planning	Planning	2,323,500	0	0	2,323,500	0	-1,932,800	0	390,700
Regeneration and Planning	Regeneration	361,650	0	0	361,650	0	-143,000	0	218,650
Service Delivery	Customer First	49,814,750	0	0	49,814,750	0	-	0	7,131,600
Service Delivery	Director of Service Delivery	127,850	0	0	127,850	0	-112,150	0	15,700
Service Delivery	Environment First	90,300	0	0	90,300	0	-65,500	0	24,800
Service Delivery	Homes First	7,573,900	0	0	7,573,900	0	-7,207,350	0	366,550
Tourism and Enterprise	Director of Tourism and Enterprise	420,400	0	0	420,400	0	0	0	420,400
Tourism and Enterprise	Events	1,320,950	0	0	1,320,950	0	-967,500	0	353,450
Tourism and Enterprise	Seafront	1,018,450	0	0	1,018,450	0	-971,200	0	47,250
Tourism and Enterprise	Sports Delivery	1,865,700	0	0	1,865,700	0	-1,259,800	0	605,900
Tourism and Enterprise	Theatres	6,004,300	0	0	6,004,300	0	-5,934,300	0	70,000
Tourism and Enterprise	Tourism and Enterprise	3,472,350	0	0	3,472,350	0	-2,865,800	0	606,550
Central	Corporately Managed Budgets	3,574,050	1,647,864	0	5,221,914	-249,000	-1,133,200	0	3,839,714
NET EXPENDITURE		90,878,450	2,114,717	-17,748	92,975,419	-249,000	-	0	17,953,519

Appendix C

Statement of Reserves - (currently under review)

Reserves 2022-23	Balance B/FWD 1st April 2022	Balance C/FWD 31st March 2023
General Fund Earmarked Reserves - z10112	43,172	43,172
Strategic Change Reserve - z10125	-10,318	-10,318
Cost of Living Emergency Support - new	-250,000	-250,000
Inflation - new	-200,000	-200,000
Fuel and Energy cost – new	-150,000	0
Additional Bad Debt & Arrears Provision	-400,000	-400,000
Cultural Reserves	-755,622	0
Capital Programme Reserve - z10127	-335,933	-335,933
Revenue Grants Reserve - z10128	-1,492,463	-1,492,463
Regeneration Reserve - z10130	-12,419	-12,419
ICE Reserve Account - z10135	-2,070,000	-2,070,000
Commercial Reserve - z10136	-936,966	-936,966
Business Rates Equalisation Reserve - z10137	0	0
Carry Forwards and Strategic Reserves	-2,220,332	-1,803,332
SHEP GF Properties Major Works Reserve - Z10142	-611	-611
Total Earmarked Reserves	-8,791,492	-7,468,870
Collection Fund (timing difference)	-5,634,000	0
Total Reserves	-14,425,492	-7,468,870
General Fund Revenue Account - z10190	-3,172,129	-3,172,129

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Capital Programme (currently under review)

The Council forecasts its Capital Programme over a 4-year period and the latest position is set out below.

Summary of Capital Programme - 2021 to 2026	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Programme						
HRA	6,947	20,148	19,529	20,697	35,017	23,004
Other Housing	14,084	3,089	-	-	-	-
Community Services	1,314	2,972	2,024	1,550	1,500	1,500
Tourism & Leisure	353	107	-	-	-	-
Corporate & Core Services	2,147	3,973	1,750	250	250	250
Capitalisation Directive	2,498	-	-	-	-	-
Regeneration	51	7,012	12,784	-	-	-
Asset Management	2,369	4,165	620	480	100	100
Total Programme	29,763	41,466	36,707	22,977	36,867	24,854
Financed By:-						
Capital Receipts HRA	104	1,039	1,011	511	2,598	2,716
1-4-1 RTB Receipts	5,074	629	50	-	942	877
Capital Receipts GF	802	761	250	250	250	250
Grants and Contributions	3,886	11,462	18,463	5,697	6,630	3,362
Major Repairs Reserve	4,927	5,659	4,691	4,845	5,048	5,224
Revenue Contribution	576	2,504	90	219	147	204
Section 106 Contributions	-	27	-	-	-	-
Commercial Loan Repaid	9,000					
GF Borrowing	4,988	10,835	2,245	485	100	100
HRA Borrowing	406	7,800	9,907	10,970	21,152	12,121
Total Financing	29,763	40,716	36,707	22,977	36,867	24,854

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Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	2 November 2022
Title:	Recovery and Stabilisation Programme
Report of:	Robert Cottrill, Chief Executive
Cabinet member:	Councillor David Tutt, Leader of the Council
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To update on the progress of the Recovery and Stabilisation Programme
Decision type:	Non key
Officer recommendation(s):	Note the progress made with the Recovery and Stabilisation Programme
Reasons for recommendations:	The Recovery and Stabilisation programme provides a structured and accountable approach for delivering the level of significant organisational change needed to respond to current and future challenges.
Contact Officer(s):	Name: Jo Harper Post title: Head of Business Planning and Performance E-mail: jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Telephone number: 07925 893201

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Recovery and Stabilisation (R&S) programme has now been running for two years and has been highly effective in achieving organisational improvement whilst managing the challenging budget pressures created by the Covid pandemic and subsequent impact on the economy. This report provides an update on recent progress.

2 Achievements

- 2.1 The R&S programme is made up of 5 pillars; covering workplace changes, digital transformation, reshaping delivery, assets and the assurance review. A sixth pillar, relating to restart activities following Covid, has now completed its work. This report sets out key achievements against each of the 5 pillars.

Workplace

- 2.2 As staff are now used to working both at home and in different office locations, as suits their job role, work has been undertaken in collaboration and

consultation with staff and management groups to repurpose the council's office space in Eastbourne to meet future needs. From the start of October 2022, additional working, meeting and collaboration spaces were made available to staff in the Town Hall and the Point (on the Devonshire Park complex). Discussions about further and different working needs will continue and, if necessary, additional arrangements will be implemented. Through the SPACES partnership – Strategic Property Asset Collaboration East Sussex – a reciprocal arrangement with East Sussex County Council is being explored that will enable staff from each organisation to work in designated spaces in the other organisation's building. This would enhance the office arrangements available to staff and teams to work together.

Digital Transformation

- 2.3 Since last reporting in July 2022, the council's next generation chat bot has continued to embed on the website and deliver well – at the time of writing this report, the bot had successfully responded to 40,000 customer queries, 25% of which had been responded to out of office hours. In early October, the bot was launched on parts of the council's customer facing phone lines with the intention that it would deflect the calls that are incorrectly made to the council (eg. calls which should be directed to East Sussex County Council). With the bot responding to these calls, staff in the contact centre will be freed up to respond to those customers with the greatest need. Performance statistics for the phone bot will be shared as they become available.
- 2.4 Projects to implement new, single systems with Lewes District Council for revenues and benefits, and environmental health and licensing activities are in the implementation phase. Current plans are working towards a go live date for both projects in 2023.
- 2.5 A new project will commence as soon as a dedicated resource can be identified to procure and implement a new, single planning system with Lewes District Council.
- 2.6 The Digital Democracy project is exploring ways in which council meetings can be livestreamed. The project team is working to refine the technology and kit to better support public meetings – this will progress as soon as the necessary kit can be procured.
- 2.7 As the council's website was launched 5 years ago, a project is launching to explore the latest technology to support better online delivery of services to and engagement with customers. The timeline to replace the website will be confirmed once resources to lead the activity are appointed.

Reshaping Delivery

- 2.8 The significant work that was undertaken in 2021/22 to reshape services has been embedded during 2022/23 to ensure staff are confident and delivering in their amended roles. There are no further significant reshaping activities planned in the current financial year, but the programme is continuing to look where further efficiencies can be achieved through reshaping.

Assets

- 2.9 There was a clear recommendation from the Assurance Review that the council establish a document setting out the council's assets for disposal consideration. This was set up in January 2021 and is now regularly updated and reviewed. A capital strategy board has also been established to ensure the council's capital programme is subject to robust project and programme management in all areas.

Assurance Review

- 2.10 Further to the actions mentioned above, the council has continued to progress all the recommendations set out in the Assurance Review. Government has been made aware of the council's progress. To ensure all areas have been fully embedded on an ongoing basis, a further internal investigation of the council's response will be undertaken during the winter and will be further reported to Cabinet early in 2023.

3 Priority Based Budgeting

- 3.1 The aim of the R&S programme is to bring about financial stability whilst investing in organisational change and improvement. In order to do this, Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) has been a key component of the programme. Through PBB the council has successfully managed an extensive programme of efficiencies which have been critical in enabling a balanced budget to be maintained through what has been a challenging period for the council.
- 3.2 Following the capitalisation direction from central government in early 2021 in response to the extreme financial pressures being experienced, and the subsequent external Assurance Review being undertaken in the summer of 2021 and the resulting report being published in December, Cabinet agreed in February 2022 that the process of monitoring progress of the external Assurance Review will be undertaken as part of the R&S activity. This approach has worked well and will continue.
- 3.3 It has been helpful, during this challenging period, to undertake a separate PBB process. It is proposed, however, given the positive direction of travel and the track record the council is now showing in managing its financial performance, that future activities relating to the achievement of further efficiencies will be managed within the usual annual budget cycle.

4 Outcome expected and performance management

- 4.1 The R&S programme continues to be overseen by the R&S Member Board which meets on a quarterly basis, as well as regular reports being presented to the Cabinet.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Staff continue to be regularly informed of the progress of the R&S workstreams and consultation is undertaken where appropriate.

6 Corporate plan and council policies

- 6.1 This report is line with the refreshed Corporate Plan which was updated in May 2022 to bring a stronger emphasis on R&S.

7 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

- 7.1 As set out in the report

8 Financial appraisal

- 8.1 The Recovery and Stabilisation savings targets have been incorporated into departmental budgets for 2022/23 and are therefore subject to regular monitoring as part of usual financial reporting. However, these targets will also continue to be monitored in more detail as part of the Recovery and Stabilisation Member Board meetings. Future savings requirements will be subject to clarification of the national picture, once known.

9 Legal implications

- 9.1 Legal advice has been taken, and will continue to be taken, in respect of specific actions arising from the assurance review and to support the activities of the R&S programme.

11465-EBC-KS 7 October 2022

10 Risk management implications

- 10.1 The risks within R&S are regularly assessed and managed as part of the programme/project management activities. The identification and management of any significant risks in relation to the programme will be reported, along with mitigation plans to address them.

11 Equality analysis

- 11.1 An Equality & Fairness Analysis has been undertaken on the R&S proposals. The outcome of this was reported to Cabinet in 2021. Screening of the additional proposals did not find any further risk of adverse impact on groups with protected characteristics

12 Environmental sustainability implications

- 12.1 The proposals in this report do not adversely impact on the council's long-term carbon reduction aims, as set out in the EBC Climate Emergency Strategy.

13 Appendices

- None

14 Background papers

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

- None

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Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	2 November 2022
Title:	Local Development Scheme 2022-2025
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration & Planning
Cabinet member:	Councillor Colin Swansborough, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Heritage Assets, Place Services and Special Projects.
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 in order to allow formal adoption at Full Council on 16 November 2022
Decision type:	Key Decision
Officer recommendation(s):	(1) That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the Eastbourne Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 as set out in Appendix 1 be adopted at the Full Council meeting on 16 November 2022 (2) That delegated authority is given to the Director of Regeneration and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Heritage Assets, Place Services and Special Projects to make minor and technical updates to timetables within the Local Development Scheme where necessary.
Reasons for recommendations:	(1) The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 and the Council's constitution identifies that the adoption of the Local Development Scheme is a function of Full Council. (2) To ensure that the Local Development Scheme can be kept up to date without needing to bring minor amendments back to Full Council.

Contact Officer(s): **Name: Anna Clare**
Post title: Senior Planning Policy Officer
E-mail: anna.clare@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Telephone number: 07935085768

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the Council's timetable for the production of planning documents. It covers a three year period from 2022-2025 and outlines the planning documents to be produced with the key dates and milestones.
- 1.2 Local Planning Authorities are required to produce a LDS under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). The LDS must be made publicly available and kept up-to-date.
- 1.3 The LDS must specify (among other matters) the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area. It can also include other planning policy documents such as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that are due to be produced.
- 1.4 The current LDS was approved in February 2019. Progress against the LDS is monitored on an annual basis through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR has recognised that the LDS needs to be amended to reflect changes in circumstances relating to Local Plan production.
- 1.5 The adoption of the LDS is a function of Full Council, and it is requested that Cabinet endorse the LDS for adoption at Full Council on 16 November 2022.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Government has set out a clear expectation that all local planning authorities should have a local plan in place, and that it should be kept up-to-date to ensure policies remain relevant.
- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that local planning authorities undertake a review of their local plans at least once every 5 years from adoption to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community.
- 2.3 The NPPF is clear that housing policies should not be considered up-to-date if the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable

housing sites. Furthermore, guidance sets out clearly that a local plan is likely to require updating in whole or in part at least every five years.

2.4 The Core Strategy was adopted in 2013. The status of the Core Strategy and progress against the LDS is monitored on an annual basis through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

2.5 A review of the Core Strategy in 2018 due to its five year anniversary determined that the Core Strategy cannot be considered to be up to date. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Housing delivery over the plan period has been lower than the amount required by the Core Strategy;
- Housing need has increased significantly since 2013;
- A five year housing land supply cannot be demonstrated; and
- The Core Strategy is more than five years old.

2.6 In addition, the current development management policies date back to the Eastbourne Borough Plan 2003 and need to be reviewed to take into account the changing needs and dynamics of the Borough, as well as to be consistent with recent revisions to national policy and reflect any new strategies for the town.

2.7 The need to prepare a new Eastbourne Local Plan to replace the Core Strategy is not a newly identified need as the current LDS that was adopted in 2019 identified that a new Local Plan should be produced.

3. Progress against current LDS

3.1 The previous LDS was adopted in February 2019, and set out a timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan, as well as timetables for a new CIL Charging Schedule.

3.2 The timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan in the previous LDS has been delayed due to a number of factors including uncertainties caused by regular changes to the planning system and announcements of significant reforms over recent years, resourcing issues associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, and the preparation of evidence documents taking longer than expected to be completed. This has included the production of a new fluvial flood model for the Eastbourne and South Wealden area to ensure that flooding issues across the town are properly understood, which is fundamental to the Local Plan and was only completed in early 2022.

4. Future Work Programme

4.1 The new LDS identifies the timetable for the preparation of a new Eastbourne

Local Plan.

- 4.2 The NPPF requires that local planning authorities (individually or in conjunction with other local planning authorities) prepare a plan that sets out the strategic policies for their area, with non-strategic policies being included in either the same plan or a separate plan.
- 4.3 The new Eastbourne Local Plan will cover the whole of the Borough outside of the South Downs National Park. It will contain both strategic policies that set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and non-strategic policies that will contain more detail for the determination of planning applications.
- 4.4 The new Eastbourne Local Plan will cover the period between 2019 and 2039, and is required to will look ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption, which is anticipated for late 2024.
- 4.5 The timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan in the updated LDS is as follows:
- Proposed Growth Strategy Consultation (Regulation 18): November 2022 - January 2023
 - Proposed Submission Consultation (Regulation 19): November to December 2023
 - Submission to the Secretary of State: February 2024
 - Examination: Spring/summer 2024
 - Adoption: November 2024
- 4.6 A separate report seeks authority from Cabinet to publish a proposed Growth Strategy for the new local plan for consultation in November 2022.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Local Plan Steering Group was consulted on the preparation of the LDS. The Local Plan Steering Group oversees the preparation and finalisation of Local Plan documents before approval by the Cabinet, and Full Council where relevant.

6. Financial appraisal

- 6.1 The work programme within the LDS will be used to cover costs of specialist evidence study commissions, consultation and examination that will be required for the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 6.2 The work programme identified in the LDS will be supported through the net budget of £47,000 (E32320) and a one-off contribution from reserves of £204,000, which has had 50% committed to date and with the remaining being

committed Autumn 2022 – Spring 2023.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Section 15(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare and maintain a scheme to be known as their local development scheme. It is important for the Council to comply with S.15(8) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which provides that a local planning authority must revise their local development scheme at such time as they consider appropriate.
- 7.2 Subsection (9) sets out that the same statutory provisions apply to the revision of a scheme as they apply to the preparation of the scheme. Upon the revision of a scheme, the local planning authority must make the following available to the public –
- a) The up-to-date text of the scheme
 - b) A copy of any amendments made to the scheme
 - c) Up-to-date information showing the state of the authority's compliance (or non-compliance) with the timetable
- 7.3 Under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 and the Council's constitution, the adoption of the LDS is a function of Full Council. However, it is a proper function of Cabinet to consider the LDS and make a recommendation to Full Council for its adoption with or without amendment.

Legal Implications checked 05.10.22 - 011457-EBC-JCS

8. Risk management implications

- 8.1 Not preparing the Local Plan in accordance with an up to date LDS would risk the Local Plan not being considered legally compliant, and it would therefore fail at examination and could not be adopted.
- 8.2 In terms of risk management in the preparation of the new Local Plan, the LDS identifies governance support procedures and resource implications. It also identifies risks associated with delivery of the Local Plan and mitigation measures that could be put in place to avoid adverse impact on the delivery of the LDS.

9. Equality analysis

- 9.1 It is not considered that an Equalities and Fairness Analysis is required for the Local Development Scheme because the timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan will not impact on protected groups.
- 9.2 The new Local Plan itself will need to undergo an equalities and fairness analysis,

and this will be undertaken during the preparation of the plan.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 Eastbourne Borough Council has a legal obligation to prepare a Local Development Scheme that identifies the future preparation of Local Plans, and to keep this up to date.
- 10.2 The previous LDS (2019-2022) no longer reflects the timetable for the preparation of the new Eastbourne Local Plan. A new LDS covering the period 2022-2025 is required in order to set out an updated timetable.
- 10.3 The adoption of the LDS is a function of Full Council, but should first be endorsed by Cabinet. It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 and recommend formal adoption at Full Council on 16 November 2022.

11. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Eastbourne Local Development Scheme 2022-2025

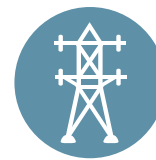
12. Background papers

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

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5>
- Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/made>
- National Planning Policy Framework (2021) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- Eastbourne Authority Monitoring Reports - <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/authority-monitoring-report-amr/>
- Eastbourne Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 Equalities and Fairness Screening Report



EASTBOURNE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2022-2025





EASTBOURNE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2022-2025

Planning Policy
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Date: November 2022

The document can be viewed and downloaded from:
www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/lds



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Introduction

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). A Local Development Scheme sets out the work programme for the preparation of documents that will form the Local Plan over a rolling three-year time period.

The Local Plan contains the policies which all planning applications are considered against unless a material consideration indicates otherwise.

Legislation requires that the Local Development Scheme specifies the Local Plan documents that are to be produced; the subject matter and geographical area to which each document relates; and the timetable for the preparation and revision of these documents. It must be made publicly available and kept up-to-date as it is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress.

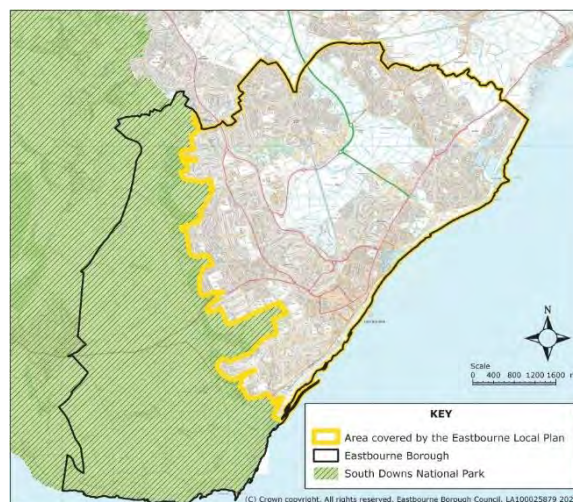
Although the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act originally required Local Planning Authorities to submit their Local Development Scheme to the Secretary of State, the Localism Act 2011 removed this requirement and allows Local Planning Authorities to adopt their own Local Development Schemes without approval from the Secretary of State.

This Local Development Scheme covers the period 2022-2025 and sets out the timetable for the production of the Eastbourne Local Plan. Progress will be monitored against the targets and milestones set out in this Local Development Scheme each year

through the Annual Monitoring Report, which will be published annually each December on the Councils website¹.

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) became the local planning authority for the South Downs National Park (SDNP) in April 2011, including the area of the National Park within Eastbourne Borough. The Eastbourne Core Strategy (2013) applies only to the area of Eastbourne Borough outside of the National Park. Subsequently the South Down Local Plan was adopted in 2019. The new Eastbourne Local Plan will relate only to the area of Eastbourne Borough outside of the SDNP and therefore this LDS also relates only to the plan area (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Eastbourne Local Plan Area



¹ www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/authority-monitoring-report-amr/

Background

Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the Local Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise².

The National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] (2021) requires local planning authorities to prepare succinct and up-to-date plans that provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings (*para 15*).

The NPPF sets out how Local Plans should be shaped to accord with the principles of sustainable development, and all new Local Plans must be consistent with the NPPF in order to be sound. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Local Plans must be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence, which should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned, and take into account relevant market signals (*NPPF, para 31*). In addition, Local Plans are subject to the European Strategic Environment Assessment Directive and should incorporate a sustainability appraisal to ensure that they accord with the principles of sustainable development.

² Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

The NPPF requires that a local planning authority has a plan that includes strategic policies to address the priorities for the development and use of land in its area.

Policies to address non-strategic matters can be included within the same plan that contains the strategic policies, or they can be contained within a separate plan. They may also be contained within a neighbourhood plan that is produced by the local community.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) can be produced to provide additional detail on a policy within a Local Plan and are a material consideration in the determination of a planning application. The NPPF requires that they should be used where they can help applicants make successful applications or aid infrastructure delivery and should not be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development.

The Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (also known as '*the Local Plan Regulations*') sets out the stages in the preparation of Local Plans, which includes independent examination by a person appointed by the Secretary of State. The process for SPDs is similar but does not require the document to be subject to independent examination. The only exception to this is a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, which has its own set of planning regulations that outline how it is prepared and examined.

Purpose of Local Development Scheme

Under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning Act 2008, the Localism Act 2011 and the Housing and Planning Act 2016), Local Planning Authorities must produce a Local Development Scheme (LDS).

The LDS is a 3-year project plan setting out the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan and any other DPDs that are proposed. It provides a starting point for the local community, businesses, other stakeholders to find out what planning documents the Council is intending to prepare and to see when they will be able to view and make comments on the contents of new planning policies and proposals. The LDS is available on the Council's website³:

³ www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-development-scheme/

Community involvement throughout the preparation of the Local Plan is very important in order to ensure local views are taken into account. The Council is committed to the close involvement of stakeholders and the wider local community and this approach is set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI is available on the Council's website⁴:

Section 15 (9A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (c. 20), ss. 111(7), 240(1)(h) (with s. 144)) requires that a copy of any amendments made to the scheme be made available to the public. The amendments between the previous version of the LDS and this version are summarised in Appendix 4.

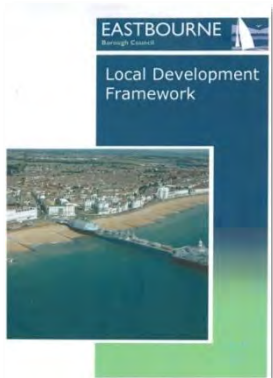
⁴ www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement/

Adopted Local Plan and Other Planning Documents

The Eastbourne Local Plan currently consists of:

- Saved Policies from the Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001-2011 (adopted 2003)
- The Eastbourne Core Strategy Local Plan (adopted 2013)
- The Eastbourne Town Centre Local Plan (adopted 2013)
- The Eastbourne Employment Land Local Plan (adopted 2016)
- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan (adopted 2013)
- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (adopted 2017)

Eastbourne Borough Plan

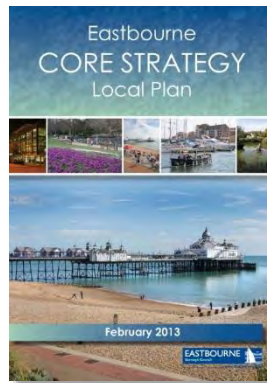


The Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001-2011 was adopted in 2003. Selected policies from the Borough Plan were saved indefinitely in 2007.

Some Borough Plan policies were superseded by the adoption of the Core Strategy and Town Centre Local Plan in 2013 and the Employment Land Local Plan in 2016 and have therefore been deleted.

The saved Borough Plan policies are mainly those related to Development Management issues that are used on a day-to-day basis in determining planning applications and guiding development.

Core Strategy



The Eastbourne Core Strategy Local Plan was adopted in February 2013 following Public Examination by a Planning Inspector in May 2012.

The Core Strategy is the main strategic planning document for Eastbourne, and all other DPDs were required to conform to the primary policies in this Plan. It sets out the Council's spatial vision for Eastbourne up to 2027, and the primary land use objectives which will deliver it. It includes broad locations for residential and economic development along with time frames and delivery mechanisms where appropriate. It also sets the direction for the Town Centre Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents.

However, it is now considered that the Core Strategy is out of date and should be reviewed through the preparation of a new Local Plan containing strategic policies.

Town Centre Local Plan

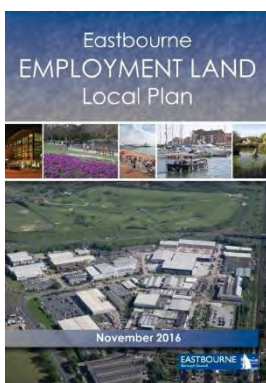


The Eastbourne Town Centre Local Plan (TCLP) was adopted in November

2013 following Public Examination by a Planning Inspector in May 2013.

The Town Centre is an area which will experience considerable change over the coming years. The purpose of the TCLP is to provide a shared vision and strategy of actions, for the whole of the town centre. This Plan covers a wide range of issues relating to general planning and design management of the centre. It provides the basis of an agreed strategy for the allocation of land and other policies to guide the further development of the Eastbourne Town Centre.

Employment Land Local Plan



As a result of the Inspector's consideration of Policy D2 at the Core Strategy examination, an early review of this policy was required.

The Employment Land Local Plan

(ELLP) re-examined Policy D2: Economy and the identification of land for employment uses within the Core Strategy Local Plan. It reviewed the employment needs of Eastbourne to 2027 and considered how much land needed to be identified to

provide for uses within Class B of the Use Classes Order. The ELLP allocated employment land to meet this need.

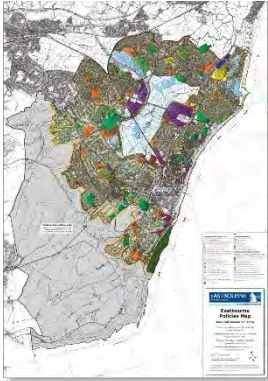
It was adopted in November 2016 and supersedes Core Strategy Policy D2.

Other Planning Documents

In addition, Eastbourne Borough Council has also produced the following documents:

- Eastbourne Policies Map (2016)
- Statement of Community Involvement (2019)
- Community Infrastructure Levy – Charging Schedule (2015)
- Sovereign Harbour Supplementary Planning Document (2013)
- Eastbourne Park Supplementary Planning Document (2013)
- Sustainable Building Design Supplementary Planning Document (2013)
- Local Employment & Training Supplementary Planning Document (2016)
- Tourist Accommodation Retention Supplementary Planning Document (2017)
- Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (2017)
- Sustainability in Development Technical Advice Note (2021)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points Technical Advice Note (2021)
- Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note (2021)
- Authority Monitoring Report

Policies Map



The Policies Map (previously referred to as the Proposals map) illustrates the policies and proposals of the Local Plan. The Policies Map excludes that part of the Borough which now forms

part of the South Downs National Park and falls under the jurisdiction of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The SDNPA are responsible for planning policies and making development management decisions within the designated area of the National Park.

The current Policies Map was adopted alongside the Employment Land Local Plan in 2016. It will be revised and updated as new Local Plan policies are adopted.

Statement of Community Involvement

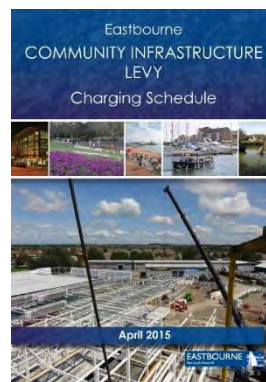


The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how we will involve the community in the planning process, including Local Plans and planning applications (Development

Management). It sets out the activities that the Council will undertake to reach stakeholders and the public during the various stages of preparation of Local Plan documents.

The SCI was adopted in 2017 to replace the original SCI that was produced in 2006 and updated in 2009. An update to the SCI was made in 2019 to ensure that changes in legislation through the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 that require the inclusion of a policy of advice and assistance in Neighbourhood Planning were met. The current SCI can be viewed on the Council's website⁵.

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

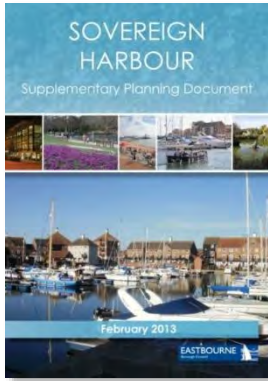


The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule was adopted on 1st April 2015 and builds upon information contained in the Council's Infrastructure

Delivery Plan (IDP), which identifies the infrastructure needed to support future growth within the Borough. CIL takes the form of a levy per square metre of additional floorspace, based on £50 per square metre for residential uses (except apartments) and £80 per square metre for retail uses. The CIL rates were determined in order to ensure the overall viability of development in the area will not be compromised, and this was confirmed by an Examiner in January 2015.

⁵ <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement/>

Sovereign Harbour SPD



The Sovereign Harbour SPD provides guidance on the future of Sovereign Harbour in support of Policy C14 of the Core Strategy. It was adopted alongside the Core Strategy in February 2013.

The SPD sets out a strategy for the completion of the planned Sovereign Harbour development proposals, whilst meeting the community needs of local residents. It ensures that any future development on the remaining sites provides the social infrastructure necessary to ensure the neighbourhood becomes a sustainable centre. In order to maximise the community benefits this infrastructure will include a community centre, children’s play areas and public open space. A maximum of 150 homes will be permitted.

The SPD provides guidance on the uses considered to be appropriate for each of the remaining development opportunity sites, including details of the size, scale and form of development and the specific community benefits to be delivered.

Eastbourne Park SPD



The Eastbourne Park SPD was adopted in February 2013 alongside the Core Strategy and provides additional detail to Core Strategy Policy D11: Eastbourne

Park. Eastbourne Park covers the area of Willingdon Levels and forms a green largely undeveloped heart of the Borough and is mostly an area of grazing fields and small-scale recreational activities.

The future of Eastbourne Park is a key priority for the Council and the SPD builds on policies in the Core Strategy to provide a sustainable development framework for future management and change in the area.

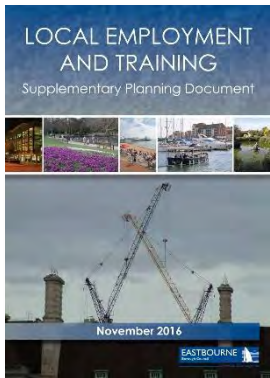
Sustainable Building Design SPD



The Sustainable Building Design SPD was adopted alongside the Core Strategy in February 2013. It provides guidance on Core Strategy Policy D1: Sustainable Development in

relation to the provision and design of sustainable buildings and environmentally friendly developments, reflecting best practice.

Local Employment & Training SPD



The Local Employment and Training SPD was adopted alongside the Employment Land Local Plan in November 2016. It provides additional detail on the implementation of the requirement for

local labour agreements within Policy EL1.

It provides a framework and guidance as to how local labour agreements (including employment and training measures) will be secured and how to maximise local employment opportunities at both the construction and first operational phase of the development.

Affordable Housing SPD

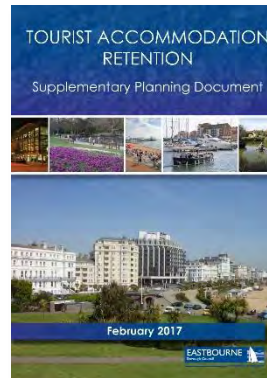


The Affordable Housing SPD was adopted in November 2017, following public consultation between 26 May and 21 July 2017.

The Affordable Housing SPD

provides detailed explanation in support of the implementation of Policy D5: Housing of the Eastbourne Core Strategy Local Plan 2006-2027 (adopted 2013). It contains advice relating to the standards required of the range of residential sites in order to deliver the affordable housing necessary to meet local needs.

Tourist Accommodation Retention SPD



The Tourist Accommodation Retention SPD was adopted in February 2017. The SPD sets out additional detail on how local plan policies relating to the retention of tourist accommodation will

be implemented, and what is required in order to satisfy the policy and the reasons why such information is sought.

Authority Monitoring Report



The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) looks at how Local Plan policies and proposals are being implemented and identifies any emerging issues that may need to be addressed.

The AMR has the following functions:

- to measure progress made in respect of the planning documents being prepared;
- to review the effectiveness of the adopted planning policies;
- to monitor the extent to which policies and targets are being achieved against a range of indicators.

The Authority Monitoring Reports can be viewed at on the Council's website⁶.

⁶ <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/authority-monitoring-report-amr/>

Planning Context in Eastbourne

Current Local Plan Position

The Eastbourne Core Strategy Local Plan 2006-2027 (“the Core Strategy”) was adopted in February 2013.

Amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations in December 2017 require local planning authorities to undertake a review of a local plan every five years starting from the date of adoption.

In completing this review, the local planning authority must decide either:

- that their policies do not need updating and publish their reasons for this decision; and/ or
- that one or more policies do need updating and update their Local Development Scheme to set out the timetable for this revision.


The five-year anniversary of the Core Strategy was on 20th February 2018.

The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 2017/2018 identified that Eastbourne had delivered a total of 2,702 homes over the plan period out of a total of 5,022 homes. However, delivery at that stage in the plan period should have been 2,880 homes. Delivery over the three years from 2015-2018 in relation to the Core Strategy Target was 77% of that required.

The NPPF (para 33) identifies that strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if local housing need has changed significantly. Eastbourne’s Local Housing Need (calculated by the standard method introduced through the NPPF in 2018) at the time of the review was 640 homes per year. The Core Strategy was based on a housing need of 400 homes per year. Therefore, housing need had changed considerably since the adoption of the Core Strategy.

The AMR 2017/2018 also identified that at 1st October 2018, Eastbourne had a 1.56 year supply of housing land. Because the Core Strategy is more than five years old, the five-year housing land supply is measured against the Local Housing Need calculated via the Government’s standard method. The lack of a five-year housing land supply means that in accordance with the NPPF, the Core Strategy policies relating to housing delivery cannot be considered to be up to date.

Therefore, it was determined that the Core Strategy required updating due to the under delivery of housing against the housing requirement set out in the plan, an increase in the housing need requirement calculated through the Local Housing Need standard method, and the lack of a five-year housing land supply.



Since 2018 the trend of under delivery against the Core Strategy target has continued. The 2020-21 AMR identified that 3,262 homes had been delivered over the plan period against the Core Strategy target of 3,600, therefore 90% of the target to date. Eastbourne's Local Housing Need (calculated by the standard method introduced through the NPPF in 2018) at the time of the review was 640 homes per year but this has since raised to 738 homes per year. The 2020-21 AMR also identified a five-year housing land supply of 1.8 years, therefore improved since 2018 however still significantly short of 5 years.

Work Programme for 2022-2025

Eastbourne Local Plan 2019-2039

There is a clear expectation that local planning authorities should have a Local Plan in place, and that it should be kept up-to-date to ensure policies remain relevant.

An assessment of the Core Strategy concluded that it can no longer be considered to be up to date and therefore a new Local Plan for Eastbourne needs to be produced.

Work on a new Local Plan for Eastbourne commenced in 2018. The previous LDS for the period 2019-2022 set out an ambitious timetable for development of the new Local Plan. This LDS follows the previous LDS and updates on progress towards the new Local Plan. The amendments between the previous version of the LDS and this version are summarised in Appendix 4.

The NPPF requires that local planning authorities (individually or in conjunction with other local planning authorities) prepare a plan that sets out the strategic policies for their area, with non-strategic policies being included in either the same plan or a separate plan.

The new Eastbourne Local Plan will contain both strategic and non-strategic policies and will supersede all existing local plan policies.

The strategic policies within the Eastbourne Local Plan will set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development and make provision for: housing, employment, retail, leisure and

other commercial development; infrastructure including transport, water, flood risk and coastal management; community facilities including health and education; and conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment.

In accordance with the NPPF (para 22), the Eastbourne Local Plan will look ahead over a minimum 15-year period from adoption to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities, such as those arising from major improvements in infrastructure.

The Eastbourne Local Plan will cover the period between 2019 to 2039, which reflects the introduction of the new method for calculating Local Housing Need in 2018 and allows for the plan to look ahead for a minimum 15-year period from adoption.

The Eastbourne Local Plan will also contain non-strategic policies that set out more detailed policies. These will include site allocations, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities, establishing design principles through a Design Code, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies.

There are currently no Neighbourhood Plan designations within the Borough. Where neighbourhood plans come forward, these will replace the non-strategic policies in specific areas. However, Neighbourhood plans will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the new Local Plan.

The preparation of the Local Plan should be informed by proportionate evidence that supports and justifies policies. Plans should also set out the contributions expected from development, such as affordable housing contributions and infrastructure provision, although such policies should not undermine the deliverability of the plan.

Local plans should be informed throughout their preparation by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) that incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives.

A profile for the Local Plan is provided in Appendix 1.

Stages of a Local Plan and Timetable

The Local Plan Regulations 2012 set out the stages in the preparation of a Local Plan.

The first stage in the production of the Local Plan is the Preparation of a Local Plan (Regulation 18), which includes evidence gathering and inviting the local community and other stakeholders to make representations to the local planning authority about what the local plan ought to contain.

A public consultation took place for a 12-week period in accordance with the adopted SCI in November 2019 to January 2020. A copy of the consultation is available on our website⁷.

⁷ <https://planningpolicyconsult.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/EBIOR/consultationHome>

Following the Issues and Options Regulation 18 consultation, the progress of the Local Plan was delayed due to a number of factors including uncertainties caused by regular changes to the planning system and announcements of significant reforms over recent years, resourcing issues associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, and the preparation of evidence documents taking longer than expected to be completed. This has included the production of a new fluvial flood model for the Eastbourne and South Wealden area to ensure that flooding issues across the town are properly understood, which is fundamental to the Local Plan and was only completed in early 2022.

Representations made to the Issues and Options consultation will be considered, along with other technical evidence, to carry out a further regulation 18 consultation on the proposed 'Growth Strategy' for the new local plan between November 2022 and January 2023.

Following this public consultation, any representations made on the Local Plan will be taken into account, and a version of the Local Plan (known as the Proposed Submission version) will be made available under Publication of a Local Plan (Regulation 19). As this version of the Local Plan is the one intended to be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination, it will require Full Council approval, and will be published in November 2023.

Representations relating to a Local Plan (Regulation 20) will be invited in November to December 2023 before the Submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22) in February 2024.

The Secretary of State will appoint an Inspector to carry out an Independent examination of the Local Plan. The Inspector will consider the representations made (Regulation 23) and conduct the Examination (Regulation 24) at least six weeks after first inviting persons who made representations to be heard at any hearings. This is anticipated to take place through the spring/summer of 2024.

Publication of the recommendations of the appointed person (Regulation 25) would be expected in autumn 2024, with Adoption of a local plan (Regulation 26) at Full Council taking place in November 2024.

A timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan is set out in Appendix 2.

Figure 2 - Steps in the preparation of the Eastbourne Local Plan



Other documents

The Planning Policy team's top priority is the preparation of the Local Plan. Additional SPDs or other documents will only be produced where it is considered necessary to address a significant issue that has arisen.

Resources and Programme Management

Governance

The implementation of this LDS will require effective governance support procedures.

The preparation of Local Plans and SPDs is guided by the Local Plan Steering Group. This consists of five Councillors, including the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Heritage Assets, Place Services and Special Projects, Chair of Planning Committee, as well as a Member of the Opposition.

Local Plans are to be reported to Cabinet for approval to publish and consult, following a consultation with the Planning Committee. Full Council approval is required to submit the Local Plan for examination, and to formally adopt a Local Plan or SPD, in accordance with the Council's constitution.

The timeframe necessary to comply with the Council's in-house processes and procedures have been included within the timeline given for preparing the Local Plan. The timescale for preparing the Local Plan also assumes that resources will be available to handle the workload.

Resources

The Council's Planning Policy team will take the lead on preparing the Local Plan, as well as the SA/SEA and the preparation of evidence base studies to support the Local Plan. The Planning Policy team will be supported by other Council officers where necessary.

Overall management responsibility for the Local Plan will be with the Head of Planning, who will be responsible for appropriate allocation of staff and negotiating for resources and funding where necessary.

External specialist consultants may also be used to supplement existing resources where studies are of a specialist nature and/or where there are benefits in terms of timing to outsource the work, or in providing a critical friend to the Council's teams.

Risk Assessment

It is important that the risks associated with delivery of the Local Plan are acknowledged and mitigating measures put in place to avoid adverse impact on the delivery of the LDS.

The main risks to delivery together with proposed mitigation measures are identified in Table 1.

Table 1 - Risk Assessment

Issue	Risk / Implications	Mitigation
<p>Changes to National Planning Policy or procedural requirements</p>	<p>Changes to national policy and planning guidance could result in abortive or inappropriate progress.</p> <p>Changes to procedural requirements and new legislation may alter the stages in plan preparation.</p> <p>In 2020 the Government set a deadline of December 2023 for all authorities to have an up-to-date local plan. It is currently unknown what the implications of not meeting this deadline may be.</p> <p>There are also pending reforms to the planning system through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which is currently going through Parliament. The new Prime Minister is also expected to instigate changes to the current system.</p>	<p>Closely monitor new policy and practice guidance and anticipate changes to national policy.</p> <p>Take into account any changes at the next appropriate stage in preparation.</p> <p>Consistent and ongoing legal advice from within the Council.</p>
<p>Staff Resources</p>	<p>EBC have previously had issues recruiting suitably qualified staff. If positions become vacant and cannot be quickly filled by qualified staff, there may be a need to review the LDS.</p>	<p>Robust management of staff resources and cross-service and partnership working.</p> <p>Consideration of additional external resources where appropriate</p>
<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Delay to Plan progress if the production of evidence studies is delayed.</p> <p>Additional unforeseen evidence base requirements and the need for specialist information and expertise which is unavailable in-house.</p>	<p>Early and thorough assessment of available evidence and need.</p> <p>Management of consultants, including setting of appropriate deadlines. Timely provision of information/comments for consultants. Close monitoring of adherence to project timescales.</p>
<p>Political Decision-making</p>	<p>Potential changes in political support for the Local Plan, due to events such as local and national elections.</p> <p>Politically contentious issues may require unforeseen procedures to resolve.</p>	<p>Ongoing engagement and progress updates given to the cross-party Local Plan Steering Group</p> <p>Provide opportunities for Councillors to discuss emerging policies through Member Training sessions.</p>

Issue	Risk / Implications	Mitigation
Legal compliance (including Duty to Co-operate) and Tests of Soundness	<p>Risk that Local Plan could be found unsound or fail tests relating to legal compliance & Duty to Co-operate. Being found unsound could cause a potential resultant major delay to the progress of the Local Plan.</p> <p>There may be risks to the timetable in securing the appropriate level of 'co-operation' with neighbouring authorities at officer and member level.</p>	<p>Continuous soundness self-assessment. Consultation with the Planning Inspectorate and Planning Advisory Service.</p> <p>Make use of the East Sussex Strategic Planning Members Group to discuss duty to co-operate issues.</p>
Financial Resources	<p>Undertaking evidence gathering projects, public consultation events and the examination of the new Local Plan require significant financial resources. Any additional unforeseen costs would place a further burden on the budget.</p>	<p>Close monitoring of the new Local Plan preparation budget and likely future commitments.</p>
Consultation	<p>Unexpectedly large numbers of representations may require extra work to respond to issues raised or could require a longer examination in public and a delay in the Inspector reporting.</p>	<p>Identify expected level of response during consultation period and prioritise response to representations post consultation period.</p>
Timescales	<p>The scale and uncertainty of the content of a single Local Plan presents potential risks to its deliverability.</p>	<p>Robust scoping. Keep Local Development Scheme under constant review and amend as necessary. Ensure sound project planning.</p>



Monitoring and Review

The Local Plan Steering Group will oversee the preparation and finalisation of the Local Plan before approval by the Council's Cabinet and Planning Committee. Local Plan Steering Group meets on a once every two months basis (or more regularly if required) and consists of five Councillors, including the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Heritage Assets, Place Services and Special Projects and Chair of Planning Committee, as well as a Member of the Opposition.

Overall responsibility for the ongoing management of the LDS programme rests with the Head of Planning. Input on certain documents and evidence studies will be required from other internal Council officers and external specialists as appropriate.

The Local Development Scheme will be monitored on an annual basis through the Authority Monitoring Report.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Local Plan Profile

Appendix 2: LDS Timetable 2022-2025

Appendix 3: Glossary

Appendix 4: Amendments to the LDS

Appendix 5: Previous LDS Timetable 2019-2022

Appendix 1: Local Plan Profile

EASTBOURNE LOCAL PLAN

Role and Subject:	The Eastbourne Local Plan will contain strategic policies that set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development and make provision for residential, commercial, community, infrastructure development. It will also contain non-strategic policies that provide more detail for development management purposes. Once adopted, it will supersede all other planning policies for Eastbourne.
Geographical coverage:	The whole of Eastbourne Borough, excluding the part of the Borough that is within the South Downs National Park.
Status:	Development Plan Document (DPD) which will form part of the statutory Development Plan for Eastbourne.
Conformity:	Must be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework. Regard will also be had to the National Planning Practice Guidance and other relevant strategies.

Timetable & Key Milestones

Public consultation on Preparation of a local plan (Reg. 18)	November 2022 – January 2023
Publication of a local plan (Reg. 19)	November 2023
Consultation relating to a local plan (Reg. 20)	November – December 2023
Submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State (Reg. 22)	February 2024
Consideration of representations by appointed person (Reg. 23)	March-August 2024
Independent Examination (Reg. 24)	May-June 2024
Publication of the recommendations of the appointed person (Reg. 25)	September 2024
Adoption of a local plan (Reg. 26)	November 2024



Production Arrangements

Organisational lead:	Head of Planning
Management Arrangements:	Local Plan Steering Group
Resources:	Planning Policy team, Specialist Advisors (Planning) and external consultants
Approach to consultation:	Set out in the Statement of Community Involvement. Consultation will be led by Eastbourne Borough Council.

Post Production

Monitoring and review mechanisms:	The implementation of the objectives and policies of the Eastbourne Local Plan will be monitored in the Authority Monitoring Report
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Appendix 2: LDS Timetable 2022-2025

Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 Timetable

Year	2022												2023												2024											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Eastbourne Local Plan																																				


Appendix 3: Glossary

Term	Definition
Adoption	The final confirmation of a Development Plan / Local Plan or Supplementary Planning Document status by a Local Planning Authority.
Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)	Local Planning Authorities are required to prepare and publish an Authority Monitoring Report containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which the policies set out in the Local Plan documents are being achieved (previously known as Local Monitoring Report).
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	The Community Infrastructure Levy is a charge which local authorities in England and Wales are empowered, but not required, to charge on types of new development in their area. The proceeds of the levy will be spent on local and sub-regional infrastructure to support the development of the area.
Conservation Area	An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance.
Core Strategy	The main planning policy document for Eastbourne that sets out the long term strategic planning vision between 2006 and 2027.
Corporate Plan	Sets out the major place-shaping initiatives crucial to the future success of Eastbourne. Examples of these initiatives are the Town Centre Regeneration and the development of a Business Park at Sovereign Harbour.
Development Plan	The set of documents that provide the Local Planning Authority's policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in the authority's area. This includes adopted Local Plans, any Neighbourhood Plans and the Waste & Minerals Local Plan.
Development Plan Document	Statutory documents which are subject to specified consultation periods and are subject to independent examination. Also known as Local Plans.
Evidence Base	The information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the "soundness" of the policy approach set out in the Local Plan, including physical, economic, and social characteristics of an area.
Examination / Examination in Public	The process by which a Planning Inspector may publicly examine a Local Plan for legal compliance and 'soundness' before issuing a binding report.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)	Detailed assessment of the infrastructure required to deliver the spatial development strategy and how this will be delivered.
Inspectors Report	A report issued by a Planning Inspector regarding the planning

Term	Definition
	issues debated at an Independent Examination of a Development Plan or a Planning Inquiry.
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	The LDS sets out the programme for the preparation of the Local Development Documents. All plan making authorities must maintain an up to date LDS.
Local Housing Need	The number of homes needed within a local authority area, calculated using the standard method introduced alongside the NPPF in July 2018.
Local Plan (LP)	The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the community
Local Plan Regulations	See Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and how these are expected to be applied. It was last updated in 2021.
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	The legislation that introduced a new development planning system, based on the preparation of Local Development Frameworks. The Act commenced 28th September 2004.
Policies Map	A map which shows the policies and proposals in the Development Plan on a map.
Soundness / Test of Soundness	<p>In order to be sound, a Local Plan must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Positively prepared – providing a strategy which seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development; b) Justified – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence; c) Effective – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and <p>Consistent with national policy – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF.</p>
South Downs National Park (SDNP)	England's newest National Park, covering the South Downs and Western Weald, situated in the counties of Hampshire, and West and East Sussex. Planning responsibility within this area falls to the South Downs National Park Authority.
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	Document explaining to stakeholders and the community how they can be involved in the preparation of Local Development Documents, and the steps that will be taken to facilitate their



Term	Definition
	involvement.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	The term used internationally to describe the environmental integration of policies, plans and programmes. The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) requires a formal ‘environmental assessment’ of plans and programmes that are to be adopted by a public authority including those in spatial planning. This assessment is often combined with the Sustainability Appraisal.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	These provide additional planning policy guidance to the policies and proposals in the Local Plan. They do not need to be subject to independent examination
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of proposals in Local Development Documents.
Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012	Regulations (as amended) that govern the process for preparing Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents. Also known as ‘Local Plan Regulations’.



Appendix 4: Amendments to the LDS

A summary of the main changes from the previous LDS is provided below:

The period that the LDS covers has changed from 2019-2022 to 2022-2024.

Changes have been made to **Section 6: Work Programme;**

- Change to the timetable for the preparation of the Eastbourne Local Plan:
 - A further Reg. 18 consultation from November 2022 - January 2023
 - Proposed Submission (Reg. 19): from November-December 2020 to July to September 2023
 - Submission (Reg. 22): from February 2021 to November 2023
 - Examination (Reg. 24): from May-June 2021 to 2024
 - Adoption (Reg. 26): from November 2021 to November 2024

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	2 November 2022
Title:	Eastbourne Local Plan – Growth Strategy Consultation
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration & Planning
Cabinet member:	Councillor Colin Swansborough, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Heritage Assets, Place Services and Special Projects.
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To seek Cabinet approval to publish the Eastbourne Local Plan Growth Strategy for public consultation between 11th November 2022 and 20th January 2023
Decision type:	Key Decision
Officer recommendation(s):	(1) That Cabinet approve the publication of the Eastbourne Local Plan Growth Strategy Consultation (Appendix 1) for public consultation between Friday 11th November 2022 and Friday 20th January 2023; (2) The Cabinet delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration & Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Place Services and Special Projects, to make any necessary editorial changes and minor amendments to the consultation document and supporting evidence prior to publication if necessary.
Reasons for recommendations:	(1) To meet the requirements of Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in the preparation of a Local Plan (2) To ensure that any minor or typographical errors can be corrected prior to the Local Plan Growth Strategy Consultation being published for consultation

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Post title: Senior Planning Policy Officer
E-mail: matthew.hitchen@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Telephone number: 01323 415253

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] (2021) requires local planning authorities to prepare succinct and up-to-date plans that provide a positive vision for the future of their area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings (para 15).
- 1.2 Eastbourne Borough Council has commenced the preparation of a new Local Plan to replace the existing local plan, which is now considered 'out of date' in accordance with national planning policy. An 'Issues & Options' consultation took place over winter 2019/2020, which sought to understand the main issues that the Local Plan should address and views on potential options for addressing those issues.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval to undertake a public consultation on the Eastbourne Local Plan Growth Strategy (Appendix 1), which presents current thinking on the amount of development that could be provided in Eastbourne over the plan period between 2019 and 2039 and how this would be distributed across the town. This consultation builds on the previous Issues & Options consultation and will inform the next stages in the production of the Local Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Eastbourne Core Strategy Local Plan, which contains the strategic planning policies for the Borough (excluding the area within the South Downs National Park, which is under the planning jurisdiction of the South Downs National Park Authority) was adopted in February 2013 following Public Examination by a Planning Inspector in May 2012.
- 2.2 Amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations in December 2017 require local planning authorities to undertake a review of a local plan every five years starting from the date of adoption.
- 2.3 The five-year anniversary of the Core Strategy was on 20th February 2018. A review conducted through the Authority Monitoring Report 2017/2018 identified that the Core Strategy requires updating due to the under-delivery of housing against the housing requirement set out in the plan, an increase in the housing

need calculated through the Local Housing Need standard method, and the lack of a five-year housing land supply.

- 2.4 In response to this, a Local Development Scheme (LDS) was prepared to set out a timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan, which will supersede all existing planning policies for Eastbourne. An update to the LDS to reflect the current timetable is also subject to approval by Cabinet and subsequently Full Council in November 2022. This identifies the intention to have a new Local Plan adopted by the end of 2024.
- 2.5 There is a statutory process for the preparation of local plans that needs to be followed, which is set out through the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). This includes gathering evidence, consulting with the community, and submitting the plan to the Secretary of State to arrange an independent examination by a Planning Inspector.
- 2.6 The examination process will determine whether the local plan is legally compliant and 'sound'. Only after the Inspector has reported that the local plan is legally compliant and 'sound' can the local plan be adopted. Failure to follow the correct procedure could mean that local plan fails at examination or could be subject to legal challenge.

3. Eastbourne Local Plan

- 3.1 The NPPF requires that local planning authorities (individually or in conjunction with other local planning authorities) prepare a plan that sets out the strategic policies for their area, with non-strategic policies being included in either the same plan or a separate plan. This is known as the Local Plan.
- 3.2 The new Eastbourne Local Plan will cover the period between 2019 and 2039 and will cover the area of the Borough outside of the South Downs National Park. It will ultimately contain both strategic policies that set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and non-strategic policies that will contain more detail for the determination of planning applications.
- 3.3 The local plan is important because it provides a clear strategy to shape future development in Eastbourne. It will set out policies to guide decisions on the location, amount and type of development that the Borough needs, whilst also protecting the natural and historic environment and addressing the challenge of climate change. It also enables future needs for infrastructure to be planned appropriately and ensures that the cumulative impacts of development over the plan period are properly assessed.

4. Issues and Options Consultation

- 4.1 Eastbourne's Direction of Travel: Issues & Options for the new Local Plan was published for consultation in November 2019, which invited comment on the main issues that the Local Plan should address and on potential options for addressing those issues.
- 4.2 In relation to housing growth, the consultation identified six broad options for how the local plan could seek to deliver homes in the future. These options were:
- A. Developing at a density based on prevailing character of the area surrounding the site;
 - B. Increasing the proportion of houses being delivered on sites;
 - C. Increasing the proportion of flats being delivered on sites;
 - D. Providing taller residential buildings in the Town Centre;
 - E. A 50% increase on the prevailing density on all sites within the existing build-up area; and
 - F. A 50% increase on the prevailing density on all sites of more than 0.5 hectares.
- 4.3 The question on options for housing growth generated a total of 17 responses. These were generally supportive of a hybrid approach to make the most efficient use of land and promote sustainable locations such as the town centre.
- 4.4 A further question asked if there were other options for the way that housing sites should be developed to deliver new homes, which generated another 10 responses. These suggested that housing should be encouraged in the town centre with the use of empty space above shops, space over car parks and reductions in car parking provision to create higher densities.

5. Growth Strategy

- 5.1 The NPPF requires that local plans have an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development needs. Therefore next stage in the plan making process following the Issues & Options consultation and undertaking Sustainability Appraisal on the options is to develop and consult upon a more detailed strategy for how much development the local plan should plan for.
- 5.2 The Growth Strategy consultation seeks views on the anticipated level of housing and employment growth over the period 2019-2039 and where it could be expected to take place, with particular emphasis on the large key development sites that could potentially deliver homes and/or employment space.

- 5.3 This Growth Strategy consultation is not a draft local plan. The scope of this consultation is limited to the amount and distribution of residential and employment development over the plan period, and as such does not address the full range of issues that will eventually form part of the local plan. Other issues, such as ensuring that new development contributes towards the town becoming carbon neutral, protecting what we value in terms of the environment and heritage of the area and creating thriving communities that meet the needs of residents, will be included in the local plan once prepared and this will be subject to further public consultation in the future.
- 5.4 The NPPF identifies that the minimum number of homes needed in a plan area should be determined through a local housing need assessment, conducted using the 'standard method'. As of 1st April 2022, the result of this assessment is that Eastbourne has a local housing need of 738 net additional homes per year.
- 5.5 In terms of employment space, the Eastbourne and Wealden Employment and Economic Study (2022) identifies a need for a minimum of 76,184 sqm of employment floorspace between 2021 and 2039 for Eastbourne.
- 5.6 Eastbourne has a number of constraints that limit potential for future development. These include the geographical constraints of the South Downs National Park to the west of the town, the English Channel to the south and a tight administrative boundary with Wealden District to the north that restricts the amount of developable land.
- 5.7 The amount of land available for development, and therefore the number of homes and the amount of employment space that can be provided, is heavily influenced by 'showstoppers' that provide a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area, as identified in the NPPF (para 11, footnote 7).
- 5.8 Due to these constraints, it is not considered that housing or employment need can be met in full. This means that the amount of new development identified in the local plan will be based on capacity in terms of land available for development, rather than being based on the amount of development that is needed over the plan period.
- 5.9 This being the case, the growth strategy is based on making the most efficient use of previously developed land within the built-up area through increasing the density of new development in locations that are highly accessible to services and public transport, whilst also respecting the character of the local area. This would include facilitating higher densities on development sites in the Town Centre through the provision of taller buildings where appropriate.

- 5.10 The consultation document identifies a 'growth strategy' based on delivering 6,401 new homes (equivalent to an average of 320 new homes per year) and 53,000sqm of employment floorspace (consisting of 13,000sqm of office use, and 40,000sqm of industrial and warehouse uses) over the plan period between 2019 and 2039.
- 5.11 This would result in meeting just under half of Eastbourne's local housing need (as calculated by the standard method) and two-thirds of Eastbourne's employment land need over the plan period.
- 5.12 The provision of 6,401 homes over the plan period would represent an increase of 13% in the number of homes in the town over 20 years. Population forecasts suggest that it would result in a population increase of 8,300 people (8%) over 20 years.
- 5.13 Overall, 80% of the new homes would be delivered on previously developed ('brownfield') sites. However, there are also some 'greenfield' sites that are not currently identified as being subject to a 'showstopper' constraint where development needs to be considered. This includes some sites on the fringes of the town where the built-up area can be extended such as sites located on the fringes of Eastbourne Park, and the expansion to the east of the town into the East Langney Levels.
- 5.14 The consultation will identify a number of 'key development sites' that could accommodate relatively large-scale development for Eastbourne. The broad threshold for these strategic sites is sites that have been initially assessed as being about to accommodate more than 25 homes and/or 3,000sqm of commercial floorspace. These are the sites that are likely to be considered for allocation in the local plan.
- 5.15 These 'key development sites' are not currently subject to any 'showstopper' constraints, but it is recognised that some do have other issues that would require mitigation if they were to come forward for development. The consultation will seek views on these sites, and further evidence and assessment will be undertaken to identify whether any issues can be appropriately mitigated. If they cannot be mitigated on a particular site, this site is then unlikely to be taken forward into the next stage of the local plan process.
- 5.16 The consultation will also identify the current understanding in terms of the infrastructure implications of the growth strategy and new and improved infrastructure that will be required over the plan period to support growth.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The Growth Strategy has been informed by representations made to the Issues & Options consultation over winter 2019/2020, and has been prepared in consultation with the Local Plan Steering Group. It has also been informed by technical evidence studies and discussions with stakeholders including infrastructure providers.
- 6.2 If approved, the public consultation on the Local Plan Growth Strategy will take place between Friday 11th November 2022 and Friday 20th January 2023. Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which was revised and adopted in February 2019. The SCI identifies a minimum consultation period of 8 weeks; however this has been extended to include an additional two weeks to compensate for the consultation period running over the Christmas period.
- 6.3 The consultation will seek views on the growth strategy, including key development sites, and representations made during the consultation period will be used to inform the next stages in the plan making process. The consultation document has purposely been made as concise as possible in order to make it more accessible to local communities, with further information provided within background papers supporting the consultation.
- 6.4 All statutory bodies and individuals and organisations who have asked to be informed of the progress of the Eastbourne Local Plan will be notified directly about the consultation. The consultation will be hosted via the Council's on-line consultation portal that allows comments to be made directly via the website, and will be further publicised on the Council's website, and through press releases and social media.
- 6.5 A number of other background and supporting documents will be published alongside the Growth Strategy consultation, including background papers on housing and employment, a Strategic Environment Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal Report, a summary of consultation responses received on the Issues & Options report that are relevant to this consultation, and relevant evidence documents including the Land Availability Assessment, Economy Study and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
- 6.6 There will be further rounds of consultation during the preparation of the local plan, including on a full draft of the plan, which is currently anticipated for winter 2023.

7. Corporate plan and council policies

7.1 The Eastbourne Borough Council Corporate Plan 2022-2026 identifies a key priority to regenerate and deliver housing through agreeing a new Local Plan that sets delivery targets that meet local housing needs; and identifying sustainable locations for development. The Local Plan will also assist in delivering a number of priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan, including:

- delivering new homes;
- transitioning to the delivery of new carbon neutral & environmentally friendly homes
- helping to maintain the heritage environment;
- encouraging cycling and using public transport more through improved infrastructure,
- enhancing the biodiversity of public and open spaces; and
- efficient processing of planning applications.

8. Financial appraisal

8.1 The financial implications of undertaking public consultation on the Local Plan Growth Strategy are expected to be minimal, and as such it is considered that these costs will be covered within the existing budget.

9. Legal implications

9.1 The Growth Strategy consultation is being undertaken in order to comply with Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and with regard to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. The Council must also comply with Section 33A, of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) which imposes a duty to co-operate with other local planning authorities on issues which are likely to have a significant effect on more than one planning area.

Legal Implications checked 05.10.22 - 011458-EBC-JCS

10. Risk management implications

10.1 The risk of not undertaking a public consultation on the Local Plan Growth Strategy at this time is that the preparation of the Local Plan will be delayed. As the Local Plan will play a key role in helping to reduce carbon emissions, a delay in the Local Plan may also have the effect of delaying the Council's objective of being a carbon neutral town by 2030. It will also prolong uncertainty around the amount and location of development, which could have negative impacts on communities and compromises the realistic planning of new and improvement infrastructure to accommodate growth.

11. Equality analysis

- 11.1 It is not considered that an Equalities and Fairness Analysis is required for the Local Plan Growth Strategy consultation because it does not contain policy and only asks for comment on the future direction of the local plan.
- 11.2 The new Local Plan itself will need to undergo an equalities and fairness analysis, and this will be undertaken during the preparation of the plan.

12. Environmental sustainability implications

- 12.1 The NPPF identifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and when the Local Plan undergoes examination by a Planning Inspector, it will be assessed in these terms. It will also undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess its environmental impact throughout its preparation and compliance with the SEA Regulations will be assessed at the examination of the Local Plan.
- 12.2 The local plan will have a role to play in helping the Council meet its climate change ambitions to be a carbon neutral town by 2030, and the local plan would be expected to have specific policies to address this. Although this Growth Strategy is not a draft local plan and does not contain any specific policies, climate change mitigation and adaptation have been key considerations in assessing sites, and further evidence work will be undertaken following the growth strategy consultation to scrutinise policies, proposals and development sites in the draft local plan.

13. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Eastbourne Local Plan Growth Strategy

14. Background papers

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

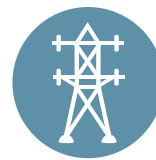
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5>
- Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/made>
- National Planning Policy Framework (2021) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- Eastbourne Statement of Community Involvement (2019) - <https://www.lewes->

eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement/

- Equalities and Fairness Screening Report



EASTBOURNE LOCAL PLAN: GROWTH STRATEGY CONSULTATION



INTRODUCTION

Eastbourne Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will guide the type, amount and location of development in the borough up to 2039.

Following a previous consultation in 2019, the Council are now undertaking a public consultation on the level of housing and employment growth that could be accommodated in Eastbourne and where it might be located, in order to inform the next stage in the preparation of the Local Plan.

The Local Plan will seek to accommodate both housing and employment growth, and the purpose of this document is to seek your views on the way in which those growth needs should be met within the borough over the period to 2039.

This consultation focuses specifically on housing and employment growth, including key development sites, and as such is not a draft Local Plan. Other issues, such as addressing climate change, encouraging regeneration, and protecting the natural, built and historic environments, will be included in the Local Plan once prepared, and this will be subject to a future public consultation.

Further detail on the issues discussed in this consultation document is provided within a series of Background Papers and supporting documents available from the Council's website¹. Responses to 'Frequently Asked Questions' is also available.

We are asking for your views on the 'Growth Strategy' identified in this consultation document so that these can be considered before we determine how and where growth will be proposed in the Local Plan.

¹ www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/eastbournelocalplan

The consultation is being undertaken between **Friday 11th November 2022** and **Friday 20th January 2023**.

Councillor Message



As the Cabinet Member with responsibilities for planning for Eastbourne Borough Council, I am pleased to introduce the Local Plan Growth Strategy for public consultation.

The Local Plan is an important document as it will set out a vision and a strategy for the borough to help shape growth to 2039, and this consultation is an important stage in identifying how much growth Eastbourne will be able to accommodate over the next 20 years.

Whilst this consultation paper focuses on growth, the final Local Plan aims to achieve a balance between new homes and jobs, in an environment where people wish to live and work and have a quality of life, for both current and future generations.

This is your opportunity, as residents and stakeholders, to help guide the future development of the borough. I believe that it is vital for as many of you to provide your views, comments and feedback on the proposals as possible, and I would urge you all to get involved in this consultation.

Cllr Colin Swansborough

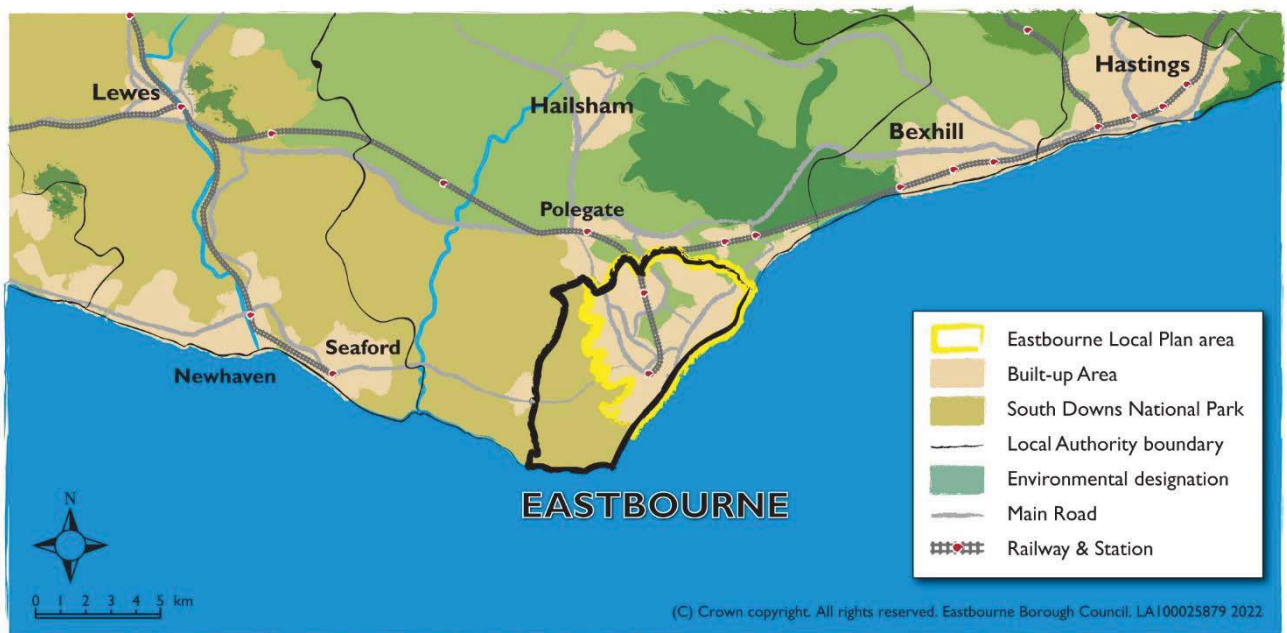
*Portfolio Holder for Climate Change,
Place Services & Special Projects*

The Local Plan is one of the most important documents shaping the future of Eastbourne. It is the key planning document setting out how we plan and manage growth, regeneration and development across the Borough, based on a vision of how we want Eastbourne to be in 20 years' time.

The Local Plan is used to guide decisions on the location, amount and type of development that the Borough needs. This includes ensuring that new development contributes towards the town becoming carbon neutral; identifying land and uses that

are required to create a prosperous economy; protecting what we value in terms of the environment and heritage of the area; creating thriving communities that meet the needs of local residents; delivering the right types of homes in the right locations; and providing effective infrastructure to sustain future growth.

As the South Downs National Park Authority is the local planning authority for the South Downs, Eastbourne Borough Council's Local Plan will only apply to the area of the Borough that is outside of the National Park.



The new Local Plan will set out a vision, objectives and development strategy for the whole of the Borough covering the period 2019 to 2039, alongside a range of policies that will guide development and infrastructure requirements to ensure that it helps to deliver that vision and strategy.

The Local Plan will also include allocations for various land uses such as residential and employment. The Local Plan will help provide certainty to local residents,

developers and other stakeholders about what will happen in the Borough up to 2039. Once adopted, it will replace the existing Local Plan that was adopted in 2013.

Whilst development can be controversial, it does provide the homes, jobs and other services and facilities that will be needed for future generations. This growth is required to help Eastbourne evolve in response to changing circumstances and remain a good place to live, work and visit in the future.

CONTEXT

Work on the new Local Plan commenced in 2018 when the current Local Plan (known as the Core Strategy) became five years old. In 2019, the Council undertook an 'Issues & Options' consultation² to seek views on some of the initial options and ideas for the strategy for development and the 'direction of travel', including the vision and objectives, for the new Local Plan.

In relation to housing growth, the 'Issues & Options' identified six options for how new homes could be delivered in Eastbourne, based on different densities and the way sites could be used to deliver housing. The options were not considered to be necessarily mutually exclusive and could be combined if this would form the most effective and sustainable strategy for the number and distribution of housing over the plan period.

Options for Growth identified in the 'Issues & Options':

Option A: Densities based on the prevailing character of the area surrounding the site;

Option B: Increasing the proportion of houses being delivered on sites;

Option C: Increasing the proportion of flats being delivered on sites;

Option D: Providing taller residential buildings in Town Centre;

Option E: 50% increase on the prevailing density on all sites within the existing built-up area;

Option F: 50% increase on the prevailing density on all sites of more than 0.5 hectares

² www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/ebissuesandoptions

A summary of responses made to the Issues & Options consultation relating to the questions on how Eastbourne will accommodate housing and employment land is provided as a supporting document to this consultation and is available on the website³. A full response to all comments received on the Issues & Options consultation will be provided at a later date alongside the draft Local Plan. It is important to note that this Growth Strategy consultation builds upon, rather than supersedes, the Issues & Options consultation, so all comments made will be addressed in the next stage of the Local Plan's preparation.

Having reviewed the comments received on the Issues & Options, it is clear that a single approach on its own is unlikely to be able to address issues of housing and employment growth across the borough.

Since the 'Issues & Options' consultation, further evidence has been gathered through new technical studies to inform the preparation of the Local Plan. This evidence has been used, along with the responses to the 'Issues & Options', the updated national planning policy and guidance and the Sustainability Appraisal process, to identify a 'Growth Strategy' that is the subject of this consultation. This Growth Strategy is based on a combination of Options D and E identified in the 'Issues & Options' consultation.

It is important to note that this consultation document does not contain draft policies and does not contain all of the detail that will eventually be included in the Local Plan. It is, however, an important step in policy development which builds on specific issues presented at the previous consultation stage

³ www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/eastbournelocalplan

to the draft plan which will be consulted upon next year, as identified in the Local Development Scheme.

The number of homes and the amount of employment space that can be provided is heavily influenced by 'showstoppers' that provide a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area, as identified in the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] (2021). These are:

- habitats sites and/or sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- land designated as Green Belt, Local Green Space, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a National Park (or within the Broads Authority) or defined as Heritage Coast;
- irreplaceable habitats;
- designated heritage assets (and other heritage assets of archaeological interest); and
- areas at risk of flooding or coastal change.

These 'showstoppers' have been used at this stage in the process as the basis for assessing the potential developability of sites. However, evidence gathering is still on-going, and this may identify that some sites have some negative impacts that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated, and this could potentially result in some sites no longer being considered suitable for inclusion in the future draft Local Plan.

Flooding from the sea, rivers and surface water is a significant issue that will impact future development in Eastbourne. Parts of Eastbourne, particularly through Eastbourne

Park, are classified as 'functional floodplain', which is defined as where water is stored in time of flood.

Whilst 'functional floodplain' is a showstopper for development, sites in areas with a lower risk of flooding have been identified in this consultation. Where sites have been identified as having a risk of flooding, further work is being undertaken to assess the detailed nature of any risk, taking climate change impacts into account, to ensure that any proposed development sites can be made safe from flooding for its lifetime and is designed so that it will not increase flood risk elsewhere.

In addition, the Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme, which is seeking to deliver a £100 million coastal flood and erosion risk management project to ensure that the town is resilient to coastal flooding in response to the current climate emergency, is also a key consideration and future decisions on how this will be delivered will influence the on-going preparation of the local plan, including the potential suitability of sites.

There are also other important considerations that will affect the developability of sites. Further detailed work is being prepared to inform the on-going preparation of the Local Plan, including assessing the ecological impacts of development in particular areas, identifying landscape and townscape impacts of development in different locations, and evaluating the financial viability of development to ensure that sites and policies are realistic and deliverable, including infrastructure necessary to support their development.

GROWTH STRATEGY

(for consultation purposes only)

Access to safe, secure and affordable housing is fundamental to supporting the health and independence of residents, creating sustainable communities and promoting economic growth. This means delivering new homes is necessary to meet the needs of a changing population, to help address the housing affordability crisis and to attract and retain working age households that will contribute to the local economy.

Similarly, the provision of new employment development provides more jobs and greater opportunities, especially for younger people and business start-ups, which increases the worth of the local economy and attracts value to the town.

The NPPF requires that local plans have an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development needs. This means that the Local Plan must set out a housing requirement for the plan period, identifying the number of homes that are required to be delivered each year. The Government checks delivery of housing in each planning authority through the Housing Delivery Test and there are sanctions if the requirement is not met.

The Government determines that the number of homes needed in Eastbourne is **738 homes per year**, or 14,760 homes over the plan period. This is calculated using the 'Standard Method' that is set out in national policy.

Whilst there is no equivalent to the 'Standard Method' for calculating employment needs, the Eastbourne and Wealden Employment and Economic Study (2022)⁴ identifies a

⁴ www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/eastbournelocalplan

need for at least 76,184 sqm of employment (office, industrial and warehouse) floorspace to be provided in Eastbourne between 2021 and 2039.

The NPPF expects local plans to meet their identified need for housing and employment uses, unless there are strong reasons for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area; or the adverse impacts of meeting the need would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against the NPPF as a whole.

There are strong reasons why Eastbourne is unable to meet its development needs in full. The town is surrounded by the protected downland of the South Downs National Park to the west, the English Channel to the south, and the boundary with Wealden District to the north and east, and much of the land through the central area known as Eastbourne Park is functional floodplain. These physical and environmental constraints limit the amount of land that is available to develop. As such, the town does not have sufficient land to meet development needs in full, even at significantly increased densities. This means that the Government will require us to consider all sites with potential for development and to ensure that all opportunities are maximised so as many new homes and employment spaces are accommodated as possible in a sustainable way.

This means that the housing requirement for the local plan will be a capacity-based target, rather than a needs-based target.

Under the Localism Act 2011, Eastbourne Borough Council currently has a duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities and statutory organisations. Discussions are on-

GROWTH STRATEGY

(for consultation purposes only)

going with Wealden District Council regarding how much, if any, of Eastbourne's unmet need can be accommodated outside of Eastbourne's boundaries.

The majority of new homes will be delivered by making the most efficient use of previously developed land within the built-up area through increasing the density of new development in locations that are highly accessible to services and public transport, whilst also respecting the character of the local area. This would include seeking higher densities on sites in the town centre through the provision of taller buildings.

In identifying a capacity-based target for Eastbourne in the Local Plan, the following have been taken into account:

- Sites that have already been completed within the first three years of the plan period
- Sites that have a current planning permission where development has not yet been completed
- An allowance for the delivery of homes on sites that cannot be identified in advance, which is based on past trends and adjusted to take into account on-going circumstances
- Sites identified as being suitable, available and achievable for future development through the Land Availability Assessment (LAA).

A total of 557 new homes were built in the first three years of the plan period (2019 - 2022) and there are 1,090 homes that have an existing planning permission across 135 sites (as at 1st April 2022).

Since 2006, a significant number of homes have been delivered through the sub-division

of existing dwellings and the change of use of buildings from non-residential uses. It is not possible to identify where and when these developments will come forward, but it is a consistent source of supply that is expected to continue. Therefore, an allowance has been made for 1,260 new homes being delivered through conversions and changes of use over the plan period, based on past trends and how these are expected to change in future.

The Land Availability Assessment (LAA) has identified 197 sites that could deliver homes and employment space. This includes:

- 137 small sites (providing less than 10 homes each) within the existing built-up area that have the potential to provide 407 homes via 'infill' or redevelopment of existing sites
- 38 medium-sized sites (providing between 10 and 25 homes each) within the existing built-up area that have potential to provide 564 homes via 'infill' or redevelopment of existing sites
- 22 large 'strategic' sites that have potential to accommodate 2,523 new homes and 53,000 sqm of employment space through redevelopment of existing sites and extensions to the built-up area

This means that the Eastbourne Local Plan will make provision for 6,401 new homes (equivalent to an average of 320 new homes per year) and 53,000 sqm of employment floorspace (consisting of 13,000sqm of office use, and 40,000sqm of industrial and warehouse uses) over the plan period between 2019 and 2039.

GROWTH STRATEGY

(for consultation purposes only)

This 'Growth Strategy' aims to ensure a balance between:

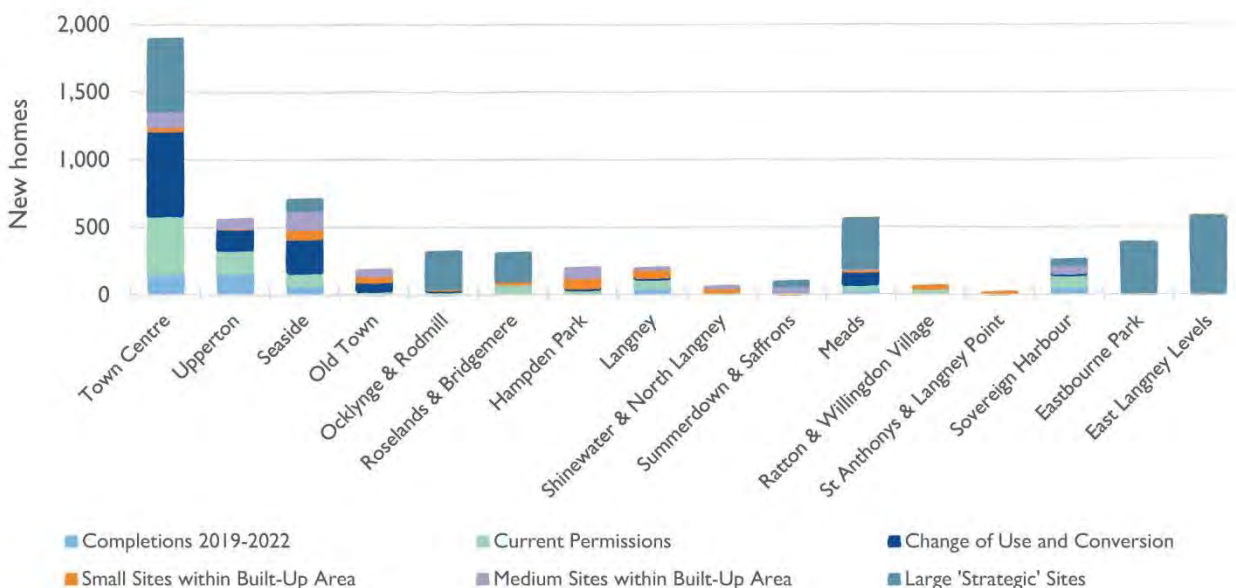
- Providing housing and employment opportunities for future generations
- Making the most efficient use of the limited amount of land available for development by increasing the density on sites in the most sustainable locations within walking distance of services and facilities (where local character and townscape allows), thereby reducing the need to travel and supporting local businesses
- Protecting the residential and environmental amenity of existing and future residents
- Mitigating the impacts of climate change by avoiding development within the areas at the highest risk of flooding
- Safeguarding the most valuable green, open spaces and habitats
- Ensuring that infrastructure can meet future demands from growth

This means that growth is mainly focused on previously developed land, mainly within the Town Centre and immediately surrounding neighbourhoods such as Seaside, Upperton and Meads. There are also a number of former industrial sites in Roselands & Bridgemere that can provide new homes. The distribution of homes by neighbourhood is identified in the graph below. Overall, in excess of **80% of the new homes provided would be on 'brownfield' land**.

However, not all new development can be accommodated on 'brownfield' land. The 'Growth Strategy' also includes the development of 'greenfield' sites where there are no 'showstoppers' to development. This includes three sites located on the fringes of Eastbourne Park that will provide 390 new homes, and the expansion to the east of the town into the East Langney Levels, which will provide 587 new homes.

Issues around affordable housing and the type, size and mix of homes will be addressed at the next stage in the local plan process.

Number of homes anticipated to be delivered between 2019 and 2039 by neighbourhood



GROWTH STRATEGY

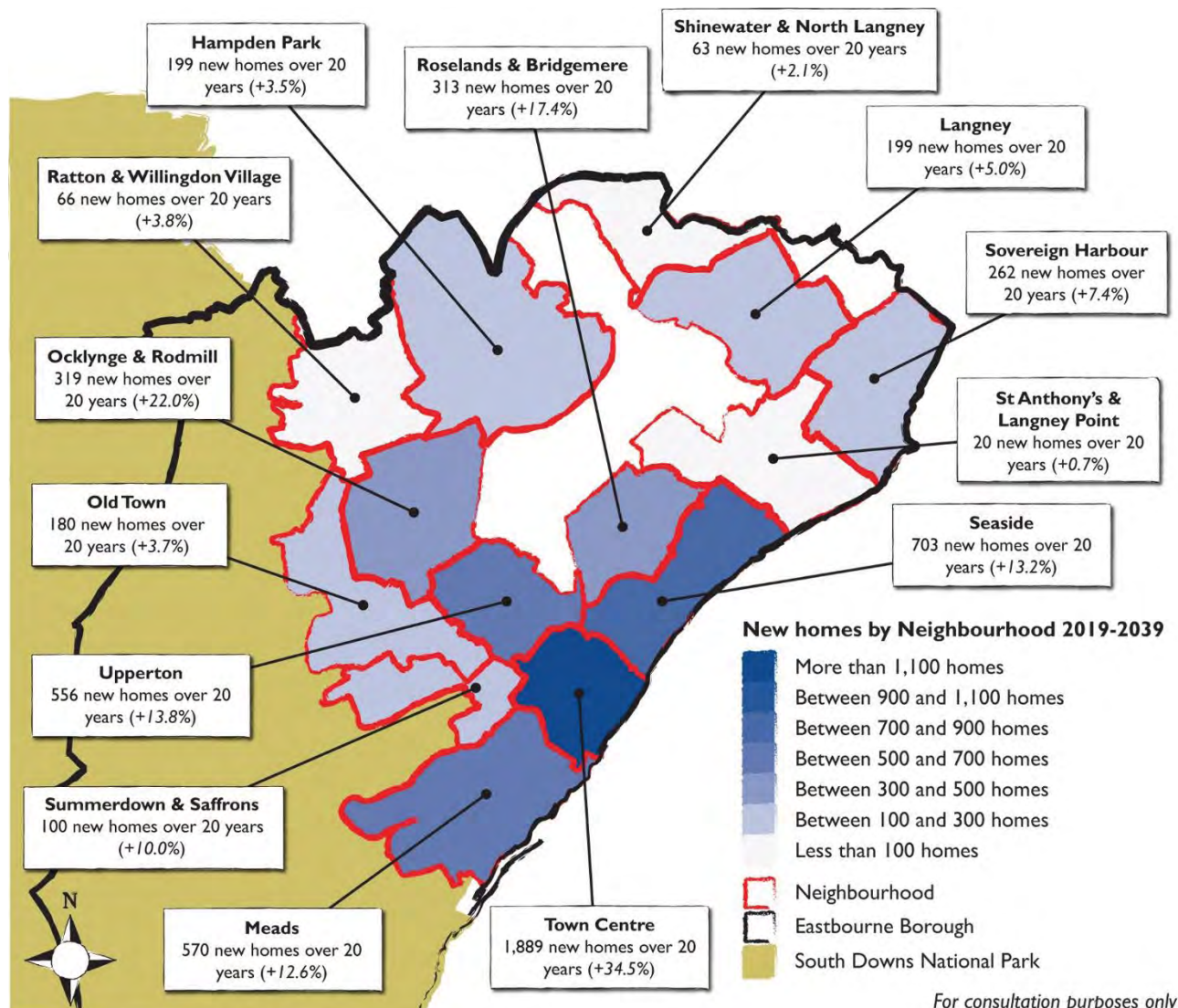
(for consultation purposes only)

New industrial and warehouse space amounting to 30,000 sqm will be provided via expansion adjacent to the existing designated industrial estates off Lottbridge Drive. Office provision will be mainly focused on development at Sovereign Harbour (Site 6), which will provide 10,000 sqm of office floorspace and is carried forward from the previous Local Plan, with some additional office space (3,000 sqm) being provided as part of a mixed-use development on land adjacent to the Enterprise Centre and Railway Station in the Town Centre.

This 'Growth Strategy' represents an overall increase of 13% in the existing number of homes in the town, and an increase of 15% in the existing employment floorspace in the town, between 2019 and 2039.

It is important to understand that this level of growth would be provided in Eastbourne over 20 years. The potential complexity of some of the sites means that there are likely to be lower levels of housing delivery in the short-term, with the number of new home completions increasing later in the plan period.

Housing growth within built-up area by neighbourhood 2019-2039

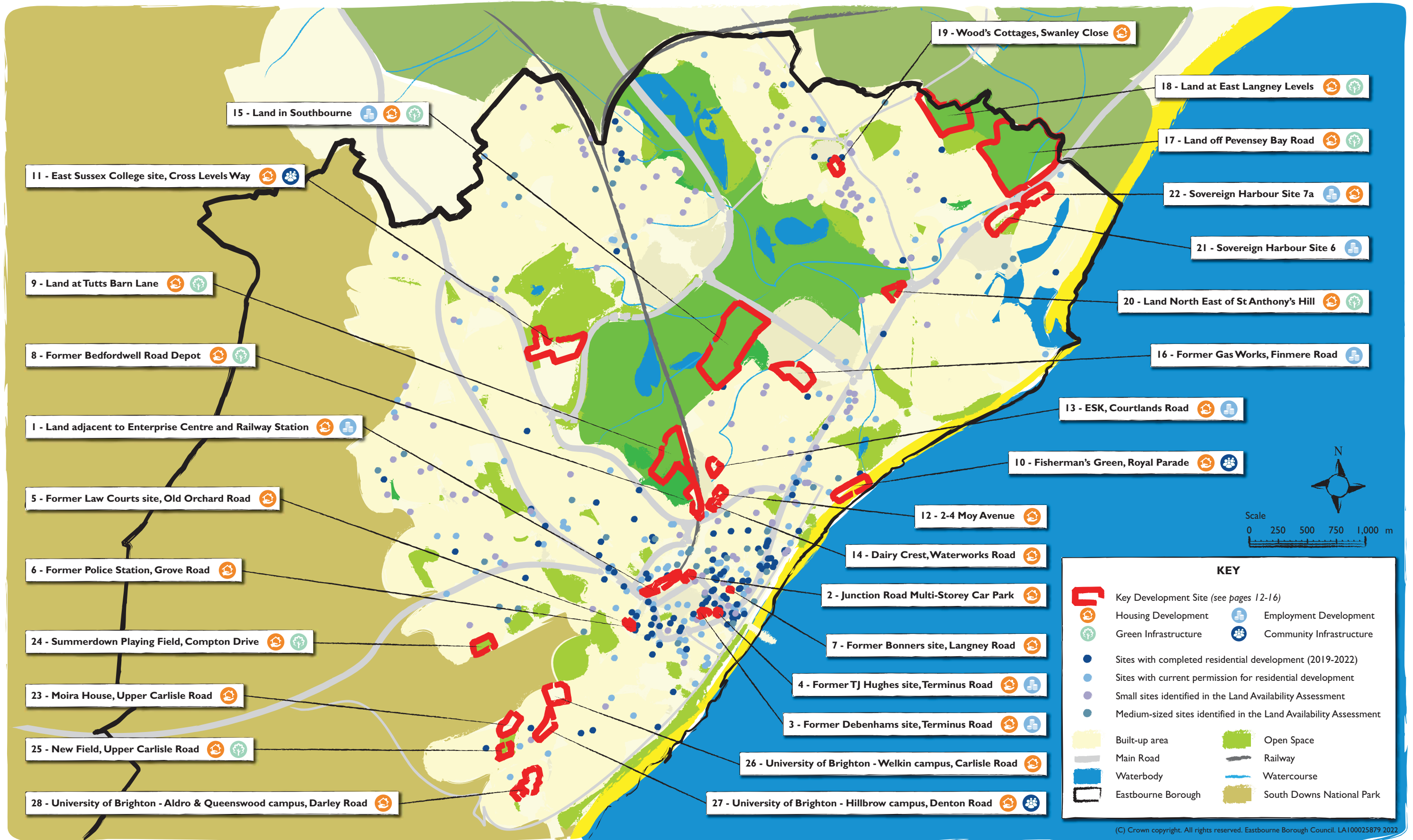


For consultation purposes only

GROWTH LOCATIONS

(for consultation purposes only)

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KEY DEVELOPMENT SITES

(for consultation purposes only)

A number of 'key development sites' have been identified that could accommodate relatively large-scale development for Eastbourne. These are generally sites identified in the Land Availability Assessment as being potentially capable of accommodating more than 25 homes or 3,000sqm of commercial floorspace, but also includes large sites that have an extant planning permission to provide a full picture of where development is expected to take place over the plan period. Further detail on these sites is provided in the Housing Background Paper.

These 'key development sites' are not currently subject to any 'showstopper' constraints and are likely to be considered for allocation in the Local Plan. However, it is recognised that a number of these sites do have issues that would require mitigation if they were to come forward for development, and further work is being undertaken to understand these.



1 – Land adjacent the Enterprise Centre and Railway Station

Currently allocated in the Town Centre Local Plan, this site is a previously developed site, consisting of a surface car park serving the Enterprise Centre and the Railway Station. The site could provide around 5,000sqm of retail space and 3,000sqm as an extension to the Enterprise Centre, and around 192 homes through the provision of a tall building with replacement parking provided on the lower floors.



2 – Junction Road Car Park

The site consists of a 6-storey multi-storey car parking, located within the Town Centre. The current condition of the building means that it is unlikely to re-open as a car park, which means it would have the potential for redevelopment to provide around 80 homes through the provision of a tall building.



3 – Former Debenhams site, 152-170 Terminus Road

The site is a vacant 3-storey retail building within the Town Centre, and size and layout of the existing building means that it is unlikely to be reused for retail use as it currently is. The site has the potential to accommodate around 120 homes through the provision of a tall building with approximately 1,000sqm of retail and leisure space on the ground floor.



4 – Former TJ Hughes site, 177-187 Terminus Road

The site is a former 4-storey retail building and is currently subject to a proposal for the redevelopment of the site to provide 65 homes and around 700 sqm of retail space on the ground floor. The development of the site is proposed to retain the existing façade. The site is located in a sustainable location in the Town Centre, with good access to services and facilities and accessibility to public transport.

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KEY DEVELOPMENT SITES

(for consultation purposes only)



5 – Former Law Courts, Old Orchard Road

The site of the former law court on Old Orchard Road is currently subject to a proposal for redevelopment to provide 35 homes, including provision of affordable housing. Being within the town centre, the site is in a sustainable location with good access to services and facilities and access to public transport, and it is also adjacent to an existing residential area.



6 – Former Police Station, Grove Road

The former Police Station on Grove Road has been vacant for a number of years since the Police reception moved to 1 Grove Road. The site currently has planning permission of a change of use to create 50 homes in a sustainable location close to services and facilities with good access to public transport.



7 - 56 Langney Road

The site is a 2-storey retail unit in the town centre that is expected to become available for redevelopment later in the plan period. The redevelopment of the site, which could incorporate a taller building, could provide an additional 47 homes within a sustainable location.



8 – Bedfordwell Road Depot

The site is a former depot located off Bedfordwell Road alongside the railway line. There is a proposal for a mixed-use development providing a total of 100 homes, which would include the conversion of the existing listed Pump House building to residential and commercial use. The site would also include green infrastructure, and has the potential to facilitate access to the western part of Land at Tutts Barn Lane (Site 9).



9 – Land at Tutts Barn Lane

This site on the edge of Eastbourne Park could be considered in two parts: the former railway sidings to the east of the site adjacent to the railway line and north of the Bedfordwell Road development site, which could accommodate around 150 homes; and the western part of the site adjacent to the existing allotments (which would be retained) along Tutts Barn Lane, which could accommodate a further 120 homes.



10 – Fisherman's Green

The site currently consists of surface car park, tennis courts and community and commercial uses. There is redevelopment potential for the site, and one option could be the provision of around 80 homes. Any loss of existing community uses and sports courts as a result of development should be re-provided. The site could be impacted by proposed solutions to coastal flooding defences as part of the Coastal Management Scheme, which could mean it may be unavailable for development in future.

KEY DEVELOPMENT SITES

(for consultation purposes only)



11 – East Sussex College site, Cross Levels Way

East Sussex College is seeking to rationalise the use of its Eastbourne campus which will release surplus land, thereby releasing capital for investment into the educational provision at the campus. The surplus land could accommodate approximately 200 - 275 homes, including the potential for extra-care provision, in addition to enhanced educational accommodation for the college.



12 – 2-4 Moy Avenue

Consisting of a derelict warehouse building adjacent to a residential area, the site has planning permission for the refurbishment of the existing building including a change of use to residential, and the development of two further blocks to the rear of the refurbished building to provide a total of 72 homes.



13 – ESK, Courtlands Road

The ESK site on Courtlands Road consists of a retail warehouse and surface car park, located between an industrial area and a residential area. There is a proposal for the redevelopment of the site to provide 136 homes through a mix of houses and flats, with around 300 sqm of commercial space also being provided.



14 – Dairy Crest, Waterworks Road

The Dairy Crest site on Waterworks Road, a former warehouse building located on the edge of an existing industrial estate and adjacent to a residential area, has a current planning permission for the comprehensive redevelopment of the site to provide 60 new homes.



15 – Land at Southbourne

The site is a greenfield site within Eastbourne Park but adjacent to the current built-up area. The northern part of the site adjacent to Lottbridge Drove has potential for the development of around 30,000 sqm of industrial and warehouse space. The southern part of the site adjacent to the existing residential area could be suitable for around 85 homes, with a clear buffer provided between residential and employment uses.



16 – Former Gas Works, Finmere Road

The site is a former gas works, located between residential and industrial uses. The site has been decommissioned, but its former use as a gas storage facility means that it will require demolition, decontamination and remediation. Once this has taken place, the site could potentially accommodate approximately 10,000 sqm of industrial and warehouse space, subject to alternative access arrangements being made.

KEY DEVELOPMENT SITES

(for consultation purposes only)



17 – Land off Pevensey Bay Road

The development of this site would be part of an extension of the existing urban area into the East Langney Levels. Development would be focused towards the southern part of the site adjacent to Pevensey Bay Road and could accommodate around 375 homes. The site would be required to provide appropriate open space and flood, landscape and ecology mitigation, and maintain adequate buffers from existing watercourse.



18 – Land at East Langney Levels

The development of this site would be part of an extension of the existing urban area into the East Langney Levels. The site would require flooding, ecological and landscape mitigation, but if these issues can be overcome it is considered that the site could potentially accommodate 212 homes.



19 – Wood's Cottages, Swanley Close

The site of two former residential properties within extensive grounds, previously used as a brickworks that operated up until the 1940s. It is currently subject to planning permission for the construction of 51 homes with parking, access and landscaping.



20 – Land North East of St Anthony's Hill

This is a greenfield site on the fringe of Eastbourne Park, adjacent to the Langney roundabout. The site is not part of the functional floodplain, but does have potential flooding issues that need further investigation. The site could accommodate 35 homes, taking into account the irregular shape of the site and the need to provide on-site mitigation.



21 - Sovereign Harbour Site 6

Currently allocated for employment (office) use, this site currently contains one office building (Pacific House) and the Sovereign Harbour Community Centre. The site could accommodate an additional 10,000 sqm of office floorspace.



22 – Sovereign Harbour Site 7a

An area of scrub / shingle located between a doctor's surgery and newly established park, the site is currently allocated for employment (office) use, but the high need for homes means that different uses now need to be considered. The site should still provide some employment-generating uses, but could also provide around 40 residential units.

KEY DEVELOPMENT SITES

(for consultation purposes only)



23 – Former Moira House School, Upper Carlisle Road

The Former Moira House School site currently has planning permission for the change of use of some existing school buildings to residential use, and the new build development of additional houses within the site. The site would accommodate 52 homes plus amenity space and playspace.



Eastbourne College sites:

24 - Summerdown Field, Compton Drive

25 – New Field, Upper Carlisle Road

Eastbourne College Incorporated is seeking to consolidate their operations around College Field, including the potential disposal of some outlying sites in order to fund the development of new and improved educational facilities. Playing Fields at **Summerdown Field, Compton Drive** and **New Field, Upper Carlisle Road** are located some distance from the main campus and there is potential, through better use of existing sites, for these playing fields to be made available for development. The sites could both accommodate approximately 35 homes each, but may be subject to alternative provision being made to compensate loss of existing playing pitches.



University of Brighton sites:

26 – Welkin site, Carlisle Road

27 – Hillbrow site, Denton Road

28 – Aldro and Queenswood sites, Darley Road

The University of Brighton have confirmed their intention to relocate their Eastbourne facilities to Brighton, meaning that their current locations may become available for redevelopment.

The **Welkin site** contains relatively new purpose-built student accommodation that could be converted to self-contained flats, with potential for additional development to the front of the site. In total, the site could provide around 113 homes.

At the **Hillbrow site**, the buildings currently used for offices and teaching accommodation could be converted or redeveloped to residential use to provide around 25 homes whilst also retaining the existing sports centre and facilities.

The **Aldro and Queenswood sites**, located adjacent to each other on Darley Road, could be suitable for future residential use. The size of the Aldro site would lend itself to a mixed development of flats and houses providing around 154 homes, whilst Queenswood could also provide a further 57 homes.



The provision of effective infrastructure alongside new housing and employment development is crucial in helping to create and maintain sustainable communities.

Population forecasts indicate that the Growth Strategy identified in this consultation document would result in a population increase of around 8,300 people (8%) over 20 years.

Proposals for growth and development often raise concerns about the capacity of the existing infrastructure. The NPPF requires the Local Plan to make sufficient provision for infrastructure and we are working with infrastructure providers to assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure and its ability to meet forecast demand.

It is important to remember that development will still come forward and will still create impacts on infrastructure even if a Local Plan is not put in place. Through a Local Plan, we can identify where and when development is likely to take place, and therefore plan for cumulative infrastructure impacts and requirements in advance.

An Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is being prepared alongside the Local Plan to provide a comprehensive understanding of existing infrastructure capacity and provision of services across the Borough and to identify any existing deficiencies and where improvements are needed to overcome constraints.

The current understanding in terms of infrastructure capacities and constraints is identified below, and further engagement with infrastructure providers will be undertaken through the course of local plan preparation.

Transport

An early assessment of the likely transport impacts of future growth has been undertaken to understand the need for improvements to

transport infrastructure to accommodate growth from Eastbourne and from the wider area.

Transport modelling indicates that Local Plan growth could have severe impacts on the borough road network, but this is not a constraint to growth as the impacts can be mitigated. The preferred approach for mitigation is to firstly reduce the number of car trips by encouraging modal shift to more sustainable travel options, before considering options for increasing capacity on the road network.

The 'Issues & Options' identified modal shift as a key priority for Eastbourne, so a framework of sustainable transport solutions that explore the potential for modal shift and reduce forecast levels of car use has been identified. This includes initiatives such as:

- planning for '15-minute' neighbourhoods with easy access to key services, public transport and active travel networks
- providing 'car-free' development in accessible locations to reduce car ownership
- Moving away from car dominated roads to create safe and connected sustainable travel corridors
- Increasing capacity for public transport, including bus priority routes and junctions, and integration between bus, rail and sustainable travel.

These measures could result in a 15% reduction in car use. However, some junction improvements will also be required, particularly on the A259 and A2021, to create some additional road capacity.

Further modelling will be undertaken as the preparation of the Local Plan continues to provide more detailed analysis of how specific measures, journey-purposes and corridors will create greater modal shift on the network.

Health

GP practices work together with community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital and voluntary services in their local areas in

INFRASTRUCTURE

groups of practices known as primary care networks (PCNs).

There are three PCNs covering Eastbourne, each of which is responsible for identifying future need for primary care health infrastructure provision in their areas through the production of an 'Estates Strategy'. The Eastbourne PCNs are currently preparing their Estates Strategies, and Eastbourne Borough Council will work with the PCNs to ensure that they take into account future growth from the Local Plan.

Education

Forecasts based on the level of growth identified indicate that there is unlikely to be a need for additional early years, primary or secondary school places in Eastbourne beyond the capacity that is presently available. This is due to birth rates predicted to continue to fall over the plan period.

However, there may be a future need for additional school places for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to be created over the plan period. Further work and engagement will be undertaken with East Sussex County Council to understand how this would best be provided.

Flood Defences

The Environment Agency, East Sussex County Council and the Pevensy Levels and Cuckmere Water Levels Management Board maintain a complex system of water flows and flood defences across Eastbourne.

Blue Heart Project, led by East Sussex County Council, is currently seeking to better understand the local water catchment and mitigate the impact of flooding caused by climate change through technology to manage and monitor water levels in Eastbourne, which will better protect local homes and businesses from flooding in future.

Pevensy Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme is a partnership between the Environment Agency and Eastbourne

Borough Council to manage the risk of coastal flooding and erosion from sea level rise over the next 100 years. The scheme will reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to an estimated 10,000 residential properties, plus key infrastructure, businesses, heritage sites and nature conservation areas.

As the project is in the early stages, there have been no decisions made about the future options for the coast. The current programme indicates that a more refined list of management solutions will be subject to consultation in summer 2023.

Sewerage

The Eastbourne Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW), which is administered by Southern Water, treats wastewater arising from Eastbourne. In conjunction with this, there are currently 52 wastewater pumping stations throughout the Borough, which help to convey the wastewater to the WTW.

Southern Water are currently preparing an updated business plan to determine where investment will need to be made in infrastructure such as WTWs to accommodate growth. However, it is currently understood that the Eastbourne WTW is likely to have sufficient capacity to accommodate growth identified in the Local Plan.

Water Supply

South East Water is responsible for providing the Borough with a clean, safe supply of drinking water. As a 'water stressed area', South East Water have prepared a Water Resources Management Plan, which estimates the amount of water needed from 2020 to 2080, and how those water needs can be met.

In addition to leakage reductions and water efficiency measures, the Water Resources Management Plan identifies that demand for water in Eastbourne will be met through an extension to the existing reservoir at Arlington, as well as transferring water from an improved Bewl water treatment works.

1. Do you agree with the 'Growth Strategy' outlined in this document? If not, which elements do you disagree with?
2. Have we missed a spatial option to deliver new homes and employment space? If so, what is it, and what evidence would be needed to ensure its deliverability over the plan period?
3. Is there any evidence to suggest that any of the key development sites should not be considered for allocation in the Local Plan?
4. Are there any key development sites that have not been identified in this document?
5. Do you have any other comments / suggestions about what the Local Plan should contain?

How to Respond

We are keen to receive views on the Growth Strategy and you are welcome to respond to any or all of the questions we have set out. Your input will help in the preparation of the Eastbourne Local Plan, and will be really important in determining how the borough grows and develops in the future.

The consultation is open for a 10-week period between Friday 11th November 2022 and Friday 20th January 2023. All consultation responses should be received by 5pm on the closing date.

The consultation, supporting documents and evidence can be accessed through the Council's on-line consultation portal⁵. If you do not have internet access, the Growth Strategy Consultation is also available to read as a paper copy at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4UG.

⁵ www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/eastbournelocalplan

You can respond to the consultation by:

- Submitting comments directly via our on-line consultation portal
- By sending comments either by email to: LocalPlan@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk, or post to: Planning Policy, Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4UG.

Please note that although the consultation will be publicised using social media, comments made via these routes cannot be considered as a formal response to the consultation. Therefore you are encouraged to make your comments via the channels identified above.

If you have any questions or experience any difficulty in submitting your representations, please contact us, the Planning Policy Team, via email at LocalPlan@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk or by telephone on 01323 410000 quoting 'Eastbourne Local Plan'.

NEXT STEPS



Whilst this document focuses on housing and employment growth, work is also progressing on the other policy issues to be covered by the Local Plan. For example, a series of evidence base documents are currently being prepared covering a range of policy areas. This work, alongside the outcomes of this consultation, will feed into the development of the next stage of the Local Plan.

A draft Local Plan will be published that sets out the preferred strategy for growth, site allocations and policies, and it is expected that this will be subject to public consultation in late 2023. Following this the plan will be submitted to Government to commence the examination process, and it is anticipated that the Local Plan will finally be adopted in late 2024.



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