

Scrutiny Committee

5 February 2024



Working in partnership with **Eastbourne Homes**

Time and venue:

6.00 pm in the Court Room - Town Hall, Eastbourne

Membership:

Councillor Kshama Shore (Chair); Councillors Alan Shuttleworth (Deputy-Chair) Kathy Ballard, Ali Dehdashty, Nigel Goodyear, Jane Lamb, Amanda Morris and Hugh Parker

Quorum: 3

Published: Friday, 26 January 2024

Agenda

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2023 (Pages 5 - 14)

2 Apologies for absence / declaration of substitute members

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

4 Questions by members of the public

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

5 Urgent items of business

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

6 Right to address the meeting/order of business

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

7 Corporate Plan 2024-2028 (Pages 15 - 38)

- 8 **Eastbourne and Lewes Community Safety Partnership - Annual Report - to follow**
- 9 **Request to Southern Water to attend a Scrutiny meeting - verbal update**
- 10 **Airbourne - post event update (Pages 39 - 52)**
- 11 **General fund budget 2024/25 and capital programme - to follow**
- 12 **Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Capital Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2024/25 - to follow**
- 13 **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget and Rent Setting 2024/25 and HRA Capital Programme 2023-28 - to follow**
- 14 **Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024-25 - to follow**
- 15 **Forward Plan of Decisions (Pages 53 - 70)**
To receive the Forward Plan of the Cabinet.
- 16 **Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 71 - 74)**
To receive the Scrutiny Work Programme.
- 17 **Date of the next meeting**
To be confirmed.

Information for the public

Accessibility:

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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**

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room - Town Hall, Eastbourne on 4 December 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Kshama Shore (Chair).

Councillors Alan Shuttleworth (Deputy-Chair), Kathy Ballard, Ali Dehdashty, Nigel Goodyear, Jane Lamb, Amanda Morris and Hugh Parker.

Officers in attendance:

Philip Brown (Property Lawyer), Luke Dreeling (Performance Lead), Homira Javadi (Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer)), Nick Peeters (Committee Officer), Nick Ducatel (Functional Lead - Growth and Prosperity), Jo Harper (Head of Business Planning and Performance), Steven Houchin (Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance)), Oliver Jones (Lead, Housing, Homelessness & Community Safety) and Jo Wunsch (Specialist Advisor (Sustainability)).

Also in attendance:

Paul Avery (AECOM Consultants)

31 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2023

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2024 were submitted and approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

32 Apologies for absence / declaration of substitute members

There were no apologies received.

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

There were none.

34 Questions by members of the public

There were none.

35 Urgent items of business

There were none.

36 Right to address the meeting/order of business

There were none received.

37 Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Progress Report

The Chair, Councillor Shore, advised that the order of items on the agenda would be altered, with Item 15 - Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Progress Report, being considered as the first substantive item. The remaining reports would be considered as per the agenda order. The report provided an update on the Council's progress towards the aims of achieving Eastbourne Carbon Neutral by 2030. During discussion, the following points were highlighted:

- Further detail on the baseline figures used as a starting point and confirmation on whether they were nationally set, would be provided. The 'light-touch' refresh referred to in the report and recommendations would involve updating data in the document, such as names and organisations, some of which were out-of-date. It was confirmed that Eastbourne as a town and Eastbourne Borough Council were measured differently and the refresh would look more at how the Strategy outcomes would be actioned and ensuring that, where possible, resources were available to achieve the outcomes. There would be further, more thorough periodic refreshes of the Strategy.
- The figures reported on were those within the Council's buildings and other assets. The emissions levels measured in those areas had reduced during the pandemic but had subsequently increased as the buildings and assets came back into use. The measurements for the Town of Eastbourne were collected nationally by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, however, there was two-year delay in their publication. The data would be available in the 2024 strategy.
- A large part of the work within the aims of the Strategy was to work with partnerships, and in areas where the Council was not able to directly reduce levels of emissions, to influence organisations and industry that did directly impact on emission levels.
- Zapmap was an online tool that included real-time identification of charging points, nationally. It was also confirmed that East Sussex County Council had received £4.4 million of funding for the installation of on-street charging points and a public consultation would be included, to determine the locations.
- Future reports would include a breakdown of emissions by service area and the ability to project future levels and represent the data in graph form would be considered. The Council's Tourism Team were working with Eastbourne Eco Action Network to record and monitor the levels of emissions from travel to and from events in the Borough. A presentation on the emissions from Eastbourne Airbourne would be available at the Committee's next meeting.

- Members felt that a more thorough refresh was needed with measurable outcomes.

Resolved to support the Officer recommendations to the Cabinet, subject to the following, amended recommendation being considered:

(3) Approve to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Lead Member for Climate Change, to complete a thorough refresh of the Climate Change Strategy and action plan in readiness for the new financial year 2024/5.

38 Update on the work of Consultants - Eastbourne Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Study

Leigh Palmer, Head of Planning, introduced the report which provided background to the request from the Scrutiny Committee for an update on licenced houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) in Eastbourne Borough, and the commissioning of consultants to provide data on HMOs. It was highlighted to Members that the update and the report that would follow would not include recommendations for policy direction but instead, were an analysis of the current situation, based on evidence gathered through the Study. It would be for Members of the Council to decide if further scrutiny or action was required.

Paul Avery, Principal Housing Consultant, AECOM, gave a presentation to the Committee which updated Members on the objectives of the Study, which was to provide a robust, evidence-based analysis of the role and impact of HMOs in Eastbourne. The Study covered:

- A review of the current HMOs policy and associated literature.
- An exploration of the current numbers of HMOs.
- The physical condition of the HMOs (the study precluded the internal inspection of properties).
- The impact of HMOs on occupants, communities and neighbourhoods.
- The role of HMOs in the housing market.

During discussion, the following points were highlighted:

- There had been a delay in the production of the report, and there was one dataset that was due to be provided by the Council's Housing Team. Once received, the report would be complete.
- The Housing Team had a diarised inspection regime and responded to risk areas such as mould damp and dangerous electrics. Previous inspection monitoring by the Council had not been included in the Study, as it was considered that a fresh approach would provide a more balanced review. Members considered that previous monitoring regimes and more information on the internal condition of HMOs was needed to provide a

more thorough analysis.

- The suggested interventions were part of the research undertaken, including a review of interventions taken by other authorities, and discussions with those authorities to understand which interventions were successful and how this had been evidenced. The original report to the Cabinet, which initiated the commissioning of the Study, had also included interventions put forward by the Council's Planning Team.
- There were a number of HMOs that were managed individually or as part of a cluster. Some were managed by third-sector organisations that offered temporary accommodation. The benefit or negative impact of an HMO on the area around it could be determined by how well the HMO was managed. It was unusual for the manager/owner of the HMO to live in the property, although the Study had not included this level of investigation.
- The model of an HMO with a live-in manager or a usable room that could provide shared space for residents was considered useful. It had potential for reducing anti-social behaviour that could otherwise end up in public areas. This would, however, impact on the revenue for owners/landlords from the property.
- The model used for the doorstep interviews involved identifying sample areas with the highest percentage of HMO's and randomly sampled addresses in those areas chosen for an interview. The same process was used for low control areas with low HMO concentrations.
- Communication, engagement with communities and addressing negative perceptions of HMO's were areas that could be focused on.
- Members asked that the dataset required to complete the report be provided at the earliest available opportunity.

Resolved to note the update.

39 Corporate performance - quarter 2 - 2023/24

Luke Dreeling, Performance Lead, presented the report which provided an update on the Council's progress and performance in respect of service areas for the Second Quarter of the year (July-September 2023) as shown in Appendix 1 to the report. Linda Farley, Head of Customer First, also provided an update on the Council's complaints procedure. During discussion, the following points were highlighted:

- Solutions Sprint was an internal group of existing Council staff which looked at processes and identified any efficiencies that could be made.
- Seven new starters were anticipated to be working independently in the Customer Contact Centre by January/February 2024. Four additional staff would be in place to deal solely with garden waste enquiries after the

Christmas period, and interviews had taken place, with four new staff appointed. This left one and half vacancies. There were seasonal variances with January-March a busy time with garden waste renewal and the annual billing of council tax. The summer period often involved environmental enquiries due to the warmer temperature.

- Staff availability was managed during the busy periods to maximise staff capacity on phones. Staff recognised that requests for annual leave needed to meet the demands of the business.
- Communication was a key area for improving recycling rates. The Eastbourne Waste Team had an officer dedicated to community engagement who undertook educational work around recycling.
- Staff retention within contact centres had shared challenges nationally. The Council's contact centre was seen as a pathway for staff to other areas within the Council. Skills-based routing was being looked at, which would involve staff being trained to a higher level, with a focus on specific services. Apprenticeships was another area that was used to provide and retain staff.
- **Update on the five complaints that progressed to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman** – The five complaints comprised of three regarding housing, one regarding business rates and one regarding council tax. The Ombudsman was satisfied that the measures put in place regarding the business rates and council tax complaints were adequate and they did not progress further. The three housing complaints resulted in the Council providing varying amounts of compensation and a request from the Ombudsman for the Council to put measures in place to improve the service, which have been undertaken.
- Staff were cognisant of the need to fully understand the customer experience and where possible, when the case was passed to an individual member of the Team, to take ownership of the enquiry. A revised complaints policy was currently being reviewed and this would be consulted on in the New Year.

Resolved to note the report.

40 Revenue and Capital Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2023-24

Steve Houchin, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, presented the report which provided an assessment of the Council's financial performance against its approved 2023-24 budget. The report included key financial risks, issues and opportunities identified since 1 April 2023 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- Homelessness in the Borough was one of the key issues facing the Council, with a significant impact on the Council's budget and overspend. The three areas the Council was working towards were: the continuing lobbying by the

Leader and Cabinet for additional funding and the raising of the issue at a National level; the work towards mitigating the causes of homelessness through early prevention, leading to a reduction in the number of households presenting as homeless; and the work of the Section 151 Officer in continuing to engage with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and highlight the issue from the Council's financial situation.

- The worsened position of £1.6m from that reported at Q1 and highlighted in the report, was based on information as of the 30 September 2023. Work had been undertaken to identify areas of spend within the Budget that could be removed or reduced and this work was ongoing. Homelessness had been a factor in the overspend, however, the mitigations already highlighted had been put in place and it was anticipated that as the Council moved through the year, the variance would reduce. The first quarter of reporting often involved a 'light-touch' position in the identification of overspend and the second quarter had involved more thorough work in areas such as homelessness and its impact.
- A Member requested that the Cabinet be advised of the Scrutiny Committee's support of the ongoing work towards promoting homelessness as a widespread issue and the need for a national response, with Government support. Members recognised that, although homelessness was a significant issue, there were other contributing factors that impacted on the Council's financial position. It was further noted by Members that a Full Council motion on Housing and Homelessness had been moved and discussed in November 2023 and had received cross-party support. Members were advised that the very recent and current levels of homelessness and the provision of temporary/emergency accommodation in the Borough were unprecedented and disproportionate, and presented a serious concern to the Council's finances.

Resolved that, following a proposal by Councillor Shuttleworth, the members of the Committee noted and supported the Officer recommendations to the Cabinet, along with a strong endorsement from the Scrutiny Committee of the Council's ongoing work towards its engagement with Government, in highlighting the impact and cost of homelessness and the need for additional funding and support to tackle unprecedented levels.

41 Interim medium term financial strategy

Homira Javid, Chief Finance Officer and Steve Houchin, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, presented the report which provided an update on the interim Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024/25 to 2027/28, together with the updated Capital Programme position. During discussion, the following points were highlighted:

- The revenue support grant had reduced by approximately £10 million over the previous 10 years. This had been replaced by approximately £4 million in non-domestic rates, over the same period. The MTFS was a complex

piece of modelling and set the demands and requirements of the Council to provide statutory and some discretionary services as effectively as possible. However, the Council could not operate in isolation and its financial modelling was linked to current demands, set against the National picture.

- The Council had secured Levelling-Up grants, however, this was capital funding for specific schemes. The MTFS highlighted the continued pressure on revenue expenditure and whereas it was anticipated that there would be a level of recovery, external and national pressures were limiting the ability of the Council to manage the recovery locally.
- The current situation was very difficult and it was not considered that the Council's position, in continually using reserves and potentially having to reduce service-levels, was sustainable.

Resolved to note the report.

42 Council tax and business rate base 2024/25 - to follow

Steve Houchin, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, presented the report which outlined the Council Tax Base and net yield from Business Rate Income for 2024/25 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

There was no further discussion on the report.

Resolved to note the report.

43 Housing Services - Current Operating Pressures

Oliver Jones, Strategy Lead, Homes First, presented the report which provided a summary of the current operating context and the challenges this is presenting to the delivery of housing services in the Borough.

Members noted the figures already provided on the levels of projected homelessness over the next year, and thanked officers for providing a human element to those figures.

Resolved to note the report.

44 Local council tax reduction scheme

Members were advised that this report and its recommendations would be considered at a later Cabinet meeting.

45 Changes to Discretionary Council Tax Discounts and Empty Homes Premiums from 01 April 2024

Nick Ducatel, Lead for Income Maximisation and Welfare, presented the report which provided detail on the expected level of certain Council Tax discounts and Council Tax premiums with effect from 1 April 2024 and 1 April 2025.

During discussion, the following points were highlighted:

- The Income Maximisation and Welfare Team was proactive in monitoring building control and planning portals to ensure that new builds and conversions were brought into the council tax framework as soon as possible. Empty Homes reviews were carried out, with the most recent one carried out in February 2023. The reviews would continue and measures would be put in place to ensure that council tax avoidance was reduced.
- The recommended levels of council tax discounts and premiums in the report were in line with other districts and boroughs in East Sussex that were already charging the maximum permitted.

Resolved to note the report.

46 Eastbourne Borough Council Asset Strategy

Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance, presented the report which proposed a new Corporate Property and Assets Strategy, in line with recommendations from the Assurance Review. During discussion, the following points were highlighted:

- The work on identifying which assets were appropriate for disposal had run in parallel with development of the Strategy. Some assets had already been disposed of or leased and these were detailed in 2.2 of the report. It had become evident that there were a variety of challenges in disposing of the remaining assets and there would be further reports as the challenges were worked through.

Resolved to note the report.

47 Forward Plan of Decisions

The Chair, Councillor Shore introduced the Forward Plan of Cabinet decisions, which outlined those reports due for consideration by the Cabinet its future meetings.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan of Cabinet Decisions,

48 Scrutiny Work Programme

The Chair, Councillor Shore, introduced the item which provided an opportunity for Members to add items to the Committee's work programme.

Members were advised that the update on data from Airbourne 2022 and a presentation from Southern Water would be included as items at the Committee's next meeting.

Resolved to note the Scrutiny Committee work programme.

49 Date of the next meeting

Resolved to note that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to be held on 5 February 2024 in the Court Room, Town Hall, Eastbourne commencing at 6:00pm.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm

Councillor Kshama Shore (Chair)

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Report to:	Scrutiny
Date:	5 February 2024
Title:	Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028
Report of:	Robert Cottrill, Chief Executive
Cabinet member:	Councillor Stephen Holt, Leader of the Council (Community Strategy, Local Strategic Partnership, the Corporate Plan, Performance and Staff)
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	For Cabinet to consider and recommend the draft plan to Full Council for adoption
Decision type:	Budget and policy framework
Officer recommendation(s):	(1) To consider the Corporate Plan, (2) That any final minor amendments arising from the consultation responses be delegated for amendment to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, and (3) That full council adopt the Plan as its overarching corporate policy document for the next 4 years.
Reasons for recommendations:	To enable the Council to set out its strategic vision, objectives and priority projects for the next four years and provide a firm basis for forward planning and performance management.
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 Corporate Plan, attached at appendix 1, has been developed to encapsulate the council's strategic vision, objectives and priorities for the next four years. This Plan is a key document for the council and supersedes the previous plan covering the 2022 – 2026 period.
- 1.2 It sets out the council's commitments to its residents and businesses and outlines a programme of important strategic objectives for the borough. It is important to bear in mind that the next four year's priorities are set against an

uncertain and challenging financial backdrop which requires the council to make the best possible use of its limited resources.

2 Development of the Plan

2.1 In order to ensure full and wide engagement in the development of this plan, an early draft was developed in the summer of 2023. This was subject to extensive debate and consideration by staff and members, ahead of a formal public consultation period in October and November 2023.

2.2 The key themes of the plan are;

- High quality, responsive services
- Housing and the cost of living crisis
- Economic development and tourism
- Sustainability and environment

3 Outcome expected and performance management

3.1 The plan provides the authority with a robust framework within which to monitor and assess performance and achievements. Progress against key performance measures will be reported to members on a quarterly basis, as part of normal performance management arrangements (through both Scrutiny and Cabinet). In addition, progress against the plan in its entirety will be reported annually.

4 Consultation

4.1 The formal consultation undertaken in October and November 2023 provided the opportunity for the public, local businesses, key partners and stakeholders as well as members and staff, to give their views on the draft plan. Attached at appendix 2 is a summary of the consultation findings.

4.2 There was, overall, strong support for the plan and the proposed strategic direction it sets out. Views were expressed and requests for clarification were made in the responses received. However, it is not felt that these amount to any significant changes being required to the plan. It is recommended, therefore, that the Chief Executive and Leader be given delegated authority to make any necessary minor amendment ahead of consideration by full council later in February.

5 Corporate plan and council policies

5.1 The corporate plan is the strategic document for the council for the next four years. Other plans and strategies developed during this period will need to demonstrate their alignment with this document.

6 Financial appraisal

6.1 The financial aspects of all projects and actions within the Corporate Plan as set out in Appendix 1 will be included within the approved budget for 2024/25 and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, or (in the case of new initiatives which may

still be at an early planning stage) will be subject to future reports to, and approval by, Cabinet.

7 Legal implications

- 7.1 Cabinet is asked to recommend the plan to Full Council as Full Council is the appropriate body to make the decision. This is because the plan is part of the policy framework that is required to be adopted by the Council.

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8 Risk management implications

- 8.1 The risk management implications of individual decisions relating to the projects and initiatives covered in this report will be addressed as part of the planning and delivery of those individual projects.

9 Equality analysis

- 9.1 Equality Analyses are being undertaken in relation to the individual projects which make up this Council-wide Plan, and therefore it has not been considered necessary to undertake an overarching analysis of the Plan as a whole. Analyses for the individual projects will be informed by the results of the consultation and ensuing feedback from residents. It should be noted that the section of the plan entitled 'housing and the cost of living crisis' focuses particularly on how the council is continuing to respond to the particular challenges faced by local people adversely impacted by cost of living issues, including those from protected groups.

10 Environmental sustainability implications

- 10.1 Sustainability implications will be considered for each individual project within the plan. As per para 2.2 above, sustainability will continue to be a prime consideration throughout all areas of the council's work.

11 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – EBC Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028
- Appendix 2 – Summary of consultation findings

12 Background papers

- [Corporate Plan 2022-2026](#)

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CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2028

Taking Eastbourne from Stability to Growth

Page 19





...this plan sets out how we will work with our partners and communities to ensure a robust and diverse future for the town.



Introduction

Welcome to our four year plan. This plan sets out our key areas of priority and focus in the coming years. Eastbourne has lived through challenging times in recent years. The covid pandemic, the cost of living crisis, national and international financial pressures and related issues have put real pressure on the borough in many ways. The next four years are our opportunity to respond to these challenges and help Eastbourne to strengthen, rebuild and grow.

This high level plan sets out our ambitions for the coming four years. It will form the basis for detailed work programmes for the

delivery of these goals. The work will initially focus on core stability, which will then give us a strong foundation on which to build future growth and prosperity.

The council has always taken a strong community leadership role in the town, and it will continue to do so over the coming years. We are proud of our borough. Despite the challenges of recent years, the town continues to be a notable tourist destination, with much to offer visitors from both at home and abroad. We will continue to enable and support this, understanding that it is in strong collaboration with our partners that we can best meet local and visitor needs.

However, we also recognise that tourism alone is not enough to enable our town to strengthen and flourish. Therefore, this plan sets out how we will work with our partners and communities to ensure a robust and diverse future for the town. We will continue to invest in the economic regeneration of our town, taking advantage of inward investment and partnership opportunities.

Sustainability has been a key driver over the past four years, and this will continue, with our commitment to achieving a carbon net zero town by 2030. However, we recognise that this can only be achieved by continuing to work closely with our partners, businesses



and local people. Our partnership work will continue, and we look forward to seeing this grow and develop over the next 4 years.

■ We are lucky to live in such a beautiful area. Our downland, as well as our parks and gardens, are unique to Eastbourne. We seek to ensure the town and its surrounds continue to be outstanding environments, to be enjoyed by our residents, visitors and by future generations.

■ The cost of living crisis has taken its toll on our communities. We are committed to continuing to play our part to support those most badly affected and ensure adequate support networks are in place. We also recognise that many people in the town are finding it hard to find suitable accommodation for their needs. We will continue to help support those who are at risk of homelessness or in housing need, along with looking to enable and develop new housing in the town.

■ The core of what the council does is to provide a range of essential services to our residents. Over the coming four years we will continue to ensure these services are of a consistently high standard. We will continue to make use of technology to increase efficiency, whilst maintaining the personal touch for those most in need of support.

■ Our focus for the next 4 years in partnership with you is:

- 1 High quality, responsive services**
- 2 Housing and the cost of living crisis**
- 3 Economic development and tourism**
- 4 Sustainability and environment**



1

High quality, responsive services

Putting our customers and local communities first

Providing excellent customer service and focusing on resolving questions and problems first time is central to how this council operates. We will continue to ensure that our services meet our residents' needs and strive to deliver consistently high quality and responsive services.

OUR KEY AREAS OF FOCUS WILL BE:

- Improve the quality of customer experience by offering a wider range of access routes to our services, including more on-line and self-service options to allow 24/7 access.
- Alongside this, ensuring more personalised support, including phone options, are always available for those that need additional assistance from us.
- Identify and address inequality in our communities in order to promote fairness, equitable services and a commitment to uphold these principles throughout our work.
- Get our communication and engagement right through regular information sharing and consultation.
- Continue to embed a culture of continuous improvement, where we constantly re-evaluate our quality of service, finding new and innovative ways to use new technology to make our services better for customers.



2

Housing and the cost of living crisis

Tackling challenging times

The council has an important role in supporting those in most need in society. Since the pandemic, and the economic challenges that followed it nationally, we have been working hard in particular to support people experiencing hardship due to the cost of living crisis. This work will continue, especially whilst the national economic situation continues to be difficult.

Eastbourne has experienced particular challenges in the provision of housing in recent years. The pandemic increased these pressures and the town continues to have significant difficulties in providing sufficient homes for those needing accommodation. The lack of new places to build properties, given the physical constraints of the borough, adds to these challenges. Given these issues, a new Local Plan to set out policies and proposals for new development is a priority.

OUR KEY AREAS OF FOCUS WILL BE:

- Support those on lowest incomes through housing benefit, council tax reductions and other assistance schemes.
- Provide information and advice to those needing extra financial support to let them know what is available and how it can be accessed.
- Using available data, and technology, to help identify those most at risk of falling into debt and who require welfare support, so that targeted offers of support can be provided.
- Reduce the reliance on temporary and emergency accommodation and improve prevention measures for those experiencing homelessness.
- Delivering a new Local Plan to support the provision of more social, affordable, sustainable, energy and resource efficient, climate resilient housing, delivering for our tenants and residents more effectively.
- Support independent living, including providing accessible housing for those with physical and additional support needs, and work with partners on integrated health, housing and care strategies to support this.
- Develop a pipeline of directly delivered homes by the council to support priority housing objectives.
- Prioritise regulatory and legislative compliance to ensure the council owned homes remain at a high standard.

3

Economic development and tourism

Page 21

A town which thrives

Eastbourne has traditionally been seen as a tourist destination and our aspiration is for this to continue to be the case. However, over the next 4 years we seek to support diversification of the economy, in particular seeking to bring more investment from IT, digital and creative sectors in the town. We will work with partners, using our strategic role, to attract inward investment and deliver real growth for the area. Our new Local Plan will enable us to address the provision and allocation of employment land. In relation to our own assets, we will re-imagine these in a way that better provides for the town's future and enables sustainability in the longer term.

OUR KEY AREAS OF FOCUS WILL BE:

- **Delivery of a new overarching strategy for tourism, income, and economic diversification.**
- **Delivery of projects through government 'Levelling up' funding, including a cultural and education centre at Black Robin Farm, improvements to Victoria Place and a significant public art engagement and learning project in conjunction with the Towner.**
- **Enabling, through a range of providers, high quality arts and events programmes to be delivered in the town, including world-class musical events, theatre productions and other performances, promoting sustainable travel options where possible.**
- **The establishment of a Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) to enable the theatres at Devonshire Quarter to continue to develop and thrive. Alongside this, through effective partnership working, increase the conference and exhibition trade at that location.**
- **Work with our leisure partner Wave Active to deliver an Active Health strategy for our communities.**
- **Delivery of an integrated property strategy which provides a clear future approach to commercial activity, addresses the councils' future asset requirements and tackles the challenges of the town's heritage assets.**

3

Economic development and tourism cont'd

- **Partnership working in the town centre, and other key parts of the town, including through 'Your Eastbourne BID' business improvement partnership, and with Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce, Eastbourne Hospitality Association and Sussex Police, to promote events whilst reducing antisocial behaviour and vandalism, and tackling homelessness.**

- **Continue to improve the public realm in the town centre to provide a continuous pedestrian link between the railway station and the seafront.**

- **Support the drive for high speed rail services to the town, enabling a reduced journey time between Eastbourne and London, whilst also continuing to lobby government for improvements to the A27.**

- **Promote active travel in the town with further improved walking and cycling routes.**



4

Sustainability and environment

Tackling the climate emergency

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, we have been working to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

This continues to be a central pillar of the council's work and underpins our approach to all areas of our work. Our Local Plan, waste and recycling service, our parks and open spaces, our housing services, and our flood and coastal management all have a key role to play in tackling climate change.

Sustainability cannot be delivered without the work of a wide range of organisations, and the community. To this end we will continue to work with a range of local partners, including Environment Agency, Eastbourne Eco Action Network, Treebourne, Eastbourne Archaeology and Natural History Society, Changing Chalk, South Downs National Park Authority, Sussex Nature Partnership, Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Sussex-air.

OUR KEY AREAS OF FOCUS WILL BE:

- Promote waste reduction, and encourage people to recycle MORE, as part of a 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' approach.
- In line with our Biodiversity and Pesticide Strategies, we will enhance the biodiversity of our public and open spaces in the borough.
- We will reduce our use of herbicides, fertilisers and other chemicals at locations such as Devonshire Park and other council run sports facilities, replacing petrol gardening and maintenance tools with electric alternatives where possible.
- We will work to replace our waste and recycling vehicles with new versions with lower emissions, to reduce our contribution to greenhouse gases.
- Electric vehicle chargers will be introduced at our depots for use by council vehicles and we will also facilitate increased access to public electric vehicle charge points and car share schemes, as funding allows.
- Our waste and recycling service will respond positively to up and coming changes in waste legislation to ensure we provide a sustainable and sufficient service for our residents.
- The Pevensey and Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme, where we are working in partnership with the Environment Agency, will have a key part to play in helping reduce the risk of coastal flooding.
- Work in partnership on opportunities arising from the Seaford to Eastbourne Nature Recovery Project, launched in summer 2023 by Defra and Natural England'

4

Sustainability and environment cont'd



- **We will both build, and encourage others to build, through our new Local Plan, housing which is affordable, energy efficient, climate resilient, adaptable and locally sourced – including the Modular Housing Framework to increase the use of modern methods of construction (MMC) in the delivery of new council homes.**
- **Our ‘Educate Remind Enforce’ campaign will be used to ensure robust and effective ways of dealing with litter and fly-tipping.**
- **Monitor, and work with partners to improve, air quality in the borough, focusing in particular on nitrogen dioxide and particulate levels.**
- **Continue to utilise the Clear Futures Joint Venture Partnership and Framework to support sustainable and transformational change.**



Eastbourne Borough Council Corporate Plan consultation report



Consultation report | January 2024

Contents

Background	1
How we consulted	1
Who responded	1
Summary of responses	2
Equality monitoring questions	6
Next steps	9

Background

From Wednesday 25 October to Thursday 30 November 2023, Eastbourne Borough Council carried out a public consultation over its draft Corporate Plan for 2024-28.

We invited comments and feedback on the proposed priorities of the draft plan from residents, businesses, partners and other stakeholders. We also asked respondents if they had any suggestions for additions to the plan.

How we consulted

We published a page on the Eastbourne Borough Council website, providing the draft plan to download and an online survey asking questions about each section of the plan.

We made the consultation information available in other languages and formats, including hard copy on request.

We promoted the consultation through a press release to the local media, the news section of the council website, an email to our 20,000 news and consultation email alert subscribers.

We promoted the consultation repeatedly through promotional videos on the council's social media channels and emailed key partners and stakeholders directly with an invitation to respond to the consultation.

We also signposted to the consultation from a site-wide message on every page of the council website.

Who responded

The consultation survey received 270 responses in total, comprised of:

- 227 residents
- 17 council tenants and leaseholders
- 3 people who work but do not live in Eastbourne
- 7 businesses:
- 7 organisations or groups:

Summary of responses

1. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	A resident of Eastbourne		85.98%	227
2	A tenant or leaseholder of Eastbourne Homes Limited		6.44%	17
3	A visitor to Eastbourne		0.00%	0
4	Someone who works in Eastbourne but doesn't live there		1.14%	3
5	A business operating in Eastbourne		2.27%	6
6	An organisation or group (please specify below)		2.65%	7
7	Other (please specify):		1.52%	4
			answered	264
			skipped	6
Other (please specify): (4)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident of Pevensey Bay - Resident and small business owner - Occasional resident - A frequent visitor 				
Name of the organisation or group (if you have selected this option above):				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sailing Club at Princes Park - Parade Bowles Club - West Rocks Hotel - Global Wealthmap Ltd Goscombe Group - Eastbourne Homes Ltd - Long Man Brewery - Royal Institute of British Architects - Member of Eastbourne Swimming Club - Sorting Out Space (SOS) 				

1. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

- Fish 2 Water
- Eastbourne Rovers Athletic Club
- Member of Save Our Meads Sports Centre.
- Meads Community Association
- Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Woodland Trust
- The Over Fifty Fives (TOFs), University of Brighton.

2. High quality, responsive services

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	29.46%	76
2	Agree	49.22%	127
3	Disagree	10.08%	26
4	Strongly disagree	3.49%	9
5	Don't know	7.75%	20
		answered	258
		skipped	12

Do you have any comments or suggestions for this section of the plan? (118)

Comment themes:

- The council should ensure it continues to offer face-to-face services for those who need them – **20 comments**
- There is a need to ensure there are customer service options for people who are 'digitally excluded' – **19**
- The council needs to maintain or improve service over the phone – **19**
- Access and equality considerations need to be taken into account in the council's services e.g. training in serving older people or those with hidden disabilities such as autism – **10**
- The council's website needs to be improved – some online services are frustrating for users – **9**
- Agree with this priority – **9**
- Disagree with this priority – **8**
- Request to retain Hillbrow Sport Centre (owned by Brighton University) – **6**
- The council needs to do more to address litter and street cleanliness e.g. by working more closely with the voluntary sector – **5**

5 comments were made about non-EBC services including highways and policing.

3. Housing and the cost of living crisis

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	30.50%	79
2	Agree	45.56%	118
3	Disagree	12.74%	33
4	Strongly disagree	2.70%	7
5	Don't know	8.49%	22
		answered	259
		skipped	11

Do you have any comments or suggestions for this section of the plan? (128)

Comment themes:

- The council needs to consider the effect of new housing on local services and infrastructure such as support services, roads, utilities and businesses – **12 comments**
- More support needs to be given to support people facing homelessness and experiencing rough sleeping – **12**
- More consideration should be given to the green/sustainability measures of new and existing housing – **9**
- Good to see an increase in affordable housing but more needs to be done to deliver new housing and to support people struggling to stay in private rented accommodation.
- Comments about specific language or terms used in the draft plan – **6**
- Work needed to address empty properties and bring these back into use to help tackle the housing shortage– **6**
- There is a need to maintain or expand support for people struggling with the cost of living – **5**
- Disagree with this priority – **5**
- Need to ensure adequate water / sewage infrastructure – **5**
- Equality and disability considerations need to be taken into account – **4**
- More regulation of private landlords is needed - **3**

4. Economic development and tourism

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	36.82%	95
2	Agree	39.92%	103
3	Disagree	11.63%	30
4	Strongly disagree	7.36%	19
5	Don't know	4.26%	11
		answered	258
		skipped	12

4. Economic development and tourism

Do you have any comments or suggestions for this section of the plan? (176)

Comment themes:

- Need to retain or improve existing swimming pools and active facilities such as Motcombe Pool and great emphasis on the Hillbrow Sport Centre (owned by Brighton University) – **49 comments**
- Improvements are needed to transport options including local buses, high speed rail and roads – **27**
- More emphasis is needed on cleanliness of the town e.g. tackling litter and dog fouling - **12**
- More pedestrian routes are needed – **11**
- More cycle routes are needed, especially near the seafront – **10**
- Agree with this priority – **8**
- Empty or derelict shops / commercial units should be re-developed or converted into housing – **7**
- Disagree with this priority – **6**
- There is a need to improve seafront facilities / trade such as public toilets and later opening times for shops and stalls – **5**
- Tourism and the arts/entertainment should remain a priority, including more support for grass-roots events – **5**
- Crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre needs to be addressed - **4**
- Questions about the accessibility of Black Robin Farm scheme – **4**
- More needs to be done to tackle illegal drug use and associated crime - **3**

8 comments were made about non-EBC services.

5. Sustainability and environment

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	38.52%	99
2	Agree	42.80%	110
3	Disagree	10.51%	27
4	Strongly disagree	5.06%	13
5	Don't know	3.11%	8
		answered	257
		skipped	13

Do you have any comments or suggestions for this section of the plan? (126)

Comment themes:

- More work is needed to improve the cleanliness of the town and seafront, including tackling litter and fly-tipping - **21**

5. Sustainability and environment

- More choice needed for recycling locally including the tip opening hours, 'bring sites' and items accepted in household recycling – **17 comments**
- Introduce a food waste collection service – **10**
- Action needed to tackle waste / sewage being pumped into the sea – **10**
- More publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points are needed – **9**
- Calls to stop Airbourne due to carbon footprint of the event – **7**
- Need to curb the use of pesticides and similar chemicals - **7**
- Disagreement with the need for electric vehicle charge points – **6**
- Increasing need for effective sea defences such as those being developed by the Environment Agency in partnership with EBC – **6**
- Agree with this priority – **4**
- Do more to promote recycle schemes and what can be recycled – **4**
- Disagree with this priority – **3**
- Provide more upcycling / re-use facilities – **3**
- Support for onshore / offshore windfarms - **3**

Equality monitoring questions

7. Would you like to answer or skip the following questions about you?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Answer the questions	78.24%	205
2	Skip the questions	21.76%	57
		answered	262
		skipped	8

9. Questions about you

8. What is your age?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Under 18	0.00%	0
2	18 - 24	0.96%	2
3	25 - 34	4.81%	10
4	35 - 44	7.21%	15
5	45 - 54	9.62%	20
6	55 – 64	27.40%	57

8. What is your age?

7	65 – 74		36.54%	76
8	75 +		11.54%	24
9	Prefer not to say		1.92%	4
			answered	208
			skipped	62

9. Do you have a long-term health problem or disability?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		26.44%	55
2	No		70.19%	146
3	Prefer not to say		3.37%	7
			answered	208
			skipped	62

10. What is your gender?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male		45.89%	95
2	Female		50.24%	104
3	Prefer not to say		2.90%	6
4	Other (please specify):		0.97%	2
			answered	207
			skipped	63

Other (please specify): (2)

11. What is your sexual orientation?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Heterosexual or straight		77.67%	160
2	Gay man		4.85%	10

11. What is your sexual orientation?

3	Gay woman or lesbian		3.40%	7
4	Bisexual		2.43%	5
5	Prefer not to say		10.19%	21
6	Other (please specify):		1.46%	3
			answered	206
			skipped	64

Other (please specify): (3)

12. What is your religion?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	What is your religion?		0.49%	1
2	No religion		41.26%	85
3	Christian		41.26%	85
4	Buddhist		1.94%	4
5	Hindu		0.97%	2
6	Jewish		1.46%	3
7	Muslim		0.00%	0
8	Sikh		0.00%	0
9	Prefer not to say		8.25%	17
10	Other (please specify):		4.37%	9
			answered	206
			skipped	64

Other (please specify): (9)

13. What is your ethnic group? Ethnic groups are defined by the 2011 census

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
White				
1	English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British		86.14%	174
2	Irish		0.50%	1
3	Gypsy or Irish Traveller		0.50%	1

13. What is your ethnic group? Ethnic groups are defined by the 2011 census

4	Any Other White background		3.96%	8
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups				
5	White and Black Caribbean		0.00%	0
6	White and Black African		0.00%	0
7	White and Asian		2.48%	5
8	Any Other Mixed background		3.47%	7
Asian or Asian British				
9	Asian/Asian British		0.00%	0
10	Indian		0.00%	0
11	Pakistani		0.00%	0
12	Bangladeshi		0.00%	0
13	Chinese		0.00%	0
14	Any Other Asian background		0.50%	1
Black/African/Caribbean/British Black				
15	African		0.00%	0
16	Caribbean		0.00%	0
17	Any Other Black/African/Caribbean background		0.50%	1
Other ethnic group				
18	Arab		0.00%	0
19	Roma		0.00%	0
20	Any Other Ethnic Group (please specify):		1.98%	4
			answered	202
			skipped	68

Any Other Ethnic Group (please specify): (4)

Next steps

This consultation findings report will be presented to Eastbourne Borough Council Cabinet for consideration alongside the draft corporate plan 2028' on 7 February 2024.

Once considered by the Cabinet, these findings will be published on the council website ahead of consideration by Full Council at its meeting on 21 February 2024.

Full Council will be recommended to adopt the Corporate Plan to drive the council's direction over the next 4 years.

If you have any questions about this report or would like to request it in a different language or format, including a paper copy, please email BPP@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk



Eastbourne Airshow

18-21 August 2022

Environmental impact report

site energy

Mains power (100% renewable energy):

Event control, Airbourne Office, Stewards Rest Tent*, Radio Tent*, Press Tent*, Wish Tower Catering Village, Flight Control Cabin*, Radio Airbourne*, Medical Centre*

*Previously on generated power

Generated Power: Promenade Traders, Trade Control, Hospitality, RAF Engagement, Army Engagement, Lighting Towers, Big Screen

Fuel used:

3000L x Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil

1801L x Road diesel**

The use of HVO fuel in 2022 reduced emissions by 7.5 tonnes CO₂e

**Road diesel was present in the generators on arrival to site (remaining from prior use) and further road diesel was purchased due to a delayed HVO delivery

Energy efficient equipment: LED

Lighting tower, LED strip lighting

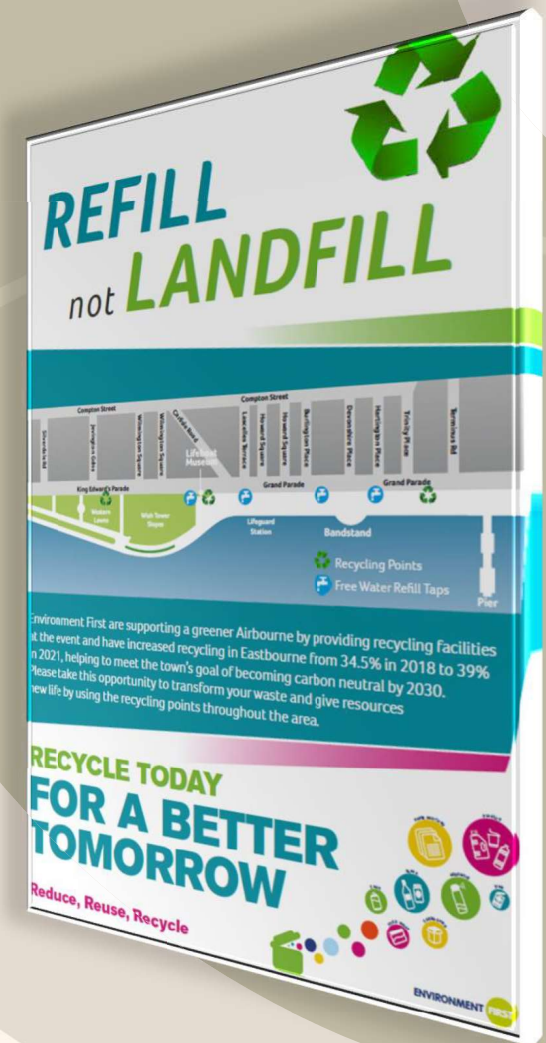
water

Free mains water provision: Event control, Western Lawns, Wish Tower Slopes, Lifeguards station, Bandstand

Refill not Landfill campaign: Free water tap locations promoted to reduce single use waste

Bottled water: Staff encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to the event

Monitoring: 360 bottles of water handed out to staff & contractors (less than 1 bottle per day per person). Bottled water utilised used from stock and not purchased from new for the event



WASTE & CLEANSING

Waste facility provided: Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) & General Waste

Measurement: 34.2 ton collected

Recycling points provided: 3 recycling zones

Contamination:

100% DMR contaminated – Public contaminated the DMR containers with general waste. All waste was sent to Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility. No waste sent to landfill. Further work required to educate and manage DMR waste stream and reduce contamination

travel

CAMPAIGN

Promoted low/zero carbon transport options on the website, social media & at staff briefings*

Industrial action on rail network increased travel by car and promotion of car parks

Page 43

MEASURE

710 responses to the onsite and online survey:
Public travel estimated: 6,033,140 kg CO₂e
Staff/trader travel estimated: 7,979 kg CO₂e

TRANSPORT

Pilot transport: 3 All-electric vehicles
Logistics: 1x All-electric van, 4x Diesel vans

PARK & WALK / BUS

Facility reduces overall emissions. Euro 5 emission standard buses used. Parking capacity increased due to industrial action

CYCLE PARK

Zero emission cycle park offered on event site

STEM Zone

STEM activities at the event included the World's first certified electric plane and local renewable energy company OHM Energy who provided advice and guidance on Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Battery Storage, Air Source heat Pumps, EV charging points & engineering courses on renewable energy.



food & drink traders

SINGLE USE
PLASTIC

Traders prohibited from selling plastic*

*All caterers complied. Some caterers used up stock of plastic bottles from a previous event before switching to canned drinks

ADVICE

Caterers asked to place recyclable items into recycling points

MONITOR

Traders actions monitored during the event

LOCAL

Local trader discount offered to incentivise local trader participation

VEGAN

Preference given to caterers who offered vegan options

ELECTRIC

Preference given to vendors that did not require electric

Production

Banner advertising: 17x PVC banners were purchased for the purposes of advertising and sponsorship. The banners have been stored for reuse. Big screen advertising was used to reduce the volume of banners required

Single use cable ties: 1,250 single use cable ties were used across the event site for installing emergency PA cables, power cable & advertising banners

Hazard tape: 1 reel of single use hazard tape was used to highlight H&S hazards. 3 reels of reusable traffic tape was used to section off parking

Plastic bags: 40x plastic bags (old stock) and 60x brown paper bags used for distribution of staff uniform.

Batteries: Rechargeable batteries used across the entire event for hand held equipment

Programme Printing: Vegetable based ink and FSC Mix certified materials from FSC certified forests, recycled materials and FSC controlled wood. Marshal handbook provided as digital version only

Staff Lanyards: Printed in house



Air Displays

Monitor: Display teams required to submit data regarding their display (fuel & smoke). Total 234,433 kg CO₂e. In 2019 it is estimated that 261,877 kg CO₂e. A reduction of 27,444 kg CO₂e.

Carbon offsetting: Priority was given to teams signed up to carbon offsetting schemes. 4 display teams signed up to carbon offsetting

Local display teams: Priority was given to local display teams

Reduced displays: In 2019 56 displays were booked in 2022 50 displays were booked**
*Less displays

Tree planting: Donation towards tree planting will follow once environmental impact data has been assessed

Local Communities & Economy

Raise profile: Event used to raise the profile of the resort, local businesses, recycling, free water refill points, volunteering, military recruitment & STEM

Job opportunities: Over 100 residents received paid employment to work at the event

Tourist economy: Significant boost to hotel, retail, transport providers, restaurants and pubs

Monitor: Photos taken of crowds to assess daily attendance*
*Data to follow

Tree planting: Donation towards tree planting will follow once environmental impact data has been assessed

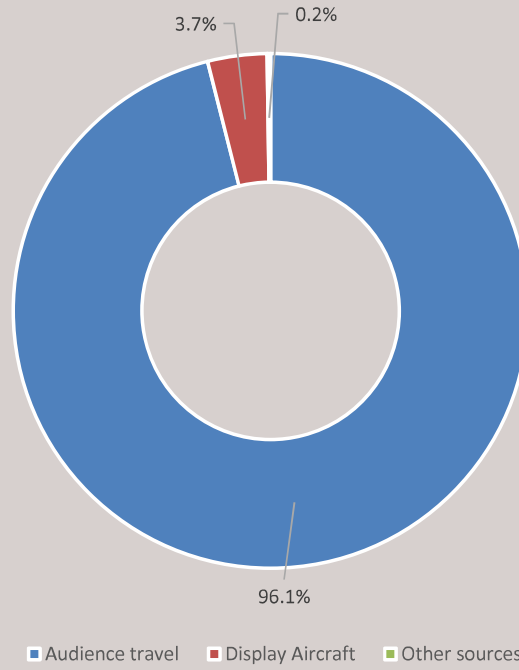
AIRSHOW COMPARISON

Bournemouth Airshow: 7,190 Tonnes

Eastbourne Airshow: 6,280 Tonnes

EMISSIONS OVERVIEW

Airbourne emissions 2022



**EVENT EMISSIONS
(NOT INCLUDING AUDIENCE TRAVEL)**

2019: 276.5 Tonnes CO₂e*

2022: 241.5 Tonnes CO₂e

Reduction: 35 Tonnes CO₂e

**EVENT EMISSIONS COMPARISON
(NOT INCLUDING AUDIENCE TRAVEL)**

¾ 1 way flight from London to New York

28-32 flights depart from London to New York per day

28-32 flights depart from New York to London per day

In 2021 315,202 flights took off/landed in the UK

AUDIENCE RELATED TRAVEL

2019: No data collected

2022: 6,033 Tonnes CO₂e

*2019 figures based on estimates

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FORWARD PLAN OF DECISIONS

Period covered by this Plan:

1 January to 30 April 2024

Date of publication:

9 January 2024

Membership of Cabinet:

Councillor Stephen Holt (Leader and Chair of Cabinet): Community Strategy, Local Strategic Partnership, the Corporate Plan, Performance and Staff.

Councillor Margaret Bannister: (Deputy Leader and Deputy Chair of Cabinet): Tourism, Leisure, Accessibility and Community Safety

Councillor Peter Diplock: Housing and Planning

Councillor Robin Maxted: Tourism and Leisure Services

Councillor Jim Murray Climate change

Councillor Colin Swansborough: Enterprise, Community Spaces and Heritage Assets.

Please see the explanatory note appended to this Plan for further information and details of how to make representations and otherwise contact the Council on matters listed in the Plan. Documents referred to will be available at least 5 clear working days before the date for decision.

Forthcoming decisions

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>General fund budget 2024/25 and capital programme</p> <p>To recommend full Council to set the 2024/25 budget and council tax at their meeting in February 2024.</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Robin Maxted)</p>	All Wards	Budget and policy framework	Cabinet Full Council	7 Feb 2024 21 Feb 2024	Open	The budget is subject to a wide and varied consultation process. The Council's Scrutiny Committee will also have a formal opportunity of considering the proposals.	Report	<p>Chief Finance Officer (Homira Javadi)</p> <p>Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) Tel: 01323 415378</p> <p>steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2024/25, Capital Strategy & Investment Strategy</p> <p>To approve the Council's Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy & investment Strategy together with the Treasury and Prudential Indicators.</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Robin Maxted)</p>	All Wards	Budget and policy framework	Cabinet Full Council	7 Feb 2024 21 Feb 2024	Open	The budget is subject to a wide and varied consultation process. The Council's Policy and Performance Advisory Committee will also have a formal opportunity of considering the proposals.	Report	<p>Chief Finance Officer (Homira Javadi)</p> <p>Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) Tel: 01323 415378 steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Housing revenue account budget 2024/25</p> <p>Recommendations to full Council in respect of the housing revenue account for 2024/25</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Robin Maxted)</p>	All Wards	Budget and policy framework	Cabinet Full Council	7 Feb 2024 21 Feb 2024	Open	Consultation with tenants via newsletter and focus groups and consideration at Eastbourne Homes Ltd Board.	Report	<p>Chief Finance Officer (Homira Javadi)</p> <p>Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) Tel: 01323 415378 steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Local council tax reduction scheme</p> <p>To approve the local council tax reduction scheme and agree any amendments as necessary. It is a legal requirement that the council approve the scheme annually.</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Robin Maxted)</p>	All Wards	Budget and policy framework	Cabinet Full Council	7 Feb 2024 21 Feb 2024	Open	With such persons and groups as the council considered likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.	Report	<p>Director of Service Delivery</p> <p>Bill McCafferty, Lead for Income Maximisation and Welfare Tel: (01323) 415171 bill.mccafferty@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Corporate Plan 2024 - 2028</p> <p>The overarching plan for the work of the council over the next 4 years. (Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Stephen Holt)</p>	All Wards	Budget and policy framework	Cabinet Full Council	7 Feb 2024 21 Feb 2024	Open	Public consultation from 1 to 31 November 2023.	Report	<p>Chief Executive (Robert Cottrill)</p> <p>Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance Tel: 01273 484049 jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Your Eastbourne Business Improvement District (BID) renewal</p> <p>Your Eastbourne BID Limited BID renewal. A BID period can only last a maximum of 5 years and Your Eastbourne BID Limited will be moving into the final year of the 5 year BID cycle in September 2023 and it is due to end in September 2024. If the BID Company wants to continue its activities it must hold a new ballot.</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Robin Maxted)</p>	Devonshire ; Meads; Upperton	Key	Cabinet	7 Feb 2024	Open	Consultation with BID Levy payers and businesses within the proposed expanded BID area (Devonshire Quarter) will start in September and continue up to 4th July 2024 which is the re-ballot date.	Report	<p>Director of Service Delivery</p> <p>Bill McCafferty, Lead for Income Maximisation and Welfare Tel: (01323) 415171 bill.mccafferty@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Eastbourne and Lewes Community Safety Partnership - Annual Report</p> <p>To enable Cabinet to consider the 2022/23 performance of the Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership (E&LCSP).</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Margaret Bannister)</p>	All Wards	Non-Key	Cabinet	20 Mar 2024	Open	An ongoing process of engagement is in place to help assess and evaluate the success of projects and other measures supported by the Partnership.	Report	<p>Director of Service Delivery</p> <p>Oliver Jones, Lead, Housing, Homelessness & Community Safety Tel: 01323 415464 Oliver.Jones@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Corporate performance -quarter 3 - 2023/24</p> <p>To update Members on the Council's performance against Corporate Plan priority actions, performance indicators and targets over Q3 2023/24 period.</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Colin Swansborough)</p>	All Wards	Key	Cabinet	20 Mar 2024	Open	Scrutiny Committee	Report	<p>Director of Regeneration and Planning (Ian Fitzpatrick)</p> <p>Luke Dreeling, Performance Lead luke.dreeling@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Finance update - performance quarter 3 - 2023-2024</p> <p>To provide an update on the Council's financial performance, revenue budgets and capital programme to the end of quarter 3 2023/2024 and explain the impact on the current financial position.</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Robin Maxted)</p>	All Wards	Key	Cabinet	20 Mar 2024	Open	Audit and Governance/ Scrutiny (where applicable)	Report	<p>Chief Finance Officer (Homira Javadi)</p> <p>Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) Tel: 01323 415378 steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Local Employment and Training Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</p> <p>Cabinet recommendation is sought to consult on refresh of Local Employment and Training SPD</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Peter Diplock)</p>	All Wards	Budget and policy framework	Cabinet	20 Mar 2024	Open	Proposal is to consult.	Report	<p>Director of Regeneration and Planning (Ian Fitzpatrick)</p> <p>Sara Taylor, Regeneration Officer Tel: (01323) 415609 sara.taylor@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Tourism Diversification Strategy</p> <p>The report seeks Cabinet's approval of a new diversification strategy for the council, in line with recommendations from the 2023 CIPFA Rapid Finance Review.</p> <p>(Lead Cabinet members: Councillor Margaret Bannister, Councillor Robin Maxted)</p>	All Wards	Key	Cabinet	20 Mar 2024	Open	Scrutiny Committee (if requested)	Report	<p>Director of Regeneration and Planning (Ian Fitzpatrick)</p> <p>Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance Tel: 01273 484049 jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming decisions:

Title, description and lead cabinet member:	Ward(s):	Decision type:	Decision maker:	Expected date of decision:	Expected exemption class: (Exempt information reason as defined by Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))	Consultation arrangements proposed or undertaken (where known):	Documents to be submitted:	Lead Chief Officer/ Contact Officer:
<p>Complaints Policy</p> <p>To agree a new complaints policy for Lewes and Eastbourne Councils. (Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Stephen Holt)</p>	All Wards	Key	Cabinet	20 Mar 2024	Open	As detailed in the report.	Report	<p>Director of Service Delivery</p> <p>Linda Farley, Head of Customer First linda.farley@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p> <p>Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance Tel: 01273 484049 jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</p>

Explanatory Note

The Council is required to publish information about all key decisions at least 28 days in advance of the decision being taken.

This plan is a list of the decisions likely to be taken over the coming four months. The list is not exhaustive as not all decisions are known that far in advance. The Plan is updated and re-published monthly.

The forward plan shows details of key decisions intended to be taken by the Cabinet and Chief Officers under their delegated powers.

The plan shows:

- the subject of the decisions
- what wards are affected
- the decision type
- who will make the decision
- when those decisions will be made
- expected exemption class (open, part exempt or fully exempt.)
- what the consultation arrangements are
- what documents relating to those decisions will be available
- who you can contact about the decision and how to obtain copies of those documents referred to in the plan

What is a key decision?

"Key decisions" relate to a decision, which is likely:-

(1) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or

(2) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Council's area.

What is budget and policy framework?

When a decision is marked as “budget and policy framework”, it requires the approval of Full Council.

Confidential and exempt information

From time to time, the forward plan will indicate matters (or part thereof) which may need to be considered in private, during which time the press and public will be excluded. This is in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 5(2) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Any representations that such matters should not be considered in private should be sent to the contact officer.

Information given to the Council by a Government Department on terms which forbid its disclosure to the public, information which cannot be publicly disclosed by a Court Order and information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by an enactment are all legally defined as “Confidential Information” and must not be disclosed. All other local authority information which it is desired should not be disclosed has to be categorised under one or more of the following “Exempt Information” reasons (as given under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) and subject to the public interest test.

Category	Condition No.
1. Information relating to any individual.	See conditions 9 and 10 below.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.	See conditions 9 and 10 below.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	See conditions 8, 9, 10 and 12 below.
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.	See conditions 9, 10, 11 and 12 below.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.	See conditions 9 and 10 below.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes— (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.	See conditions 9, 10 and 12 below.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.	See conditions 9 and 10 below.

Conditions
8. Information is not exempt information if it is required to be registered under: (a) the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006); (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974; (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992;

- (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978;
- (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or
- (f) the Charities Act 1993.

“Financial or business affairs” includes contemplated as well as past or current activities.

9. Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.

10. Information which:

- (a) falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
 - (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above,
- is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

11. “Labour relations matter” means:

- (a) any of the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (g) of section 218(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (matters which may be the subject of a trade dispute, within the meaning of that Act); or
 - (b) any dispute about a matter falling within paragraph (a) above;
- and for the purposes of this definition the enactments mentioned in paragraph (a) above, with the necessary modifications, shall apply in relation to office-holders under the authority as they apply in relation to employees of the authority;

“Office-holder”, in relation to the authority, means the holder of any paid office appointments to which are or may be made or confirmed by the authority or by any joint board on which the authority is represented or by any person who holds any such office or is an employee of the authority.

“Employee” means a person employed under a contract of service.

12. “The authority” is a reference to the council or a committee or sub-committee of the council or a joint committee of more than one council.

Further information

The plan is available on the [Council website at http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/councillors-committees-and-meetings/cabinet-and-committees/](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/councillors-committees-and-meetings/cabinet-and-committees/)

If you have any questions about the Forward Plan please contact Simon Russell, Head of Democratic Services, on (01323) 415021, or e-mail simon.russell@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk.

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/2024

Subject	Lead Officer	Date of Meeting
Invitation to the project team from the Blue Heart Project	Nick Peeters, Committee Officer, nick.peeters@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	10 July 2023
Scrutiny Committee Work Programme	Nick Peeters, Committee Officer, nick.peeters@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	10 July 2023
Corporate performance - quarter 4 - 2022/23	Luke Dreeling, Performance Lead luke.dreeling@leweseastbourne.gov.uk	10 July 2023
Revenue & Capital Outturn - 2022/23	Mark Walker, Head of Financial Planning mark.walker@leweseastbourne.gov.uk Parmjeet Jassal, Interim Head of Financial Planning parmjeet.jassal@leweseastbourne.gov.uk	10 July 2023
Stability and Growth Programme	Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance, jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	10 July 2023
Sovereign Centre Arrangements	Becky Cooke, Director of Tourism, Culture and Organisational Development, becky.cooke@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	10 July 2023
Housing Delivery & Asset Update	Nathan Haffenden, Head of Development, Investment and Delivery, nathan.haffenden@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	10 July 2023
Disabled Facilities Grants - Financial Assistance Policy 2023-2025	Rebecca Wynn, Regulatory Services Lead (Operational Lead - Emergency Planning), rebecca.wynn@leweseastbourne.gov.uk	10 July 2023
LGO Annual Complaints Review 22-23	Linda Farley, Head of Customer First linda.farley@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	18 September 2023
Assurance Review follow up - CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy)	Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	18 September 2023
Corporate performance - quarter 1 - 2023/24	Luke Dreeling, Performance Lead luke.dreeling@leweseastbourne.gov.uk	18 September 2023

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/2024

Revenue and Capital Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023-24	Mark Walker, Head of Financial Planning mark.walker@leweseastbourne.gov.uk Parmjeet Jassal, Head of Financial Planning parmjeet.jassal@leweseastbourne.gov.uk	18 September 2023
Housing Delivery & Assets Update (EXEMPT)	Nathan Haffenden, Head of Development, Investment and Delivery nathan.haffenden@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	18 September 2023
Update by the Consultants on Licensable Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's)	Matthew Hitchen, Senior Planning Policy Officer matthew.hitchen@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Interim medium term financial strategy	Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Revenue and Capital Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 - 2023-24	Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Local council tax reduction scheme	Bill McCafferty, Lead for Income Maximisation and Welfare bill.mccafferty@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Council tax and business rate base 2024/25	Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Eastbourne Borough Council Asset Strategy	Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Corporate performance - quarter 2 - 2023/24	Luke Dreeling, Performance Lead luke.dreeling@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Eastbourne Borough Council's Role in Diversification for Future Resilience	Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Progress Report	Jo Wunsch, Specialist Advisor (Sustainability) jo.wunsch@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/2024

Changes to Discretionary Council Tax Discounts and Empty Homes Premiums from 01 April 2024	Nick Ducatel, Functional Lead - Growth and Prosperity nick.ducatel@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	4 December 2023
Update on Airbourne 2022	Peter Martin, Senior Events and Seafront Manager peter.martin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	5 February 2024
Request to Southern Water to attend a Scrutiny meeting	Nick Peeters, Committee Officer nick.peeters@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	5 February 2024
Eastbourne and Lewes Community Safety Partnership Annual Report	Oliver Jones, Lead, Housing, Homelessness & Community Safety Oliver.Jones@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	5 February 2024
General fund budget 2024/25 and capital programme	Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	5 February 2024
Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2024/25, Capital Strategy & Investment Strategy	Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	5 February 2024
Housing revenue account budget 2024/25	Steven Houchin, Interim Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance) steven.houchin@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	5 February 2024
Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024-2025	Bill McCafferty, Lead for Income Maximisation and Welfare bill.mccafferty@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	5 February 2024
Corporate Plan 2024-2028	Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk	5 February 2024

Standing items on the agendas:

- The Forward Plan of Cabinet Decisions
- Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

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