

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Wednesday, 7 September 2022 at 6.00 pm

Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY

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For further information, please contact Democratic Services on 01424 451484 or email: democraticservices@hastings.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 3 Public Document Pack

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 JULY 2022

Present: Councillors Patmore (Chair), Jobson (Vice-Chair), Arthur, Cannan, Collins, Foster, Hay, Pragnell, Roberts, Turner and Webb

Officers: Jane Hartnell, Stephen Dodson, Coral Harding, Cameron Morley, Natasha Tewkesbury, Kit Wheeler

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

109. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2022 be approved as a true record.

110. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as monitoring key decision making and performance within the council, they identify areas for improvement and development.

The committee has decided to pursue 4 themes this year; Finance, Equalities, Living Environment and Follow up 2021. They have prioritised 2 reviews within each theme to begin with and hope to explore other areas identified within the municipal year.

The Chair explained that he will be taking the lead on the finance work area. The group plan to review the disposal of council assets and what it means for the council and how to get best value. Project prioritisation and an a spend review are also planned later in the year.

The Councillors highlighted reviewing schools and the standard of education in the Borough and how nothing seems to have changed since it was reviewed. The Chair explained the follow up work will look at previous themes and what actions have taken place. The councillors discussed the Disabled Facilities Grant and making it more accessible and user friendly.

The Councillors discussed and highlighted a planned 'Meet the Leader' session. The chair answered that a Question and Answer meeting the Council Leader.

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Councillor Arthur as the Lead on the Equalities working group introduced their plans for the year. The previous year's Overview and Scrutiny work programme included a review piece on equality and Women's safety. The next steps to their work were to meet with relevant local groups to gather their views but this was unable to happen due to COVID. A meeting was had with the Equalities portfolio holder. Going forward this year; plans are made to have meetings with relevant local groups. The committee discussed reviewing the Equalities Charter this year.

Councillor Jobson will be the lead on the Living Environment work group. The themes will be waste, recycling and street cleansing. There is a planned cleansing review and looking at the My Hastings app and how user friendly it is. Another area of interest will be dealing with fly tipping hot spots. The group will also be working on the relationship between the council, residents, and Southern Water. There is also a planned meeting with Biffa.

Councillor Foster will be the lead on the Follow up work group. The committee agreed a meeting with Sea Change is still needed.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the Annual Meeting reach agreement on their key lines of inquiry for the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year

Reasons

It is the responsibility of members serving on the Overview and Scrutiny committee to set their own work programme for each municipal year at the Annual Meeting.

111. FINANCIAL MONITORING QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR 2021/22 – QUARTER 4

The Chief Finance Officer gave an update there are plans for reports to be more meaning full, easy to understand and frequent.

The position in quarter 4 is an underspend. The council spent less and made more than had been budgeted for. The underspend was against the revised budget and not the original budget.

Problem areas to highlight are the costs associated with the homelessness issues and that is this is a focus area for the Council. The Homelessness task force has shown that joined up working has helped highlight cost savings. Asset disposal is also being looked at to make sure this is done in the correct way.

The accounts for 2019-20, 2020-21 or 2021-22 have not been signed off by the auditors. Until the accounts are signed off these are draft figures.

The committee asked questions to the Chief Finance Officer

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How likely and what type of variance is likely from these accounts and the Audited accounts?

The Chief Finance Officer answered it depends on if any errors are found. The 2019-20 accounts appear to have no errors. The Auditors have yet not started on the 2021-22 accounts.

The Finance Portfolio holder spoke to the committee and expressed the need for the accounts to be signed off by the auditors. He also highlighted the need to tackle the homelessness spending and the Councils deficit.

The Leader of the Council spoke to the committee and highlighted the breakdown of each services end of year target.

Are Adverse or Negative variance the same as a overspend?

The Chief Finance Officer answered that the report should say the same thing throughout. He explained the thinking 'a underspend is a good thing' is something that needs to be moved away from. An underspend means budget could have been used in another area.

Parking has a payment to the Fisherman's Protection Society?

The Chief Finance Officer answered a contribution is paid to the Fisherman's Protection Society every year for their share of the parking income. The exact amount will be shared after the meeting.

St Mary in the Castle will be returning to the council in November. Will there be a cost to maintain the building?

The Chief Finance Officer answered that the details haven't been finalised.

The Councillors discussed the good work by the waste department with positive variance in refuse collection and the DSO.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

To accept the contents of the report, and the actions within the conclusion and management action section

Reasons

To assist the council in understanding the financial position and particularly areas of over and under spend. This assists in identifying areas for review in the next financial year and in the production of the 2023/24 budget.

112. PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 4 2021/22 AND QUARTER 1 2022/23

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27 JULY 2022

The Transformation and Programmes Manager apologised for the lateness of the Quarter 4 report.

The Committee asked questions to officers and Portfolio holders.

Why does Audit have a lot of red ratings?

The Chief Finance Officer answered that over the last couple of years one of the auditors has had to be used in another area of the council. There has been a lot of extra Covid Grant work put onto the Audit department.

Housing Options and Strategic Housing both have red ratings. Is this because of tackling homelessness?

The previous Housing portfolio holder answered that housing options is temporary housing and rough sleeping side of the Councils work. A key issue is the rise in rents across the whole borough. The building of more affordable homes in the borough is needed.

Why haven't the Council bought more accommodation?

The previous Housing portfolio holder answered explained a lot has been spent on the Councils own housing stock but with Covid happening there has been a rise in people coming into the housing system but with not so many exiting it. The Current Housing Portfolio holder spoke to the committee of the concerns with the current housing crisis and the cost of living crisis. The funding from Government has ended for the 'Everybody in Scheme'.

Are the Planning targets correct?

The Transformation and Programmes Manager answered that the report has been reviewed and is believed to be correct. There may be some more tweaks to the dashboard going forward.

The Planning Portfolio holder addressed the committee and explained there is a shortage of Planners in East Sussex. There has been a recruitment drive to fill vacant posts.

Why has Estate assets management has been red for all last year?

The Estates portfolio holder answered that asset management has been urgently addressed. The Chief Finance Officer informed the committee that a working party has been formed to review assets.

Were there less fixed penalty notices issued due to less staff?

The Portfolio holder answered there are vacant positions that need to be filled in the Warden service. The new Sussex Police Acting District Commander has agreed there will be foot patrols of Police officers in the town centre between 13:00-20:00.

How are the targets set for Communications?

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The Customer Services, Communications and Emergency Planning Manager answered that they are based on previous increases and the standards across similar organisations.

How are electric vehicle charges monitored?

This will be updated after the meeting.

Are all green status targets correct for Climate change?

The Portfolio holder explained the targets are being reviewed and plan to be updated.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

- 1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review performance for Quarter 4 (Jan-March 2021/22 and review performance for Quarter 1 2022/23 (April – June)**
- 2. That O&S be invited to comment on the draft performance indicators for 2022/23**
- 3. That staff be thanked for their hard work and achievements to date.**

Reason

To assist the council to undertake performance and financial monitoring arrangements

113. AOB

The committee discussed the help available to paper users for the energy rebate.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 7.44 pm)

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Agenda Item 4



Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 07 September 2022

Report Title: Financial Monitoring Report for 2022/23 – Quarter 1

Report By: Kit Wheeler,
Chief Finance Officer

Purpose of Report

To provide a summary of the revised outturn position for services at the end of June 2022 (excluding capital financing charges and recharges).

Recommendation(s)

To accept the contents of the report, and the actions within the conclusion and management action section.

Reasons for Recommendations

To assist the council in understanding the financial position and particularly areas of over and under spend. This assists in identifying areas for review in the revised 2022/23 budget and the production of the 2023/24 budget.

Background

1. The 2022/23 budget agreed by Council was £13,231,580. These figures exclude the contingency budget (£300,000) which is held separately and recharges.

Table 1: Revenue position

Directorate	2022/23 Original Budget	2022/23 Forecast Outturn	Variance	Trf to / (Use) of Reserves	2022/23 Estimated Outturn Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Operational Services	10,413	12,420	2,007	(536)	1,471
Corporate Resources	2,819	2,900	81	(77)	4
Total	12,232	15,320	2,088	(623)	1,475

2. As part of the annual budget setting process a thorough and detailed analysis of the current year's budget is undertaken. This is then used to inform the future years budget. Previously, as result of this work the original current year budget was then revised in line with current and latest available information and forecasts. We are however not proposing producing a revised budget going forward and will be monitoring and reporting throughout the year based on the original budget.
3. The overall revenue forecast identifies additional budget requirement of 2.088m. After reserve funded items and taken into account this amount reduced to £1.475m.
4. Appendix 1 provides a more detailed analysis of each directorate, and this report seeks to provide further narrative on the main variations identified.
5. At the time of writing this report the country and economy is still recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the borough of Hastings is no different. Coupled with this inflation, and in particular energy and salary growth, is now having a substantial impact on the Council's budgets and will lead to significant additional unavoidable expenditure which will need to be offset by savings from elsewhere within the budget or use of our limited reserves.
6. The figures and estimates contained in this report were produced based on the latest available information, and as such could potentially be subject to further change.

7. It should be noted that the figures included in this report for projected salary costs are based on the latest forecasts on any potential increase in pay award for staff based on advice from government. However, negotiations are currently ongoing nationally around this matter with unions and should any increase over the forecast amount be agreed this would become an additional budgeted cost.
8. It should also be noted that the Carry forward requests contained within these figures is yet to be formally agreed pending sign off of the Final Accounts 2021/22 so is only draft at this stage.

Operational Services

Environmental Health

9. The service is forecasting an underspend of (£36,799) against the 2022/23 original budget.
10. Environmental Management and Admin is forecasting an underspend of (£28,929) against budget mainly due to carry forwards of £41,290 of external funding (COMF and DPH) from 2021/22 which is funding additional salary costs.
11. The remaining balance is made up from various other variances which are shown in Appendix 1.

Parking Services

12. The Parking Service is showing an underspend of (£8,171) against the 2022/23 original budget. This is made up of a (£23,171) underspend on salaries due to vacant posts and a £15,000 overspend due to an anticipated reduction in fixed penalty notices.

Waste

13. The service is showing an underspend of (£7,888). This is made up of a £7,114 overspend on administration costs offset by (£15,000) additional income on Greenwaste. The remaining balance is made up from other variances minor variances which are shown in Appendix 1.

Amenities

14. The service is showing an underspend of (£38,227) against the 2022/23 original budget once carry forwards and transfers from reserves are taken into account.

15. The Open Space Management Team is showing savings of (£23,140) due to the Parks and Open Spaces Manager reducing from 5 days to 3 days per week.
16. The Cemetery & Crematorium budget is forecasting an underspend of (£15,109) due to a vacant assistant manager post.
17. Arboriculture is showing £15,013 additional spend due to a carry forward required to deal with a backlog of work following damages from the storms in February and March. After the transfer from the carry forward reserve there is a minor underspend of (£237) anticipated.
18. Parks and Gardens is showing an adverse variance of £220,328. This is mainly due to carry forwards from 2021/22. There is £50,000 for procurement costs in regards to the new contract and £170,070 on the Repairs and Renewals (R&R) reserve for items unfinished in 2021/22 the main ones being Cliff works £43,000, Gensing Gardens Wall £60,000 and Roof Replacement at Bexhill Road Spots Pavilion £34,000. The other R&R items are mainly Health and Safety related. After the transfer from the carry forward reserve there is a minor overspend of £258 anticipated.
19. Hastings Country Park is showing an adverse variance of £55,080. Again, this is due to Repairs and Renewals Reserve items from 2021/22 where the works have slipped into 2022/23. The items being carried forward are Coastguard Lane resurfacing £23,000, Country Park Paths, £25,000 and clearance of historic waste at the yard £6,000. This expenditure will be offset by carry forward from 2021/22 with no overall variance anticipated.

Marketing and Major Projects

20. The service is showing an underspend of (£8,415).
21. The Tourist Information Centre (TIC) has now moved to the college and is showing an underspend of (£10,955). The reason for the variance is the budget was maintained for the staffing group and will not fully be utilised.
22. The remaining balance is made up from various other minor under and overspends which can be found in Appendix 1.

Regeneration

23. The service is showing an underspend variance of (£114,162).
24. Planning Policy is currently showing an underspend of (£47,242) due to a Technician vacancy and the Senior Planner being on Maternity Leave and not forecast at full pay until much later in the year.
25. Cultural Activities are showing an underspend of (£21,330) due to a vacant post for Arts & Cultural Regeneration Officer.

26. External Funding Initiatives is showing an underspend of (£9,875), the vacant position is hoping to be filled from September.
27. Renewable Energy Solutions has an underspend of (£45,911) due to a vacancy.
28. The remaining balance is made up from various other minor under and overspends which can be found in Appendix 1.

Leisure

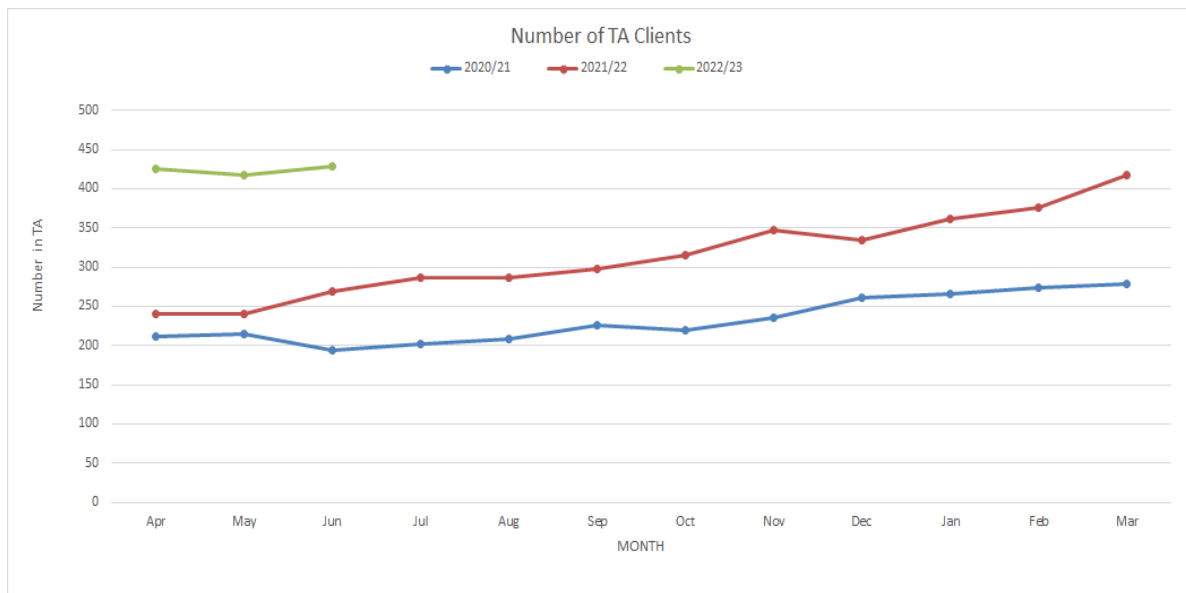
29. The service is not expecting to vary too far from the budget at this stage. This may change as the year progresses and more activities are put on.

Resort Services

30. The service is showing an underspend of (£22,411).
31. Sports Management has a vacant post which makes the underspend (£13,500).
32. Cliff Railways is showing an underspend of (£6,848). Q1 income was more than budgeted, however there are expected repairs that need carrying out on the East lift later in the year. It is expected that Q2 will see additional income which will cover the period of inactivity.
33. The remaining balance is made up from various other minor under and overspends which can be found in Appendix 1.

Housing and Built Environment

34. The service is showing an overspend of £1.707m against the 2022/23 original budget.
35. Planning Management & Admin is showing a positive variance of (£17,842), this is due to a one-off receipt of £20k for street name and numbering.
36. The Homelessness budget is showing an overspend of £1,649,537. This is due to the rising costs of temporary housing coupled with the number of residents presenting as Homeless increasing.
37. The graph below demonstrates the growth in the number of Temporary Accommodation clients over the current year and past two years.



38. Dangerous Structures work at Battle Road was expected to cost £522,500 – funded from the General Reserve. £60k was remaining at the end of 2021/22 and requested to be carry forward. With this taken into account there is an adverse variance of £69,813 forecast. Given the potential impact on individuals safety and therefore the councils obligations, the council may incur further expenditure in this area this financial year.
39. The remaining balance is made up from various other minor variances which are shown in Appendix 1.

Corporate Services

40. The service shows an overspend of £4,147 between the original 2022/23 budget and forecast budget.
41. Accountancy and Exchequer Services is showing an underspend of (£20,469) due to salary changes following the departure of the previous S151 Officer and slippage on a currently vacant Apprentice post.
42. Corporate Expenses is showing £15,000 additional spend on software due to the need to continue with our current service provider in order to take payments over the counter and telephone.
43. Properties and Estates are showing an overspend of £43,000. An overspend of £50,000 is forecast on the repairs budget in order to cover additional works identified. These include repairs to walls at Jackson Hall, Cinque Ports Way, Summerfields Walled Garden and repairs required at Cornwallis Street and the fire doors at Bank Buildings. A net (£7,000) additional income is forecast on service charges payable following rent reviews increasing the service charge and rents income budgets.
44. Corporate Policy and Partnerships is showing an underspend of (£29,717) due to salary savings on the Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services

Manager post, these savings are being used to fund a Transformation Officer post in the Transformation Team.

45. The Transformation Team is showing a £19,261 overspend on salaries as it is using the salary savings mentioned above in Corporate Policy and Partnerships to fund a Transformation Officer post.
46. The contact Centre is forecasting an underspend of (£23,960) due to salary slippage on vacant posts.
47. Project Costs of £44,280 for the Sticks of Rock project in the Decorative Lighting budget are to be carried forward from 2021/22. Works are dependent on ESCC as decorative lights are replaced once ESCC has replaced the whole lamppost. This expenditure will be offset by carry forward from 2021/22 with no overall variance anticipated.
48. The remaining balance is made up from various other variances which are shown in Appendix 1.

Capital Programme

49. The adjusted Capital Budget for 2022/23 is £26,195,000 once carry forwards and adjustments amounting to £4,449,000 have been allowed for.
50. As Table 2 below shows, the spend to the end of June is £1.655m with the year end forecast outturn expected to be in line with budget at this stage. Further details are included in Appendix 2.

Table 2: Capital Programme (Gross expenditure)

Directorate	Original Budget 2022/23	Carry forwards & adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Spend to End June 2022	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance to Adjusted Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Operational Services	9,457	2,257	11,714	664	11,714	0
Corporate Resources	12,289	2,192	14,481	991	14,481	0
Total	21,746	4,449	26,195	1,655	26,195	0

The net capital expenditure for the year is estimated at some £19.3m after allowing for grants and contributions. **Conclusion and Management Action**

51. The revenue forecast outturn is that an additional £1.475m budget compared to the original budget is required this financial year. All service managers, but

in particular those predicting a year end overspend have been asked to identify savings to offset the variances where possible.

52. The rise of inflation, particularly in relation to energy costs, causes concern for the Council and is likely to have a significant impact on the year end position. The full impact on the year is uncertain and we will need to continue to monitor budgets closely and identify offsetting savings and further possible cost reductions to mitigate the effect.
53. Weekly meetings between members and officers are occurring to identify ways to reduce expenditure in the current year and future year budgets.
54. If it wasn't for the forecast overspend on Homelessness the council would be forecasting a small underspend for the year. The council has setup the Homelessness Taskforce to cross departmental boundaries and identify and implement solutions to reducing the spiralling costs. This is recognised as a key corporate objective and work continues at pace.
55. At this stage Capital is forecasting to be in line with the adjusted budget. However, there is always a high risk for potential delays and variations in the year given the current climate and inflation increasing costs. This will be reflected in the Capital Programme Budget as part of 2023/24 Budget setting process.
56. The further use of any reserves to balance the budget prejudices the potential to use reserves to fund future expenditure and would necessitate greater cuts to services and staff in the next financial year to achieve a balanced budget - let alone to restore reserves to minimum recommended levels.

Timetable of Next Steps

1. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Continued quarterly monitoring	Each financial quarter	Relevant CAP meetings	Chief Accountant
Further review of 2022/23 under and over spends and setting revised budget.	2023/24 budget	February 2023	Chief Finance Officer / Chief Accountant

Wards Affected

None

Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Appendix 1 Operational Services and Corporate Resources – Revenue Summary Q2
Appendix 2 Operational Services and Corporate Resources – Capital Summary Q2

Officer to Contact

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GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2022/23 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2022/23 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2022/23 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2022/23 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Environment Management & admin	20169	617,990	168,073	630,351	12,361	(41,290)	(28,929)
Food Safety	20276	18,970	(120)	26,970	8,000	(8,000)	0
Health & Safety Enforcement	20277	(2,160)	448	(2,160)	0	0	0
Environmental protection	20279	9,890	8,427	9,890	0	0	0
Health & Safety Corporate	20278	22,800	5,512	22,800	0	0	0
Pest Control	20280	44,620	8,860	44,918	298	0	298
Local Licensing	20281	(47,400)	(116,587)	(55,279)	(7,879)	0	(7,879)
Scrap Metal Licensing	20282	(380)	(969)	(380)	0	0	0
Liquor Licensing	20283	(84,400)	(13,538)	(84,400)	0	0	0
Gambling Licensing	20284	(17,500)	(1,130)	(17,500)	0	0	0
Street Dog Service	20285	35,560	8,765	35,560	0	0	0
Neighbourhood Safety	20299	86,050	34,584	85,761	(289)	0	(289)
Safe Hastings Partnership	20300	0	(21,017)	0	0	0	0
Emergency Planning	20286	50,630	7,252	50,630	0	0	0
Environmental Health Total		734,670	88,561	747,161	12,491	(49,290)	(36,799)
Parking and Enforcement Team	20317	499,460	132,245	476,289	(23,171)	0	(23,171)
Off Street Car Parking	20287	(1,315,320)	(310,475)	(1,315,320)	0	0	0
Hornbye Car Park	20288	(3,360)	1,279	(3,360)	0	0	0
CCTV Control Room	20290	70,000	9,914	70,000	0	0	0
Waste and Environmental Enforcement Team	20297	(20,000)	(135)	(5,000)	15,000	0	15,000
Abandoned Vehicles	20289	2,630	0	2,630	0	0	0
Parking Services Total		(766,590)	(167,172)	(774,761)	(8,171)	0	(8,171)

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2022/23 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2022/23 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2022/23 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2022/23 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Waste Services Management and Administration	20316	340,560	34,363	347,674	7,114	0	7,114
Administrative Buildings - DSO Operational Building	20119	38,960	2,501	38,960	0	0	0
Public Conveniences	20315	340,380	49,659	340,380	0	0	0
Refuse Collection	20293	1,277,470	292,665	1,277,470	0	0	0
Street Cleansing	20295	11,740	2,556	11,740	0	0	0
Street Cleansing - DSO	20323	1,316,920	329,948	1,316,918	(2)	0	(2)
Recycling	20294	827,180	295,429	827,180	0	0	0
Greenwaste	20296	(366,330)	(472,470)	(381,330)	(15,000)	0	(15,000)
Together Action	20298	19,000	0	19,000	0	0	0
Waste Services Total		3,805,880	534,651	3,797,992	(7,888)	0	(7,888)
Open Space Management	20170	239,190	72,885	216,050	(23,140)	0	(23,140)
Hastings Country Park - Parking	20312	(50,130)	139	(50,130)	0	0	0
Watercourses	20302	13,700	3,738	15,300	1,600	(1,600)	0
ESCC Highway Tree Maintenance	20291	(3,000)	(23,790)	2,000	5,000	(5,000)	0
Cemetery & Crematorium	20303	(683,960)	(148,496)	(679,069)	4,891	(20,000)	(15,109)
Welfare Funerals	20304	8,240	15,199	8,240	0	0	0
Travellers Costs	20305	18,640	38,052	18,640	0	0	0
Town Centre	20306	12,200	1,056	12,200	0	0	0
Allotments	20307	(23,930)	(35,294)	(23,930)	0	0	0
Ecology	20308	7,000	0	7,000	0	0	0
Arboriculture	20309	132,530	26,314	147,543	15,013	(15,250)	(237)
Parks & Gardens	20310	1,093,620	221,362	1,313,948	220,328	(220,070)	258
Hastings Country Park	20313	85,240	15,133	140,320	55,080	(55,080)	0
Countryside Stewardship	20314	24,000	32,216	24,000	0	0	0
Local Parks Improvement Funding Grant	20330	0	0	5,700	5,700	(5,700)	0
Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre	20339	20,000	1,114	20,000	0	0	0
Amenities Services Total		893,340	219,629	1,177,813	284,473	(322,700)	(38,227)

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2022/23 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2022/23 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2022/23 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2022/23 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Marketing & Comms.Division	20178	133,730	35,500	135,829	2,099	0	2,099
Meteorological Expenses	20239	1,420	(2)	1,420	0	0	0
Civic & Ceremonial Expenses	20240	14,400	257	14,599	199	0	199
Community Awareness	20226	1,900	550	1,900	0	0	0
1066 Country Campaign	20222	96,640	19,700	95,664	(976)	0	(976)
Tourist Information Centre	20225	40,850	706	29,895	(10,955)	0	(10,955)
R.T.P. - Jack-in-the-Green	20231	10,000	7,878	8,098	(1,902)	0	(1,902)
R.T.P. - Old Town Carnival	20232	4,130	500	4,130	0	0	0
R.T.P. Events	20233	18,000	8,000	18,000	0	0	0
R.T.P. - Trolley Bus	20234	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0
R.T.P. - Town Crier	20235	1,960	0	1,960	0	0	0
Filming	20241	(10,000)	(16,625)	(10,000)	0	0	0
Midsummer Fish Festival	20237	6,090	4,513	5,514	(576)	0	(576)
Seafood and Wine	20228	3,410	3,785	3,610	200	0	200
British BID DCLG - Loan Fund (Business improvement District)	20273	0	3,496	3,496	3,496	0	3,496
Marketing and Major Projects Total		326,030	68,258	317,615	(8,415)	0	(8,415)

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2022/23 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2022/23 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2022/23 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2022/23 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Regeneration Management & Admin	20177	121,170	25,748	120,064	(1,106)	0	(1,106)
Regeneration Activity	20208	168,860	55,037	301,665	132,805	(125,000)	7,805
Planning Policy	20211	201,270	38,554	154,028	(47,242)	0	(47,242)
Local Plan	20341	201,820	46,241	201,820	0	0	0
Cultural Activities	20212	71,530	14,701	50,200	(21,330)	0	(21,330)
External Funding Initiatives	20214	77,400	53,528	67,525	(9,875)	0	(9,875)
Community Cohesion	20215	27,310	0	27,310	0	0	0
Youth Activities	20221	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	0
British BID DCLG - Loan Fund (Business improvement District)	20273	0	3,496	3,496	3,496	0	3,496
Renewable Energy Solutions	20321	104,710	16,950	58,799	(45,911)	0	(45,911)
Externally Funded:							
White Rock Area Development	20209	0	11,121	0	0	0	0
Towns Fund	20166	28,000	124,924	28,000	0	0	0
DESTI SMART	20325	0	10,439	0	0	0	0
CHART CLLD	20269	67,000	525,657	67,000	0	0	0
Regeneration Total		1,074,070	926,397	1,084,908	10,838	(125,000)	(114,162)
Leisure & Cultural Dev. Div.	20175	118,900	28,595	117,565	(1,335)	0	(1,335)
Play Pathfinder	20267	3,000	0	3,000	0	0	0
Falaise Hall	20258	38,230	2,300	38,230	0	0	0
Sports Centres	20259	(6,430)	(4,367)	(6,430)	0	0	0
Active Hastings	20264	(4,320)	(76,189)	(4,335)	(15)	0	(15)
CHART - Active Hastings	20271	0	1,685	1,685	1,685	0	1,685
Leisure Services Total		149,380	(47,976)	149,715	335	0	335

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2022/23 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2022/23 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2022/23 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2022/23 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Resort Services Management and Admin	20176	55,390	20,167	54,816	(574)	0	(574)
Sports Management	20257	(13,910)	1,147	(27,410)	(13,500)	0	(13,500)
Cliff Railways	20245	(150,660)	(129,717)	(157,508)	(6,848)	0	(6,848)
Seafront	20250	102,190	57,107	101,259	(931)	0	(931)
Chalets & Private Hut Sites	20248	(278,600)	(225,045)	(278,600)	0	0	0
Coast Protection Sea Defences	20242	7,000	0	7,000	0	0	0
Navigational Aids	20243	1,380	969	1,450	70	0	70
Environmental Schemes (Net Huts)	20244	12,070	43	12,070	0	0	0
Haslemere Castle	20246	(23,970)	(7,834)	(23,970)	0	0	0
St Clements Caves	20247	(10,000)	0	(10,000)	0	0	0
White Rock Theatre	20249	245,330	62,500	245,330	0	0	0
Museums & Art Galleries	20251	377,080	52,957	376,452	(628)	0	(628)
Fisherman's Museum	20252	2,450	0	2,450	0	0	0
Museums & Schools Project	20327	0	2,719	0	0	0	0
Resort Services Total		325,750	(164,987)	303,339	(22,411)	0	(22,411)

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2022/23 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2022/23 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2022/23 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2022/23 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Housing Management & admin	20172	407,110	88,186	414,963	7,853	0	7,853
Local Land Property Gazetteer & Admin	20173	40,200	25,809	22,718	(17,482)	0	(17,482)
Local Land Charges Register	20181	(138,090)	(29,732)	(140,658)	(2,568)	0	(2,568)
Development Management	20180	434,680	149,211	434,680	0	0	0
Homelessness	20182	2,712,970	688,691	4,362,507	1,649,537	0	1,649,537
Housing Register	20186	11,500	333	11,500	0	0	0
Youth Homelessness	20188	13,810	14,508	13,810	0	0	0
Social Lettings	20184	78,420	115,284	78,420	(0)	0	(0)
Homelessness Strategy	20185	59,330	(54,537)	59,330	0	0	0
Deposits funded by ESCC and Discretionary Housing payments	20187	(45,700)	(26,547)	(45,700)	0	0	0
Building Control	20179	69,610	0	69,610	0	0	0
Housing Solution Services	20197	(5,170)	614	(5,139)	31	0	31
Housing Renewal	20191	214,950	(2,242,270)	214,950	(0)	0	(0)
Housing Licensing Team	20196	143,980	21,969	122,423	(21,557)	21,557	(0)
Dangerous Structures	20200	2,500	132,998	132,998	130,498	(60,685)	69,813
EXTERNAL FUNDED							
Controlling Migration Fund	20193	0	8,628	(0)	(0)	0	(0)
Flexible Housing Support Grant	20183	0	(1,016,076)	0	0	0	0
Rough Sleepers Prevention	20207	0	(40,708)	0	0	0	0
Syrian Resettlement Programme	20206	(82,640)	640	(82,640)	0	0	0
Afghan Resettlement Programme	20344	(47,020)	9,202	(47,020)	0	0	0
CHART - Live work Thrive	20334	0	43,673	(0)	(0)	0	(0)
Housing and Built Environment		3,870,440	(2,110,124)	5,616,751	1,746,311	(39,128)	1,707,183
OPERATIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE TOTAL		10,412,970	(652,764)	12,420,534	2,007,564	(536,118)	1,471,446

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	Original Budget excl. Recharges £'s	Actuals £'s	Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges £'s	Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges (Original) £'s	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	Total Full year Variance on General Fund £'s
Estates Services	20104	244,090	57,693	244,179	89		89
Managing Director	20101	201,400	50,061	200,870	(530)		(530)
Internal Audit Services	20107	188,600	43,403	188,932	332		332
Accountancy & Exchequer Services	20109	863,930	223,652	843,461	(20,469)		(20,469)
Revenues and Benefits Service	20110	1,391,690	476,060	1,391,071	(619)		(619)
Fraud Joint Working Initiative	20108	2,300	0	2,300	0		0
Corporate Expenses	20120	444,700	611,226	459,700	15,000		15,000
Employment Areas	20130	(409,020)	(208,795)	(409,020)	0		0
Unit Factories	20131	(1,616,870)	(813,879)	(1,616,870)	0		0
Properties & Estates	20132	(3,380,830)	(1,755,020)	(3,337,830)	43,000		43,000
St.Mary-in-the-Castle	20133	11,820	0	11,820	0		0
Housing Benefit Payments	20126	(116,590)	0	(116,590)	0		0
Fin.Serv.-Other Expend.& Income	20135	419,220	11,926	419,220	0		0
Corporate Management Costs	20124	126,200	3,960	126,200	0		0
Corp. Man. Non-distributed Costs	20125	653,600	48,789	653,600	0		0
Tax Collection Costs	20129	(244,170)	(27,518)	(244,170)	0		0
Personnel and Business Support	20111	489,420	106,457	489,420	0		0
Corporate Policy and Partnerships	20102	187,310	42,311	157,593	(29,717)		(29,717)
Democratic Services	20103	142,720	32,654	142,970	250		250
Legal Services	20106	465,710	92,025	465,975	265		265
Transformation Team	20115	115,370	41,242	134,631	19,261		19,261
Corporate POD Expenses	20112	124,520	29,043	124,520	0		0
Admin.Bldgs.-Town Hall	20116	25,630	(6,261)	29,130	3,500	(3,500)	0

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	Original Budget excl. Recharges £'s	Actuals £'s	Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges £'s	Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges (Original) £'s	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	Total Full year Variance on General Fund £'s
Admin.Bldgs.- Murial Matters House	20117	251,330	10,821	271,665	20,335	(20,000)	335
Admin.Bldgs.-General Expenses	20118	56,000	16,163	56,000	0		0
Registration Of Electors	20136	76,430	53,302	76,430	0		0
Cost Of Democratic Processes	20138	382,060	133,688	382,060	0		0
Borough Council Election Expenses	20139	75,000	67,209	75,000	0		0
Contact Centre	20113	528,250	135,931	504,290	(23,960)		(23,960)
Building Surveyors	20105	143,730	35,147	144,751	1,021		1,021
Shelters and Seats (Highway)	20148	39,730	12,864	48,930	9,200	(9,292)	(92)
Naming and Numbering Streets	20149	10,320	1,766	10,320	0		0
Decorative Lighting	20150	77,580	56,828	121,860	44,280	(44,280)	0
DCE-Information Technology Division	20121	540,850	130,294	541,484	634		634
IT Reseve Expenditure	20122	214,000	41,828	214,000	0		0
Land & Property Systems-GIS	20123	29,540	14,732	29,540	0		0
Communications and Design	20324	121,270	30,545	120,615	(655)		(655)
Foreshore Trust	Various	(58,230)	(58,230)	(58,230)	0		0
Directorate Total		2,818,610	(176,807)	2,899,829	81,219	(77,072)	4,147

Cost Centre (NEW)	Description Of Scheme	Service Area	Original Budget	Carry forwards & adjustments	Adjusted Gross Budget	Spend to End June 2021	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance to Adjusted Budget
			£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
71227	Private Sector Renewal Loans	Housing	0	0	0	6	0	0
71228	Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	Housing	2,056	125	2,181	226	2,181	0
71229	Empty Homes Strategy	Housing	50	0	50	0	50	0
71231	Restoration of Pelham Crescent and Arcade	Housing	33	104	137	0	137	0
71232	Road at Pelham Arcade	Housing	561	42	603	0	603	0
71240	Groyne Refurbishment	Regeneration	0	0	0	0	0	0
71241	Harbour Arms & New Groynes	Regeneration	265	1	266	64	266	0
71242	Further Sea Defence works	Regeneration	34	0	34	0	34	0
71244	Public Realm Improvements	Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
71248	Country Park Interpretive Centre	Environment	0	0	0	2	0	0
71249	Playgrounds upgrade programme	Environment	38	45	83	14	83	0
71255	DSO - Waste and Cleansing service (Vehicles)	Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
71256	Energy Generation	Regeneration	538	0	538	0	538	0
71258	Buckshole and Shornden Reservoirs Statutory Protection Works	Environment	666	165	831	351	831	0
71265	Priory Street Multi Storey Car Park	Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
71266	Purchase of Temporary Homelessness Accomodation	Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
71268	DSO - Waste and Cleansing service (Depot Works & Equipment)	Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
71269	Energy - Ground Mounted Solar	Regeneration	0	0	0	0	0	0
71271	Lower Bexhill Road	Estates	3,061	21	3,082	1	3,082	0
71278	Electric Vehicles	Environment	0	0	0	1	0	0
71279	Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
71280	Priory Street Works	Environment	0	40	40	0	40	0
71281	Castleham Car Park resurfacing	Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
71284	Next Steps Accommodation Pathway	Housing	0	1,714	1,714	0	1,714	0
71288	Bexhill Road South (Housing & Car Park)	Housing	1,075	0	1,075	0	1,075	0
71289	Mayfield E (Housing)	Housing	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0
71290	MUGA Refurbishments	Environment	80	0	80	0	80	0
Operational Services			9,457	2,257	11,714	664	11,714	0
71253	Conversion of 12/13 York Buildings budget approved Cabinet 3 April 2017	Estates	0	90	90	16	90	0
71259	Priory Meadow - Contribution to capital works £250,000 over 3 year period approved by Cabinet 17 July 2017	Estates	250	0	250	0	250	0
71272	Churchfields Business Centre	Estates	3,310	70	3,380	864	3,380	0
71273	Development / Furbishment of Lacuna Place	Estates	141	0	141	21	141	0
71275	Cornwallis Street Development	Estates	6,835	845	7,680	84	7,680	0
71276	Harold Place Restaurant Devt	Estates	1,613	1,187	2,800	7	2,800	0
71285	Castleham Industrial Units	Estates	140	0	140	0	140	0
Corporate Resources			12,289	2,192	14,481	991	14,481	0
Grand total			21,746	4,449	26,195	1,655	26,195	0

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Agenda Item 5



Report To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 7 September 2022

Report Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (2022/23) Update

Report By: Coral Harding, Continuous Improvement and democratic Services Officer

Key Decision: N/A

Purpose of Report

To provide an update of progress for the 2022/23 Overview and Scrutiny work programme and proposed follow up actions..

Recommendation(s)

That the committee note the progress of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year and follow up actions.

Reasons for Recommendations

It is the responsibility of members serving on the Overview and Scrutiny committee to set their own work programme for each municipal year and complete the associated actions by the end of year.

Introduction

1. Following the agreement of the work programme at Annual Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 27th July 2022. The committee has since met to provisionally confirm work groups and lines of enquiry.
2. The confirmed work programme can be found in appendix A. These ideas and themes draw on previous Overview and Scrutiny work. The committee have grouped work into 4 themes this year; Finance, Equalities, Living Environment and Follow up 2021

Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2022/23

3. The committee has decided to pursue 4 themes this year;
4. They have prioritised 2 reviews within each theme to begin with and hope to explore other areas identified within the municipal year.
5. The work programme will use a combination of reviews and updates. It is also accepted that some of the information the require will be obtained from the quarterly review meetings.
6. The committee would also like a 'Meet the Leader' session with Council Leadership.
7. Appendix A sets out the proposed O&S work programme for the year ahead breaking down the proposed phases of each theme over the course of the year.
8. The bulk of the investigative work will be done through Quarter 2 and 3. Any recommendations from this work will be reported in Quarter 4. These recommendations will go to Cabinet or Full Council depending on relevance.

Meet the Leader

9. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are keen to commence the year by meeting the Council Leadership. The Leader and other cabinet portfolio holders will be invited to give an overview of the year and identify potential opportunities and challenges that the council might face.
10. The committee are currently identifying dates for this meeting to take place and are aiming to conduct this by the end of October.
11. The committee will provide questions in advance to the Leader and other portfolio holders. These questions will relate to the organisation and public interest. They are currently reviewing key documents such the corporate plan.
12. The Overview and Scrutiny committee are keen to build a strong working relationship with the Leader and portfolio holders particularly given the committees 'critical friend' role. They would like to see positive outcomes for the public from a productive partnership.

Finance Theme

13. The Overview and Scrutiny committee are concerned by the large deficit the council faces this year which is currently estimated at £3.2 million. Overview and Scrutiny committee are keen to help support efforts to lessen the impact of the deficit.

14. The work programme is focussing two areas; the disposal of council assets review & project prioritisation and spend review.
15. The council may need to dispose of assets to help with the deficit. The committee have prioritised looking at how a criteria could be created to ensure any assets identified for disposal would provide both best value for the organisation and public interest.
16. The committee are keen to review how projects are prioritised and how financial over or underspends are monitored. They would like to see how the project selection and safeguards processes operate.
17. The review group would first like to meet with Senior Officers to identify the council's current position and processes. They will then focus there lines of enquiry and report back to the committee.
18. These reviews will be led by Councillor Patmore. Councillors Cannan, Hay and Pragnell will be part of the review group.

Equalities theme

19. The Overview and Scrutiny committee wanted to continue previous work from last years work programme. The next steps to this would be meeting up with local groups to gather views.
20. The committee are keen to do this and will be looking at who to approach and how this process will work.
21. They would like to review how the organisation meets its statutory obligations under equalities legislation and the levels of accessibility & considerations in providing public services for a diverse population.
22. They will be asking Senior Officers for information regarding this.
23. The motion to Full Council that asked to look at setting up of an equality working group will be explored further.
24. Councillor Arthur will lead this review. Councillor Foster be part of this review group.

Living Environment theme

25. Overview and Scrutiny noted residents' concerns in relation to their living environment. These included issues such as dog waste, potholes, and sea water quality.
26. The committee originally wanted to prioritise looking at the councils' provisions for waste, recycling, and street cleansing. They are going to look at how residents are using My Hastings online reporting service.
27. The My Hastings review will look at how many people are using it, the promotion of the service to residents, the effectiveness of resolving issues and how data can be used to target to target hotspot areas.
28. Since the Annual meeting held in July there have been further sewage water spills into the sea related to Southern Water. This has been an area of high public interest.

29. Overview and Scrutiny want to review the actions being undertaken by the council to resolve this issue with Southern Water and prevent its reoccurrence. They would like an update on this.
30. Councillor Jobson will lead this review. Councillor Foster and Roberts will be part of this review group.

Follow up theme

31. The previous year's Overview and Scrutiny work programme was not completed in full by the committee, but they would like to continue and monitor progress from previous commitments.
32. They will be looking at how the previous year's motions review recommendations have been implemented. They would like to review the progress on the requested constitutional reform that would see a 6 monthly report to Full council showing how motions had been implemented. They would also like to see how motions have been implemented in the last 6 months.
33. They also would like when the opportunity arises to meet with Sea Change to discuss their achievements and future plans in the town. They are keen to learn about the progress and activity with regards to the town's economic growth and regeneration ambitions.
34. They will be looking at appropriate timings for this meeting and scoping lines of enquiry.
35. This review will lead by Councillor Patmore.

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Overview and Scrutiny to agree their work programme actions	Work programme and actions agreed	7 th September	Overview and Scrutiny committee

Wards Affected

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

Have you used relevant project tools?: N/A

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y/N
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y/N
Risk Management	Y/N

Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y/N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y/N
Human Rights Act	Y/N
Organisational Consequences	Y/N
Local People's Views	Y/N
Anti-Poverty	Y/N
Legal	Y/N

Additional Information

Appendix A- Proposed Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Officer to Contact

Officer: Coral Harding

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Appendix A: Proposed Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

	FINANCE	EQUALITIES	LIVING ENVIRONMENT	FOLLOW UP
QUARTER 2	<p align="center">DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL ASSET REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">EQUALITIES MOTION WORKING GROUP REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">WASTE, RECYCLING, AND STREET CLEANSING REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">MOTIONS RECOMMENDATION REVIEW</p>
QUARTER 3	<p align="center">PROJECT PRIORITISATION AND SPEND REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">CONTINUATION WORKING WITH LOCAL GROUPS FOR FEEDBACK</p>	<p align="center">QUALITY OF BATHING WATER REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">MEETING WITH THE LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</p>
	<p align="center">POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL REVIEWS IF TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT</p>			<p align="center">MEETING WITH SEA CHANGE</p>
QUARTER 4	<p align="center">2022/23 WORK PROGRAMME CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORTED</p>			

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