AGENDA

CABINET

Thursday, 30th March, 2023, at 10.00 am	Ask for:	**Emily Kennedy**
Council Chamber	Telephone:	**Tel: 03000 419625**
		Email: emily.kennedy@kent.gov.uk

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the meetings held on 26 January and 7 March 2023 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. Cabinet Member Updates
5. KCC Share of Retained Business Rates and Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2023-24 (Pages 9 - 26)
6. Update on Supporting Kent Residents with Financial Hardship (Pages 27 - 38)
7. Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 39 - 100)
8. Quarterly Performance Report (Pages 101 - 160)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
03000 416814

Wednesday, 22 March 2023

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 26 January 2023.

PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Miss S J Carey, Mrs S Chandler, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford and Mrs S Prendergast

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Apologies
(Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mrs Bell.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 January 2023
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 5 January 2023 were a correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

3. Cabinet Member Updates
(Item 4)

1) Mrs Chandler confirmed the final total figures for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) referrals in 2022 as 1,378, which was significantly higher than in previous years. The staff who had been responsible for the referrals were thanked for their efforts during a challenging year. As of 20 January 2023, there had been 45 UASC referrals since the start of the year. There were also 48 open cases of under-18s who had not claimed asylum on arrival.

An update was provided on the 0-5 strategy task and finish group chaired by Mrs S Hamilton, two meetings had been held, with six additional meetings planned. Four would be focussed on operational matters and the final two to discuss the next steps. Feedback had been positive, and Mrs Chandler was confident that a range of positive outcomes would be produced in the future.

2) Mr Love said that the Department for Education had announced that 8 Kent schools had been successful in their bids under the School Rebuilding Programme. The schools were a mix of both primary and secondary and the funding would ensure that they were fit for the future and open the opportunity for expansion.

Mr Love visited Simon Langton Girls Grammar School, 10 January 2023, to see the Biojoyversity programme and learn about the new initiative, Encompass. Mr Love thanked students and staff for all their work, energy and passion displayed during the visit.

Mr Love said that he had visited the recently opened Barton Manor School in Canterbury. Mr Love remarked on the school's ethos and design and said that new capital investment had been made due to its links as an academy trust. Mr Love had also met with two members of Kent PACT where important issues were discussed and their ongoing contributions to the SEND assurance board. The first meeting of the SEND Assurance Board had occurred on 18 January 2023 and Deborah Glassbrook had been appointed as the Independent Chair and would bring much experience that would be of benefit to the Kent area. Mr Love said that the first meeting had been productive and would be an important step to improve the experience of all those who used SEND services.

3) Miss Carey said that the Environment Team had won a further set of grants from the Public Sector De-carbonisation scheme, pending sign-off from the Corporate Director for Finance. The funding was to be used on projects which would contribute to carbon savings and result in reduced energy costs. This was to be achieved through a new building management system upgrade and switching from gas to electric heat pump at Worrall House. The Yew Tree Centre was also to get a building management system upgrade, double-glazed windows, LED lighting and a switch from a gas boiler to an electric heat pump. The Ashford Gateway Plus would get LED lights and switch from a gas boiler to an electric heat pump. Also, the KCC building at Oxford Road would get a new building management system, double-glazed windows, roof-mounted solar PV, LED lighting and a switch from gas oil to an electric heat pump. The total cost of the work to the Council would be £2.2 million of which the grant would cover £1.4 million, leaving Kent County Council responsible for only 36% of the costs.

The second grant was for a two-year programme for the Dover Discovery Centre, which was undergoing a multi-million-pound refurbishment and to co-locate several key services in the Dover area. The funding only related to the upgrade of the existing gas-fired heating and hot water system to electric air source heat pumps and a heat distribution network. The total cost would be £791,000 and the grant would supply £431,000, meaning that Kent County Council would cover only 48% of the costs.

4) Mr Murphy gave an update on Dungeness Power Station and noted that Damian Collins MP for Folkestone and Hythe, had given a speech in the House of Parliament on the situation and a Minister agreed and confirmed they would meet with him to discuss the matter further.

Mr Murphy said that the county had several areas which would receive Levelling Up funding. Canterbury City Council was to receive £19.9 million for Connect Canterbury: Unlocking the Tales of England, Dover District Council was to receive £18.1 million for the Dover Beacon bid, Folkestone and Hythe District Council were successful in their Brighter Future bid, Swale Borough Council was to receive £20 million for the Sheerness Revival bid, finally, Kent County Council's bid for the Dover Access Improvement project, improving the flow of traffic at Dover Port was successful. Overall, £123 million of levelling-up funding would be delivered to the county. Mr Murphy noted that a further round of funding was forthcoming for those districts and boroughs that were unsuccessful. Thanks were extended to Lee Burchill for his work and support on the bids.

5) Mr Hill gave an update on the Gypsy and Traveller Service. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Traveller Fund which had been launched May 2022 had welcomed bids for improvements to gypsy and traveller sites. The Gypsy and Traveller Service had submitted seven individual bids totalling £3.8 million, all seven bids were successful. The project plan was to provide essential improvements and maintenance on-site, ensuring that KCC provided residential sites that were safe and well maintained and fulfilled its legal obligations as landlord.

6) Mrs Prendergast said that the Council had launched a number of consultations seeking the views of residents and other stakeholders on proposals to inform any future decisions, the latest being the Home to School Transport Policy which had gone live on 25 January 2023.

The Kent Communities Consultation had been launched. KCC had experienced big increases in costs and less money to spend. The aim was to make sure that future community services, including children's centre and youth hubs, public health services for children and families, community services for adults with learning difficulties, the adult education offer and Gateways were available in the most efficient and sustainable way possible and residents were urged to have their say on proposed changes. The consultation was to remain open until 26 March 2023 and all residents were invited to take part by visiting Kent.gov.uk website where further information would also be available.

4. Capital Programme 2023-33, Revenue Budget 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-26
(Item 5)

David Shipton, Head of Financial Strategy, was in attendance for this item.

1) Mr Oakford introduced the report. Mr Oakford said that budget reviews had been completed with each of the Cabinet Committees and outlined some of the common themes that were raised. Members had been encouraged to submit suggestions for adjustments to the draft budget. Mr Oakford said that many Members had wanted the administration to present a range of alternatives to the budget proposals.. There had been many questions on the Safety Valve, but it was explained to Members that this was not part of the current budget as negotiations were ongoing. There was much interest in the state of the Reserves and the effect of any future drawdowns on the Council's financial resilience. Mr Oakford said that no formal suggestions for budget adjustments were passed to be brought to Cabinet. Mr Oakford thanked the Finance officers for their work and the balanced budget was to be put forward to full Council for their consideration.

2) Mr Shipton gave a PowerPoint Presentation (find attached). He outlined a summary of the comments that were raised during the review of the draft budget from the Cabinet Committees.

   Responding to the comments, Mr Shipton noted that KCC had responded to the provisional settlement proposals from government and always responds to all government consultations on financial matters.

In past budgets, the savings and income as a percentage of the net budget was 2.8% in 2022-2023 and 3.2% in 2021-2022 but in the draft budget for 2023-2024 this had increased to 4.2%. There were significantly more policy savings than previously. Projected future savings in the medium term financial plan anticipated that this would be at around 3% in 2024-2025.

The Fair Funding Review was to be delayed by at least 2 years with no definitive date given for when the review would be carried out.

Mr Shipton said that if the Council was to become insolvent, there was a process to be undertaken which would ultimately lead to a Section 114 Notice. KCC was a long way from being insolvent as long as adequate reserves were maintained commensurate with the risks inherent in the budget.

There were questions posed by Members in the Cabinet Committees regarding insecure funding. There were three sources of insecure funding which the Council could not rely on to support the budget: the direct proceeds from the business rate pool with Kent districts, the new homes bonus grant and Kings Hill.

3) The Leader thanked the Finance Team and other teams from across the Council. The Leader said the risk of a Section 114 Notice was mitigated by adequate reserves being maintained and bysavings being delivered as outlined in the budget.

4) Miss Carey noted the difficulty of achieving a balanced budget and said that challenges and suggestions to the budget from backbench Members had not been effective in resolving the underlying issues facing the Council. Miss Carey thanked Members and Finance officers.

5) Mrs Chandler responded to some of the comments raised during the review and noted that demand pressures were prevalent in statutory areas and allowances had to be made to account for them. In Children's Social Care, it was noted that preventive care measures had been maintained in the budget to a far greater extent than in other upper tier authorities in the country. It was confirmed that all future work within the directorate would remain children centred.

6) The Leader noted that the Council had to accommodate the huge demand pressures that had come from the statutory responsibilities, which made it very challenging to balance the budget within the year. The Council would have to work with NHS colleagues and other partners to ensure that public sector resources were marshalled effectively to ensure they were focussed on the most important areas.

7) Mr Murphy noted that all Cabinet Members were available to discuss the budget with all Members if they had any concerns or suggestions.

8) The Leader thanked Cabinet colleagues and officers for their work and responsiveness to concerns.

9) Mr Hill noted that it was important that discretionary funds be restored when appropriate, as preventive measures were needed to support and maintain the quality of life for residents of Kent.

10) The Leader said that there were three key factors to focus on looking forward: to deliver sustainable budgets, to work with NHS and other partners and sustaining and improving the Council's capacity as a strategic authority.

11) RESOLVED to agree to the recommendations as outlined in the report.

5. Kent Commissioning Plan
(Item 6)

Nick Abrahams, Area Education Officer – West Kent, was in attendance for this item.

1) Mr Love introduced the report. Mr Love thanked head teachers, governors and academy trusts for their support and said that he had, and would continue to, meet with school leaders as the directorate deliver this strategic plan. Mr Love noted that the Kent Commissioning Plan (KCP) had been endorsed by the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 29 November 2022.

2) Mr Abrahams gave further details on the plan. The KCP was produced annually with changes tracked over time and the key changes made in this year's iteration were outlined.

3) The Leader said that the longer-term house building would put further pressure on school place provision. It was noted that developer contributions to education provision would be significant going forward.

4) Mr Abrahams said that work had been commissioned focussed on special provision and inclusion within mainstream schools. This work was to have an ongoing impact at an individual level, but it would take time for this to be reflected in the overall forecast. This year's Kent Commissioning Plan forecasts the number of children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and the rate of placement within special schools or mainstream schools. Future iterations of the KCP would provide more detail and take the Safety Valve into account.

6. Strategic Reset Programme
(Item 7)

Liz Sanderson, SRP Strategic Lead, was in attendance for this item.

1) Ms Sanderson introduced the report.

2) The Leader noted that the Strategic Reset Programme was a mechanism to ensure that the Council would make the best use of limited resources and focus them on the most important areas. Ongoing monitoring of the programme and its priorities would be required going forward. Ms Sanderson responded that there would need to

be flexibility in the programme to respond to challenges and priorities that the Council faced in the future.

3) Mr Oakford said that with the limited budget and human resources, the Council had to focus on strategic priorities. It was noted that the relationships that Ms Sanderson and the Strategic Reset Programme team have built with the directorates must be maintained and Directors’ focus was on achieving what was set out in the programme. Much of what was outlined in the budget was tied to the ongoing achievements outlined in the Strategic Reset Programme. Mr Oakford thanked Ms Sanderson and her team for their work and communication.

4) RESOLVED to agree to the recommendations as outlined in the report.

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 7 March 2023.

PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Chairman), Mrs C Bell, Mr D L Brazier, Miss S J Carey, Mrs S Chandler, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr D Murphy and Mrs S Prendergast

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Apologies
(Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr Oakford and from Mr Hill, who was in attendance virtually.

2. Declarations of Interest
(Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Decision 23/00012 - Department For Education Safety Valve Funding Proposal

(Item 3)

John Betts, Finance Consultant, was in attendance for this item

1) Mr Love introduced the report. Mr Love said that the report set out the basis on which there was a proposed agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) to eliminate, over the medium term, the deficit on the High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The deficit was heading towards £150 million by the end of 2022/23 and it was noted that the level of deficit was not unique to Kent County Council as several upper-tier authorities had been challenged by this issue.

2) Mr Betts outlined further detail on the report. The DSG was a ringfenced grant that was received by local authorities and provided to schools and other educational settings to provide education services. There had been an overspend on the High Needs block of the DSG by KCC and the majority of Councils across England. This issue had been recognised by the DfE which had initiated negotiations with 20 local authorities this year to support the management of the deficit, the process was named the Safety Valve Programme. The agreement was to be published along with all the other councils who had entered the negotiations. The first tranche of funding was expected to arrive with KCC soon after publication, with additional funding conditional on the implementation of the required reforms.

3) The Leader extended his thanks for the work carried out on the agreement.

4) RESOLVED to agree the recommendations as outlined in the report.

From: Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

Zena Cooke, Corporate Director of Finance

To: Cabinet 30th March 2023

Decision No:

Subject: **KCC Share of Retained Business Rates and Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2023-24**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary:
The budget report to County Council on 9th February 2023 (published 1st February 2023) included a reference that County Council's estimated share of retained business rates and business rate collection fund balances was received too late to include in the final report. It was stated that a separate report would be presented to Cabinet setting out the County's share of retained business rates and collection fund.

The attached report sets out the analysis from the Kent district and borough councils' returns which detail the business rates estimates and impact on the County Council's revenue budget.

The budget report presented to County Council also did not include the final local government finance settlement which was published on 6th February 2023. The final settlement included some minor changes from the provisional settlement published on 19th December 2022 and which was used as the basis for government grant allocations in the final draft budget. The attached report includes details of the changes in the final local government settlement.

In total the estimated share of retained business rates and collection fund, and the final local government finance settlement, results in an increase in the available revenue funding for 2023-24 of £4,725.2k.

Recommendations:
a) Cabinet is asked to agree the transfer of £1,067.6k into the local taxation reserve, in line with existing policy on the treatment of collection fund balances.

b) Cabinet is asked to agree that the remaining balance of additional funding of £3,657.6k is used to support core spending in 2023-24 and thereby the drawdown from corporate smoothing reserve required to balance that 2023-24 budget (approved at County Council on 9th February 2023) can be reduced by this amount.

Background Documents

1 KCC’s Budget webpage
https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budget/our-budget

2 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 19th December 2022

Provisional local government finance settlement: England, 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

3 Final Local Government Finance Settlement 6th February 2023

Final local government finance settlement: England, 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Contact details

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KCC Share of Retained Business Rates, Final Local Government Finance Settlement and implications for the 2023-24 revenue budget & Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

From	Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services
Relevant Director	Zena Cooke, Corporate Director of Finance
Report author(s)	Dave Shipton, Head of Finance Policy, Planning and Strategy Simon Pleace, Revenue and Tax Strategy Manager
Circulated to	Cabinet
Classification	Unrestricted

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1.1 The current funding arrangements for local government were introduced in 2013-14. The arrangements allow local authorities (upper and lower tier) to retain 50% of the business rates raised locally. Effectively this means authorities retain any growth (or suffer losses) compared to the historic baseline share included in the local government finance settlement. A system of tariffs and top-ups on the baseline provide a redistribution to reflect differences between historical grant funding and business rate baseline. The economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on business rates with significant additional discounts for business and freezing of index linked uplifts, local authorities have been compensated for these government measures through a separate section 31 compensation grant.

1.2 Business rates in the UK are paid on all non-domestic properties based on each property's assigned "rateable value" and national business rate "multiplier". Business rates are collected by billing authorities (district and unitary councils). The rateable values for 2023-24 have been revalued. The last revaluation was in 2017. The revaluation was due for April 2021 (followed by further revaluations every 3 years i.e. 2024, 2027, etc), however, this was postponed in 2020 during Covid-19 pandemic until April 2023. The government has confirmed that the revaluation will have a neutral impact on business rate retention through adjusting the tariffs and top-ups.

1.3 The County Council's latest estimated share of retained business rates was not available in time to include in the final draft budget report for County Council published on 1st February 2023. Information on the share of retained business rates is calculated by each district council in Kent as per the statutory government return (NNDR1). The retained business rate precept must be based on these estimates from collection authorities with any over/under collection reflected through collection fund balances. These returns were due to be completed by 31st January 2023. The returns identify the net collectable business rates after transitional discounts, reliefs, and adjustments for estimated bad debts and repayments. The net collectable business rates are split between the share returned to central government (50%), and locally retained shares for District Councils (40%), County Council (9%) and Fire Authority (1%) after taking into account transitional payments, disregarded sums for retention, collection costs, and estimated collection fund balances to determine the net share of business rates for the year.

1.4 The final local government settlement was published on 6h February 2023. This included a minor change from the provisional settlement which was published 19th December 2022. This final settlement was not received in time for the final draft budget report for County Council published on 1st February. The final settlement included a minor change from the provisional settlement relating to an increase in the Services Grant by £300.5k from releasing £19.1m of unused contingency in the grants for all councils.

1.5 This report includes information on the County Council's latest estimated share of retained business rates from NNDR1 and the final local government settlement. The final draft budget approved by County Council on 9th February 2023 assumed no additional growth in the retained business rate share for 2023-24 compared to 2022-23 retained growth, and no changes from the provisional local government finance settlement. This report includes a recommendation on how the final estimated share of retained business rates and local government finance settlement should be treated in 2023-24 budget and 2023-26 medium term financial plan.

2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the County Council's estimated net share of business rates for 2023-24 compared to 2022-23 and highlights the significant changes, and appendix 2 provides further information on the change in rateable values following the revaluation of all non-domestic properties from April 2023.

2.2 The final draft budget presented to County Council on the 9th February 2023 assumed that KCC's retained business rates and share of collection fund would increase by £16,041.8k. The latest information obtained from the completion of the NNDR1 forms by District Councils means we have an additional £3,207.6k of business rates income for 2023-24.

2.3 This increase comprises of the following component parts:

- share of disregarded amounts is £372.8k higher and baseline is £372.8k lower than the estimate included in the final draft budget.
- locally retained business rate growth is £2,140.0k higher than the estimate included in the final draft budget.
- share of collection fund deficit is an improvement of £1,067.6k (smaller deficit) than the estimate included in the draft budget. The draft budget included the final element of the 2020-21 deficit (-£1,127.6k) which was spread over three years. The final collection fund estimate includes this spread as well as an estimated collection fund surplus of £1,067.6k for 2022-23, as notified to us by the billing authorities as part of their NNDR1 returns.

2.4 We have revised our estimates for Business Rate Compensation based on the NNDR1 returns and information within the final local government finance settlement for 2023-24. Final figures will not be available for approximately two years until after accounts have been audited.

Table 1 – Revised Business Rate Compensation Grant Estimates

	Revised & Notified Compensation £000s	Budget Estimate £000s	Change £000s
Indexation Compensation (notified)	33,727.4	33,239.2	488.2
Other Discretionary Relief Compensations	4,452.0	4,356.6	95.4
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Compensation Reliefs	6,062.0	5,667.5	394.5
Total	**44,241.4**	**43,263.3**	**978.1**

2.5 All of the revised compensation grant is recurring. Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses are expected to revert back to paying full business rates when the additional reliefs cease. We do not yet know the full impact of Covid-19 on these businesses so this income may not recur at the same rate.

2.6 Overall the combination of increased share of retained business rates, reduced collection fund losses, and revised notified/estimated compensation grants results in an additional £4,185.7k of business rates related funding compared to the final draft budget presented to County Council on 9th February 2023. This comprises of £3,207.6k increase in retained business rates income explained and £978.1k of additional business rates compensation grant. A significant proportion of this will be recurring (providing we do not see any future reductions in business rates) but it is impossible at this point in time to identify how much until we have the further adjustments to the business rate top-up for 2024-25. Consequently for 2023-24 it is recommended that all of the additional business rate retention and compensation grant is used to reduce the £7.9m draw down from reserves in 2023-24 with the additional recurring element built into the 2024-25 budget once adjustments have been confirmed.

Table 2 – Summary of changes to the Business Rates figures presented to County Council on 9th February 2023

	Confirmed final estimates for 2023-24 Business Rates £000s	Estimates reported to County Council 9th Feb 2023 £000s	Net Increase in funding for 2023-24 £000s
Retained Business Rates			
Local share of baseline	50,640.5	51,013.3	-372.8
Local share of disregards	3,486.7	3,113.9	372.8
Sub Total (1)	**54,127.2**	**54,127.2**	**0.0**
Local share of growth	3,070.5	930.5	2,140.0
Pool benefit	3,000.0	3,000.0	0.0
Sub Total (2)	**6,070.5**	**3,930.5**	**2,140.0**
Collection Fund (including spread)	-60.0	-1,127.6	1,067.6
Sub Total (3)	**60,137.7**	**56,930.1**	**3,207.6**
Business Rates Compensation (see table 1 for detail)	**44,241.4**	**43,263.3**	**978.1**
Totals	**104,379.1**	**100,193.4**	**4,185.7**

3.1 The final local government finance settlement was announced on 6th February 2023. The Council's final draft budget published on 1st February and approved by County Council on 9th February was therefore based on the provisional local government finance settlement.

3.2 The final settlement was largely unchanged from the provisional settlement other than a £300.5k increase in our allocation of the Services Grant following the release by DLUHC of unused contingency. A summary comparison of the provisional and final settlement is set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Comparison of 2023-24 Final and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlements

Government Grants within Core Spending Power	Final Settlement	Provisional Settlement	Change
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Business Rates	194,929.5	194,929.5	
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	11,072.6	11,072.6	0.0
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	50,014.7	50,014.7	0.0
Social Care Grant	88,770.7	88,770.7	0.0
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	7,012.0	7,012.0	0.0
Business Rates Compensation Grant	33,204.4*	33,204.4	0.0
New Homes Bonus	2,272.8	2,272.8	0.0
Services Grant	7,599.4	7,298.9	300.5
Adult Social Care Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund	14,435.1	14,435.1	0.0
TOTALS	**409,311.2**	**409,010.7**	**300.5**

*This is the estimate in the core spending power in the final settlement. It differs from the figures in appendix 1 and 3 as this table only reflects the under indexation of the business rate multiplier. A more up to date amount of £33,727.4k from the NNDR1 returns will be included in the Council's final budget (and this increase is reflected in the additional £978.1k shown in table 3 and 4 above).

3.3 In addition, the Extended Rights to Free Travel grant allocation for 2023-24 has recently been confirmed at £3,257.7k, an increase of £239k on the estimated amount included within the approved 2023-24 budget.

4.1 The combination of the increase in the NNDR1 retained business rate share, notified and estimated business rates compensation, and final local government finance settlement results in a **net increase in the available funding for 2023-24 of £4,725.2k**. Of this £3,118.1k relates to core funding from retained business rates, £539.5k relates to government grants and £1,067.6k from business rate collection fund.

4.2 It is proposed that the £3,118.1k from retained business rates and the £539.5k from government grants (£3,657.6k in total) is used to support core spending in 2023-24 and thereby reduces the amount of draw down required from the corporate smoothing reserve from £7,909.3k to £4,251.7k.

4.3 In accordance with existing policy, it is proposed to transfer the one-off Business Rate collection fund excess balance of £1,067.6k into the Local Taxation Reserve (as we have done for the surplus Council Tax collection fund balance).

4.4 We are currently working closely with Maidstone Borough Council to understand the implications of these latest Business Rate figures on the Business Rate pool and the financial benefit back to this Council. We intend to update Members in due course.

4.5 We have updated our funding assumptions for 2024-25 and 2025-26 and attached a revised high level summary three year plan at appendix 4. The updated figures will be our starting point in building our detailed 2024-25 budget which will be presented to Members for approval in February 2024.

2.1 The County Council's estimated net share of business rates for 2023-24 is £60.1m (including the business rate pool). This is the amount we need to precept from collection authorities. This compares to £40.9m for 2022-23, an increase of £19.2m. However, within this there are several constituent elements affecting retained shares as set out in table 4.

Table 4 – composition of share of business rates

	2023-24	2022-23	Change	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Total Rateable Value (RV)	1,645,554.2	1,483,675.9	161,878.3	
Gross Rates after Multiplier	821,131.5	740,354.3	80,777.2	77,922.5
Forecast Growth/(decline)	804.9	3,659.6	-2,854.7	
Net Transitional Protection	-59,139.9	0.0	-59,139.9	-59,139.9
Mandatory Reliefs	-96,798.8	-101,653.0	4,854.2	1,520.2
Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Reliefs	-57,551.4	-57,132.7	-418.7	
Unoccupied Reliefs	-20,518.9	-19,168.7	-1,350.2	
Discretionary Reliefs	-7,926.0	-6,360.9	-1,565.1	
Net Rates Payable	**580,001.4**	**559,698.5**	**20,302.9**	
Less estimated bad debts	-8,810.5	-8,604.5	-206.0	-1,446.7
Less estimated repayments	-26,304.0	-25,017.8	-1,286.2	
Designated area disregarded amounts	715.6	670.0	45.6	
Collectable Rates	**545,602.4**	**526,746.2**	**18,856.2**	
plus Transitional payments	59,139.9	0.0	59,139.9	59,139.9
less Collection Costs	-2,103.2	-2,090.6	-12.6	-47.1
less Disregards	-5,850.5	-5,816.0	-34.5	
Net for Distribution (100%)	**596,788.6**	**518,839.6**	**77,949.0**	
<u>KCC share</u>				
9% KCC share of net for distribution	53,711.0	46,695.6	7,015.4	
plus share of Disregards	3,486.7	3,113.9	372.8	
plus Pool benefit	3,000.0	3,000.0	0.0	
Estimated Collection Fund Balance	-60.0	-11,921.2	11,861.2	
Net Retained Rates (see note)	**60,137.7**	**40,888.3**	**19,249.4**	

Note: £16,041.8k was included as an estimated increase for 2023-24 budget approved by County Council on 9th February 2023, so the final precept is £3,207.6k higher than the approved budget.

The following table provides a brief description of the component parts of the NNDR1 in Table 4 above.

Rateable Value	This represents the total rateable value (RV) on all non-domestic properties in the county as assessed by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). The gross business rates is the RV multiplied by the National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) multiplier of 49.9p. Forecast growth/decline is the district's estimates for new properties and

	changes in valuations from outstanding Check/Challenge/Appeal claims as well as the impact of revaluation.
Transitional Protection	Transitional arrangements will be in place over the 3 years 2023-24 to 2025-26 for businesses that have seen a significant change to their rateable value following the revaluation. Transitional protection does not affect local authority retained amounts as any protection is reimbursed from a national pool and any increases repaid to the national pool (this can be seen in the transitional protection of -£59.1m and transitional payments from Government of +£59.1m in Table 4 above).
Mandatory Reliefs	Mandatory reliefs include reliefs for small businesses (those with an RV under £15k) of up to 100%, reliefs for charitable premises (80%) as well as other less significant reliefs. Mandatory reliefs do affect local authority retained amounts as they reduce the amounts of rates payable on properties in receipt of reliefs.
Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Reliefs	Following the Covid-19 pandemic additional reliefs via districts and boroughs were granted by the Government to retail, leisure and hospitality businesses. During 2022-23 eligible businesses could get 50% off their business rates bills up to a cash cap of £110,000; this has been extended into 2023-24 where eligible businesses could get 75% off their bills, with the same cash cap in place. The impact on local authority retained business rates will be fully compensated by a separate Section 31 grant.
Unoccupied Reliefs	Empty properties are exempt from business rates for 3 months. Some properties such as industrial premises, listed buildings, etc., are eligible for extended empty reliefs. Empty property reliefs do affect local authority retained amounts as they reduce the amount of business rates payable.
Discretionary Reliefs	Discretionary reliefs include additional reliefs granted by government for which authorities receive a separate Section 31 compensation grant so do not impact on local authority retained amounts. These include the cap/freeze on the multipliers for all businesses, extension of small business rate relief, rural rate relief, additional support for small businesses, telecoms relief and relief for local newspapers. Other discretionary reliefs such as additional charitable reliefs can be granted by local councils at their discretion. These reliefs do impact on local authority retained amounts as they reduce the amount of business rates payable.
Bad Debts and Repayments	These are estimated amounts affecting business rate collection determined by collection authorities (district and borough councils in Kent). Bad debts include businesses that have entered administration. Repayments reflect estimates for over payments including backdated claims for Check/Challenge/Appeal. These do affect local authority retained amounts as they reduce the amount of business rates payable.
Collection Costs	Collection authorities recover the costs of business rate collection within their retained share. The treatment of collection costs reduces the amount of business rates for the central share and precepting authorities.
Disregards	Disregards include businesses, such as those that host renewable energy schemes. Locally retained amounts are adjusted for the impact of additional discounts under these schemes. The renewable

	energy scheme also allows local areas that host renewable energy projects to keep all the additional business rates on these premises (including two-tier distribution)
Local authority shares	These are based on the net amount available for distribution after application of reliefs, bad debts and repayments, collection costs and disregards split proportionally between central share (50%), District Council (collection authority) share (40%), and precepting authority share (9% county council, 1% fire authority).
Collection Fund	The Collection Fund amounts are determined by collection authorities for over/under collection on the estimated amount in previous NNDR1 returns.

2.2 The most significant increase relates to changes in rateable values following the revaluation of all non-domestic properties from April 2023. Information about the impact of the revaluation was published by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) in November https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/non-domestic-rating-change-in-rateable-value-of-rating-lists-england-and-wales-2023-revaluation/non-domestic-rating-reval-2023-draft-list-statistical-commentary-and-background-information together with a statistical release https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/non-domestic-rating-change-in-rateable-value-of-rating-lists-england-and-wales-2023-revaluation. As a result of the revaluation rateable values in Kent increased by 9.5%, this compares with a national increase of 7.3% and South East average of 10.9%. The revaluation accounts for the vast majority of £162m increase in RVs (and consequently the £78m additional business rates for distribution) from NNDR1 as shown in table 4. Table 5 summarises the changes in valuations for Kent, South East and England based on the published statistical release.

Table 5 – Impact of 2023 Revaluation

	Total	Retail	Industrial	Office	Other
Kent					
Rateable Value 2023	£1,631.3k	£389.2k	£510.5k	£174.4k	£557.1k
Rateable Value 2017	£1,490.3k	£455.3k	£379.4k	£148.6k	£507.1k
Change	£140.9k	-£66.1k	£131.3k	£25.9k	£50.1k
	9.5%	-14.5%	34.6%	17.4%	9.9%
South East					
Rateable Value 2023	£10,450.5k	£2,234.4k	£3,000.7k	£1,917.3k	£3,298.1k
Rateable Value 2017	£9,425.5k	£2,485.9k	£2,247.8k	£1,598.4k	£3,093.4k
Change	£1,025k	£-251.5k	£752.9k	£318.9k	£204.7k
	10.9%	-10.1%	33.5%	20.0%	6.6%
England					
Rateable Value 2023	£67,876.6k	£14,358.0k	£17,857.0k	£16,047.2k	£19,614.4k
Rateable Value 2017	£63,272.7k	£15,952.2k	£13,977.3k	£14,547.0k	£18,796.2k
Change	£4,603.9k	-£1,594.2k	£3,879.6k	£1,500.2k	£818.2k
	7.3%	-10.0%	27.8%	10.3%	4.4%

Table subject to roundings

2.3 In normal circumstances the business rate multiplier is reset following the revaluation to ensure the overall yield from business rates is not increased (or reduced). This would have seen a reduction in the multiplier for 2023-24 due to the increase in rateable values. The multiplier would then be increased for annual inflation linked uplift. However, for 2023-24 the Chancellor confirmed in the Autumn Statement 2022 that the multiplier would be frozen at the same level as 2022-23 (49.9p in the £) and local authorities would be compensated for the impact on business rate retention. The revaluation meant there was share of the inflationary uplift built into the business rate retention (equivalent to 3.7% for all authorities) with the remainder of the inflationary uplift provided through a separate section 31 compensation grant.

2.4 The government consulted on technical adjustments to the business rates retention system for the impact of the revaluation in September 2022. This consultation was based on the principle that the top-ups and tariffs under business rates retention should be adjusted so that authorities do not gain or suffer as a result of the revaluation and transfers between central and local lists. These principles were broadly supported by respondents. Thus, if an authority has a £50m increase in its retained share of business rates as a result of the revaluation then top-ups would be reduced by £50m (or tariffs increased by £50m).

2.5 The adjustments will comprise of 3 stages:

- 2023-24 – initial adjustment to tariff and top-ups based on the change in rateable values between the draft VOA list and valuations from business rate actual collections in 2021-22 (as recorded on 2021-22 NNDR3)
- 2024-25 – updated adjustment based on VOA list as at 1/4/23 and valuations from business rates actual collections in 2022-23 (as recorded on 2022-23 NNDR3) PLUS one off reconciliation to the 2023-24 adjustment using the updated data
- 2025-26 – removal of the one-off reconciliation

2.6 The adjustment is a complex calculation. The overall baseline for business rates in the local government finance settlement for 2023-24 was £194.9m, an increase of £7.0m over 2022-23 reflecting the 3.7% increase. This was set out in the budget report for County Council approval on 9th February. Within this the top-up after adjustment increased by £2.4m (1.7%) with the adjustment for the revaluation removing £2.7m to allow for the additional retention due to the revaluation.

Analysis of changes in Business Rates by District Council **Appendix 3**

An analysis of the significant changes by district authority

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
							(Sum A:F)	(9% of G)			(Sum H:J)
	Change in Gross Rates	Change in Transitional protection	Change in Reliefs	Changes in Bad Debts & Repaym'ts	Change in Collection Costs & Disregards	Transitional Protection Payments	Change in Net for Distribution	Change in KCC Share of Net for Distribution	Change in Share of Disregards	Change in Share of Collection Fund	Change in Total Share for Distribution
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Ashford	4,547.7	-5,189.0	-1,388.7	511.4	44.0	5,189.0	3,714.4	334.3	0.0	1,592.7	1,927.0
Canterbury	3,230.3	-3,577.1	252.5	443.7	-95.2	3,577.1	3,831.3	344.8	0.0	583.9	928.7
Dartford	-522.6	-8,513.4	339.8	-653.6	7.8	8,513.4	-828.6	-74.6	0.0	3,087.9	3,013.3
Dover	9,277.6	-4,971.6	1,353.3	-608.0	564.6	4,971.6	10,587.5	952.9	-121.3	287.0	1,118.6
Folkestone & Hythe	2,625.3	-2,260.0	2,024.2	-51.0	1.8	2,260.0	4,600.3	414.0	0.0	823.4	1,237.4
Gravesham	3,564.7	-3,461.0	301.2	-461.5	-5.3	3,461.0	3,399.1	305.9	0.0	-57.4	248.5
Maidstone	8,627.8	-5,022.8	695.9	2.6	-23.4	5,022.8	9,302.9	837.3	0.0	494.0	1,331.3
Sevenoaks	6,409.2	-4,371.6	82.7	1,232.1	-2.0	4,371.6	7,722.0	695.0	0.0	646.8	1,341.8
Swale	13,952.0	-7,057.5	-2,209.0	-262.4	-508.1	7,057.5	10,972.5	987.5	494.1	908.5	2,390.1
Thanet	5,301.9	-4,272.3	275.4	0.0	0.6	4,272.3	5,577.9	502.0	0.0	879.0	1,381.0
Tonbridge & Malling	15,227.0	-6,035.4	-918.3	-1,100.0	-6.7	6,035.4	13,202.0	1,188.2	0.0	1,578.2	2,766.4
Tunbridge Wells	5,681.8	-4,408.2	711.2	-500.0	-25.3	4,408.2	5,867.7	528.1	0.0	1,037.2	1,565.3
Total Kent	**77,922.7**	**-59,139.9**	**1,520.2**	**-1,446.7**	**-47.2**	**59,139.9**	**77,949.0**	**7,015.4**	**372.8**	**11,861.2**	**19,249.4**

Table subject to roundings

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Appendix 4 - Updated High Level Medium Term Financial Plan

					FOR PLANNING PURPOSES			
2022-23			2023-24		2024-25		2025-26	
£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
	1,132,426.0	**Revised Base Budget**		**1,191,493.8**		**1,315,610.6**		**1,412,405.3**
		Growth						
11,175.3		Net Base Budget Changes & Emerging Pressures	63,510.3		20,659.6		21,000.0	
1,157.9		Reduction in Grant Funding	3,106.4		35.0			
9,241.3		Pay	14,853.6		16,435.5		7,628.6	
28,554.9		Prices	69,470.6		44,801.4		17,812.2	
20,748.2		Demand & Cost Drivers	34,001.7		31,448.7		29,433.7	
9,234.6		Service Strategies and Improvements	3,862.4		2,312.0		-2,961.6	
		Government & Legislative						
4,161.0		Social Care Reform					25,000.0	
		Household Support Fund	22,130.8		-22,130.8			
-669.6		Other	8,351.5		-1,049.8		-4,497.6	
	83,603.6	**Growth**		**219,287.3**		**92,511.6**		**93,415.3**
		Savings, Income & Grants						
		Transformation Savings						
-8,407.7		Adults Transformation Programmes	752.1		-5,555.6		-6,622.5	
-451.4		Other Transformation Programmes	-2,405.0		-2,446.7		-50.0	
-8,676.6		Income Generation	-15,641.3		-7,217.5		-4,652.7	
		Efficiency Savings						
-380.0		Staffing	-1,582.4					
		Premises	-8.0		-2,903.6		-1,492.0	
-3,316.0		Contracts & Procurement	-1,391.0					
-1,304.6		Other	-6,664.8					
-2,094.0		Financing Savings	-3,893.3		-2,340.1		-2,065.5	
-9,252.5		Policy Savings	-23,937.3		-12,318.6		-34,201.7	
-33,882.8		**Total Savings & Income**	**-54,771.0**		**-32,782.1**		**-49,084.4**	
-3,419.0		Increases in Grants & Contributions	-34,712.1		21,947.7		8,113.0	
	-37,301.8	**Total Savings, Income & Grants**		**-89,483.1**		**-10,834.4**		**-40,971.4**
		Reserves						
22,458.7		Contributions to Reserves	23,516.3		32,169.3		21,260.0	
-20,474.1		Removal of prior year contributions	-29,458.7		-24,739.6		-32,169.3	
-8,772.0		Drawdowns from Reserves	-8,517.0		-829.2			
19,553.4		Removal of prior year drawdowns	8,772.0		8,517.0		829.2	
	12,766.0	**Net Impact on MTFP**		**-5,687.4**		**15,117.5**		**-10,080.1**
	1,191,493.8	**Net Budget Requirement**		**1,315,610.6**		**1,412,405.3**		**1,454,769.1**
		MEMORANDUM:						
		The net impact on our reserves balances is:						
22,458.7		Contributions to Reserves	23,516.3		32,169.3		21,260.0	
-8,772.0		Drawdowns from Reserves	-8,517.0		-829.2		0.0	
13,686.7		**Net movement in Reserves**	**14,999.3**		**31,340.1**		**21,260.0**	
		Funding per the Final Local Government Finance Settlement & Local Taxation						
10,018.1		Revenue Support Grant	11,072.6		11,827.1		11,827.1	
54,478.4		Social Care Grant	88,770.7		103,212.0		103,212.0	
4,161.0		Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	14,435.1		21,703.9		21,703.9	
		Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	7,012.0		11,686.6		11,686.6	
12,953.2		Services Grant	7,599.4		7,599.4		7,599.4	
138,429.0		Business Rate Top-up Grant	140,802.3		150,396.1		150,396.1	
50,014.7		Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	50,014.7		50,014.7		50,014.7	
29,262.9		Business Rates Compensation Grant	44,241.4		47,255.9		47,255.9	
4,381.5		New Homes Bonus	2,272.8					
1,969.0		Other Un-ringfenced grants	3,257.7		3,257.7		3,257.7	
52,809.5		Local Share of Retained Business Rates	60,197.7		64,094.9		64,094.9	
-10,793.6		Business Rate Collection Fund	1,067.6					
-1,127.6		Business Rate Collection Fund 2020-21 3-Year Deficit Write-off	-1,127.6					
11,886.6		Drawdown from reserves of S31 grant for Covid-19 business rate reliefs						
2,347.5		Drawdown from reserves of S31 grant for compensation for irrecoverable local taxation losses due to Covid-19	2,347.5					
725,505.3		Council Tax Income (including increase up to referendum limit but excluding social care levy)	761,106.4		799,199.5		830,104.1	
97,589.1		Council Tax Adult Social Care Levy	115,672.9		135,157.5		146,616.7	
12,230.5		Council Tax Collection Fund	11,488.7		7,000.0		7,000.0	
-4,621.3		Council Tax Collection Fund 2020-21 3-Year Deficit Write-off	-4,621.3					
	1,191,493.8	**Total Funding**		**1,315,610.6**		**1,412,405.3**		**1,454,769.1**

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From: **Roger Gough, Leader**

Zena Cooke, Corporate Director for Finance

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **30 March 2023**

Decision No: **n/a**

Subject: **Update on Supporting Kent Residents with Financial Hardship**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: This report provides an overall briefing on Kent County Council's work to support Kent residents with the cost-of-living crisis. This includes an overview of the work delivered through the Household Support Fund, as well as work undertaken through the Financial Hardship Programme.

Recommendation:

Cabinet is asked to:

- Note and comment on the activities being led by the Financial Hardship Programme funded through the Helping Hands Scheme
- Note the latest allocation of the Household Support Fund and the approach proposed in section 3.12 to be delivered under key decision 21/00107
- Comment and discuss if there are additional areas of financial hardship which are not currently being supported that should be explored

1. Introduction

1.1 The Helping Hands Scheme was created in February 2021 by KCC's Leader using £10m of the Covid Emergency Grant to support projects aimed at helping residents experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship. The scheme has four key areas: Residential, Digital Inclusion and Capabilities, Crowdfunding and Business.

1.2 The Financial Hardship Programme includes the Helping Hands Scheme (Residential and Digital Inclusion and Capabilities) and expands on this work to utilise funding from other sources. As a result of this, three additional workstreams are included in the Financial Hardship Programme; Data Sharing, Referrals, and Free School Meals and Healthy Start.

1.3 The cost-of-living crisis presents a significant challenge to the county and its economy, KCC and district and borough services, our partners and the people of Kent as the impacts of inflation and rising costs are felt by households and organisations.

1.4 This paper is intended to provide a high-level overview of the support for residents provided in response to the cost-of-living crisis.

2. Task & Finish Group

2.1 In September 2022, a paper was prepared for the Kent Council Leaders on the cost-of-living crisis and an urgent multi-agency summit was held to discuss coordinated activity in Kent and Medway in response to this crisis. As a result of this and subsequent meetings, officers were tasked with reinvigorating the Financial Hardship Task & Finish Group through coordinating a bottom-up response with district colleagues and partner agencies.

3. Household Support Fund

3.1 On 30 September 2021, the government announced that vulnerable households across the country would be able to access a new £500 million support fund to help them with essentials over the winder. The Household Support fund was distributed by councils in England to directly help those who needed it most. The fund has been extended and is currently coming to the end of its third round, with an announcement of round 4 confirmed.

3.2 The fund aims to support vulnerable households and families with children, where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable. It should be used to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford food and utility bills (heating, cooking, lighting) and water for household purposes. The upcoming fourth round has also allowed funding for supplementary advice services, including debt and benefit advice, however, the amount allocated to this is expected to be limited and linked to the provision of practical support.

3.3 The fund has strict monitoring requirements and very limited criteria which restrict the ability of local authorities to deliver schemes which provide sustainable benefit to communities. Through the delivery of the Household Support Fund, Kent County Council has strived to achieve maximum sustainability within the limitations of the grant.

3.4 Throughout the first two rounds of funding, over 450,000 awards have been issued to the residents of Kent. This has included support for Free School Meal eligible households with food vouchers, countywide energy voucher schemes, support with water bills and more, as well as delivery of support through local schemes with District and Borough Councils.

3.5 The third round of funding began at the beginning of October 2022 and is currently still being delivered. The funding for the current round must be spent by the end of March 2023.

Household Support Fund Delivery to date

3.6 For Free School Meal eligible households, this has resulted in over 300,000 awards of support over rounds 1 and 2. Whilst each round has varied in the specific support, eligible families could receive between £65 and £110 of support over 6 month periods. In the first two rounds of Household Support Fund, this has totalled over £8m funding.

3.7 Another key part of delivery of the Household Support Fund has been through support with energy bills and water bills. We are currently in the third round of the HSF, and the funding allocated for use by the Helping Hands Team is being developed to target support at those who are unlikely to receive support through other means, whilst also providing an opportunity for those experiencing exceptional financial hardship to seek out help.

3.8 Since the inception of the HSF, support has been delivered to people in need via voucher schemes and direct support to individuals' utility accounts that can alleviate the financial pressures that the household is experiencing.

3.9 The Household Support Fund delivered within KCC has already made 32,429 awards through Rounds 1 and 2 to the residents of Kent who have been experiencing financial hardship and with planned phase 3 funding set to award a further 24,910. The total actual and planned awards at the close of March 2023 from all Household Support Fund rounds will be 57,339. This has been done with the support of the Kent Support and Assistance Service which provides help to people in financial crisis.

3.10 District and Borough Councils have delivered local targeted support with additional Household Support Funds provided to focus on energy efficiency solutions such as boiler replacement and repairs to provide a longer-term sustainable solution for the household.

Household Support Fund Round 4

3.11 A fourth round of Household Support Funding has been announced by the Department of Work and Pensions as part of measures to provide help with global inflationary challenges. Whereas previous rounds of Household Support Fund have run for 6 months, this round of funding has been extended to 12 months, running from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024. Because of the extended length, the grant amount is larger, the grant determination for Kent is £22m.

3.12 To reflect the approach taken in the previous rounds, the following approach has been proposed under the existing Key Decision (21/00107):

- Provide £10 per week food vouchers for Free School Meal eligible households over the school holidays
- Provide energy vouchers for Free School Meal eligible households
- Allocate 20% of the funds to District and Borough Councils for local initiatives in line with the guidance
- Allocate the remaining funds for countywide initiatives including a publicly available energy voucher scheme.

4. Financial Hardship Programme

4.1 The Financial Hardship Programme has delivered, and is continuing to deliver through the Helping Hands Funding, innovative projects to support residents in hardship, or at risk of hardship. The different streams of activity have been developed to target support in areas which have been most impacted by initially the Covid-19 pandemic, and subsequently by the cost-of-living crisis. In addition, the work targets areas which are not already being supported by existing schemes.

4.2 Full details of the projects included in the Financial Hardship Programme can be found in Appendix A, however the below summary provides some key headlines from the activity to date.

Residential

4.3 The Residential Workstream has focused on a number of key areas and has launched a Money Advice Hub pilot which aims to provide Kent residents with a central hub for specialist debt advice and solutions using the latest technology. Working with delivery partner Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB), initial outputs indicate over ***200*** people have contacted the service for debt support. This compliments the Money and Mental Health project which has supported over ***450*** people with mental health problems to receive targeted debt advice. Another key area of work is a Parish Council Scheme being set up in partnership with the Kent Association of Local Councils. Parish Councils will be invited to apply for grants of up to a maximum of £2000 to support existing or new projects taking place in their parish.

Data Sharing

4.4 The Data Sharing Workstream's central aim, is to improve the ability of local authorities to proactively identify and subsequently support Kent residents who are experiencing financial hardship, or at risk of some form of crisis likely associated with financial difficulty (e.g. homelessness). There are two data-sharing systems which are being piloted across Kent which seek to achieve the above aim: the 'Low-Income Family Tracker' (LIFT) provided by Policy in Practice (PIP), and 'OneView' supplied by Xantura. PIP's system has now been actively piloted since 2021, resulting in over ***£750,000*** worth of benefits being claimed by local residents. Over the next 7 years, this rolling-return is expected to deliver over ***£11m*** to Kent residents, and a likely reduction on demand of statutory services as a result (e.g. temporary accommodation, mental health services). Xantura's system is in the process of being rolled-out to district and borough councils following Maidstone's small-scale pilot in 2020/21.

Strengthening Referrals

4.5 The strengthening referrals workstream aims to mitigate the action of signposting by ensuring that organisations across Kent can make simple, safe and secure referrals for people who need help and support rather than signposting. The online platform ReferKent was launched in September 2022, where organisations across Kent can join to make and receive secure referrals. ***716*** referrals have been made through the system since launch, with over ***65*** organisations taking part.

Free School Meals and Healthy Start

4.6 The Free School Meals and Healthy Start workstream's purpose is to increase uptake of both schemes, to benefit Kent families that are in financial hardship by providing assistance with the cost of providing nutritious, balanced diets, to help improve health and education outcomes. Through engagement with stakeholders we have seen an increase in Healthy Start registrations from 56% to 64% or 771 families (the National average was 57.5% in Aug '21 and is now 62%), with every district seeing an increase in registrations. A pilot approach to Vitamin delivery has provided ***1000*** mothers in 5 postcodes with a full-term supply of Health Start vitamins. This has resulted in an average increase of ***23%*** in new registrations for the vitamins, which will contribute to positive health outcomes.

Digital Inclusion & Capabilities

4.7 The Digital Inclusion & Capabilities workstream's central aim is to improve digital inclusion and capabilities across Kent (and more recently Medway). The workstream is also known as Digital Kent. The workstream was originally allocated £2.5m from COVID Emergency Grants (Helping Hands). A further £2.5m was allocated through Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and now the workstream has influenced or attracted a further ***£2m*** to support digital inclusion.

4.8 This workstream has successfully delivered a number of projects. The Hardware Access scheme has gifted a total of ***3,837*** remanufactured devices to residents, which has not only supported with digital inclusion, but has also contributed to positive environmental impacts. The Digital Champions Network has recruited over ***500*** volunteers and has become one of the largest community networks of volunteer digital champions in the country.

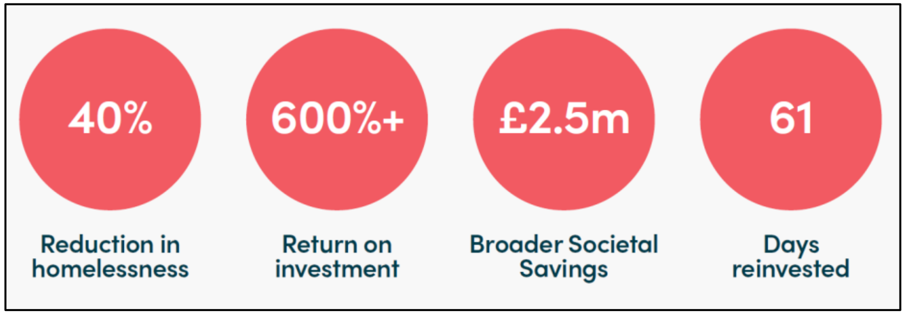
5. Recommendation(s)

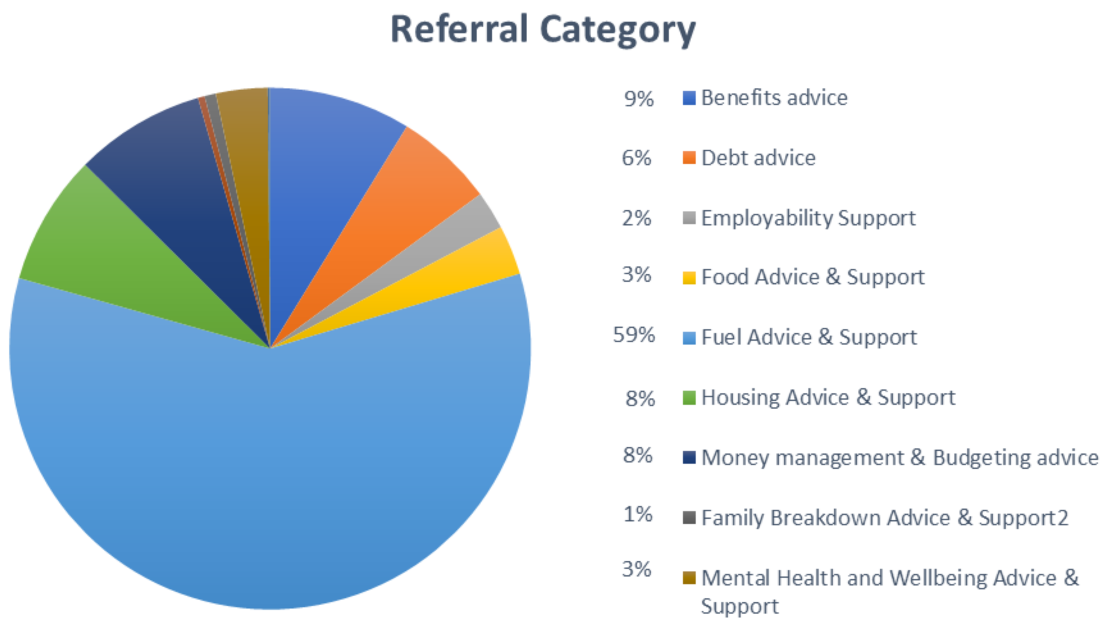
5.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- Note and comment on the activities being led by the Financial Hardship Programme funded through the Helping Hands Scheme
- Note the latest allocation of the Household Support Fund and the approach proposed in section 3.12 to be delivered under key decision 21/00107
- Comment and discuss if there are additional areas of financial hardship which are not currently being supported that should be explored
-

Appendix A – Project Details

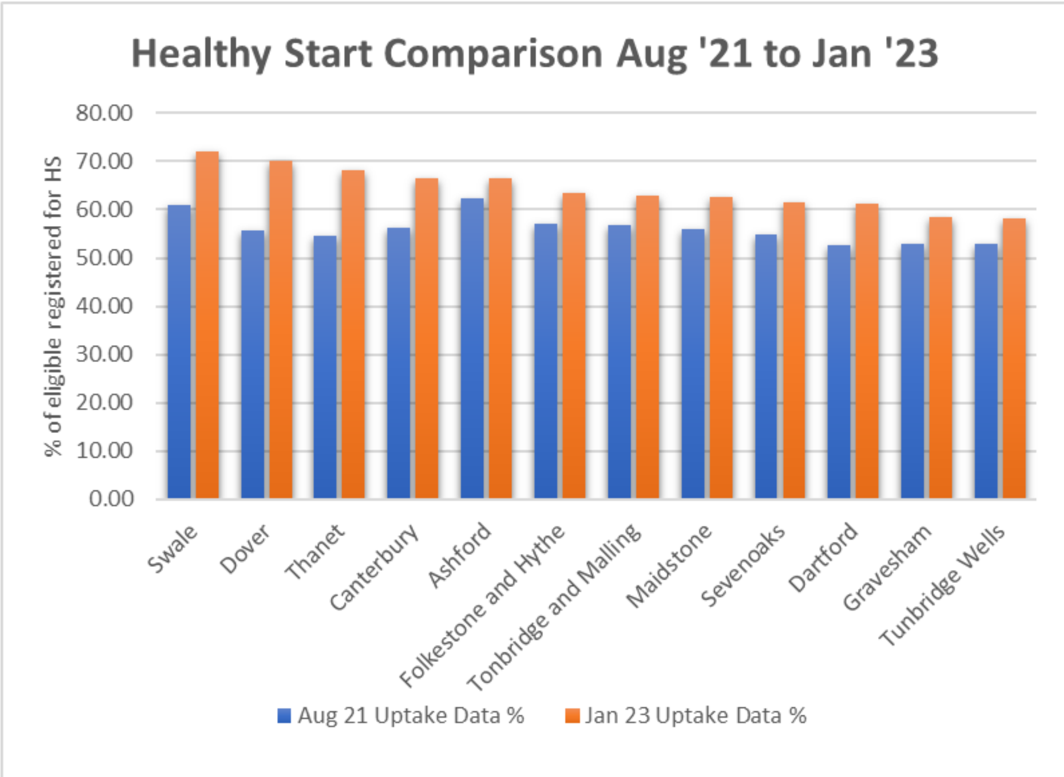
Residential Workstream	
Kent Money Advice Hub	The project aims to provide Kent residents with a central hub for specialist debt advice and solutions. The project objectives are to reduce triage times, provide high quality, standardised debt advice and ensure an all-inclusive service. This project uses the latest technology, working with delivery partner Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) to provide advice via several channels, including phone, video calling, and text money and debt advice support delivered via kiosks, pods (kiosk within a soundproof booth) and a supporting website. The 4 kiosks and 1 kiosk with soundproof booth (pod) are strategically placed within the Kent community; located in Gateways, community centres and food banks. Initial outputs from the scheme indicate that demand into the service has been high with more than 200 people contacting the service for debt related support. To compliment this project, the Helping Hands Scheme has part funded the Money and Mental Health Project. This project is designed to reduce the risk of people with mental health problems attempting to take their own lives as a result of their problematic debt, this project has created a new specific referral pathway through which clinicians, services and individuals can refer into a dedicated Citizens Advice team. The number of individuals being supported since the beginning of the scheme continues to grow with over 450 being supported at the time of writing.
Bereavement Support Payments	There is a large national cohort of families (c21,000) eligible to claim bereavement support back to 2001 following a legal action to entitle common law and civil partners to Bereavement support. Nationally, there will be an additional c1,800 families eligible for this support annually. National Children's Bureau are working with DWP to identify those eligible. From a Kent perspective we are raising awareness for Kent residents through a communication campaign working collaboratively with DWP and National Children's Bureau share messaging through our own channels. We have already facilitated this information being shared nationally through the LGA Cost-of-Living hub and Local Government Pension Service. If the claimant was getting Child Benefit when their partner died (or did not get it but were entitled to it), they will get the higher rate of £9,800. If the claimant was not entitled to Child Benefit, they will get the lower rate (unless they were pregnant when their partner died) of £4,300. The affected families have 12 months from the 9th February 2023 to claim the backdated payments.
Parish Council Scheme	In response to the cost-of-living crisis we will be working in collaboration with Kent Association of Local Councils to deliver a grant scheme to support Kent residents experiencing financial hardship. Parish Councils will be invited to apply for grants of up to a maximum of £2000 to support existing or new projects taking place in their parish. A total budget of £300,000 has been agreed by KCC for this project to help address specific hardships of residents as a result of the cost-of-living crises.
Underwritten Loans Scheme	The Underwritten Loans Scheme is a partnership project with Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and Kent's Credit Union, Kent Savers. The project is intended to provide zero interest loans for a term of up to 5 years and a maximum loan of £4000 to residents in high interest debt. Applicants need to undertake financial resilience training with CAB to improve their financial resilience (maximise their income) and sign up to a membership with Kent Savers to benefit from accessing the zero-interest loan.
Debt Relief Order (DRO)	The project aims to provide Kent Savers Credit Union with funding, which will be available to a set number of pre-identified debt specialist organisations with the objective to process Debt Relief Order (DRO) applications for up to 100 Kent residents. This project is set to speed up the DRO application process reducing the administration time for processing a DRO Fee from weeks to days and lessen the financial burden on the Kent resident. Debt Relief Orders (DRO) are a form of insolvency. A debt relief order is an option for people on low income, no assets, and debts of £30,000 or less. There are strict criteria to qualify for this type of insolvency which Citizens Advice and Crosslight debt professionals will identify.

Data Sharing Workstream	
Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)	Policy in Practice's (PIP) system has proven to be a highly useful tool, specifically for Revenues & Benefits teams in District and Borough Councils. The system allows for identification of those eligible for, but not in receipt of, a range of benefits and support such as pension credit, discretionary housing payments etc. Local support teams can then design and implement resident engagement campaigns to increase take-up in a more targeted and tailored way. So far, over 50 different campaigns have been designed by Council teams across Kent. These campaigns target those individuals and households entitled to a range of benefits such as pension credit, but are not claiming them. 25 campaigns were completed from 2021 – 2022, resulting in over £750,000 worth of benefits being claimed by local residents who are likely to be experiencing financial hardship. Over the next 7 years, this rolling-return is expected to deliver over £11million to Kent residents, and a likely reduction on demand of statutory services as a result (e.g. temporary accommodation, mental health services).
OneView	Xantura's 'OneView' system goes further still, with the ability to intelligently identify cohorts of people at risk of a particular crisis (e.g. homelessness) based on the associated risk factors which contribute to that crisis. The system also generates a holistic picture of the individual's situation by drawing on data from multiple services including social care. Maidstone Borough Council originally ran a small-scale pilot of Xantura's system with a limited amount of data and resource assigned to the project. A case study was produced evaluating this initial pilot, which confirmed the following outcomes:  We have worked extensively with partners to ensure a robust approach to data protection and information governance has been taken in the rollout of the countywide pilot. Further work is continuing to ensure all legal considerations are addressed, and we have engaged with independent public bodies such as the Equality & Human Rights Commission to ensure privacy and proportionality are incorporated into the whole implementation of the system. Over the past year, we have engaged with all district and borough council's in Kent to offer to join the countywide pilot. We expect to have six district council's live with Xantura's system by the end of this financial year, with the remainder coming online in a phased approach in the summer. Alongside the core homelessness prevention objective we are looking into additional novel system uses for Xantura's system identified by service areas in the county council, district and borough councils and the NHS, including falls prevention, violence reduction, and food insecurity among others.

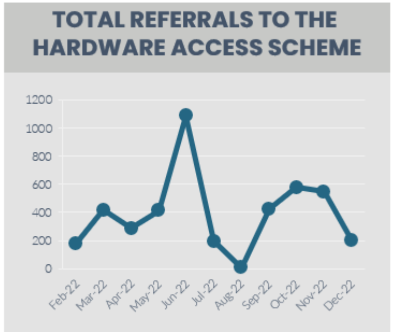
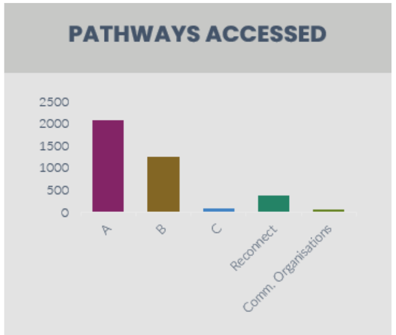
<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Strengthening Referrals Workstream</th></tr>
<tr><td>ReferKent</td><td>ReferKent launched in September 2022. ReferKent is an online platform that organisations and teams across Kent can join to make and receive referrals rather than signpost. 716 referrals have been made through the system since launch. After a small pilot with 5 organisations, 62 more have joined, with a further 100 in the process. Each week more teams and organisations are coming forward to join the platform.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Money Advice Network (MAN)</td><td>The Money Advice Network is a partnership project with the Money and Pension Service's Money Helper scheme. The project was initiated to ensure that individuals could be referred immediately to a network of debt advisors across the country. 672 referrals have been made by KCC to this service. One person said as a result of the debt advice they received they are now able to prioritise their rent and energy and that this will help them as they re-enter the workforce.

As a result of our work, other organisations across Kent are making referrals to this service and the Money and Pension service have quoted 'we are receiving the highest amount of debt referrals from Kent compared to other counties'.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vulnerability Registration Service (VRS)</td><td>The Vulnerability Registration Service is an online register that alerts creditors and lenders to a person's financial vulnerability. KCC's Client Financial Services are one of the first services to use the register and are now able to register those they have Power of Attorney over; we will be working to increase the number of teams/services across KCC and the district and borough councils who are able to register individuals across KCC. Client Financial Services have said that they often see individuals who need care home places, often these individuals have high debts because family members have taken out credit in the vulnerable person's name. This means that KCC has to foot the bill of the care home place as the debt is seen as a priority payment. The VRS can help as it will alert creditors and lenders to the persons vulnerability, and so the credit is not issued in first instance, this has the potential to decrease the amount of individuals presenting to Client Financial Services with high debts.</td></tr>
</table>

Free School Meals and Healthy Start Workstream	
Free School Meals (FSM)	FSM registered families will now remain eligible until at least July 2015, even if their circumstances improve, due to Universal Credit transitional protection. FSM is used as a metric for several other benefits that support the child and family including Pupil Premium funding. Each FSM child registered provides an additional £985-£1,385 annually in Pupil Premium funding to schools (currently £2.6m of Pupil Premium funding is unclaimed annually in Kent). These payments continue for at least 6 years, and are used to run interventions to close the attainment gap. The FSM metric has also been used by Southern Water to provide an additional £180,000 in vouchers to families in Thanet. KCC is exploring providing District Council's with access to FSM data, within the school data eco-system so reducing GDPR and so allowing Districts to use their benefit data to identify households likely to be eligible and support them to run a FSM eligibility check. The same data can also be used to identify those on FSM and target those households about existing and new support and has been sought by Districts for a number of years.
Healthy Start	Healthy Start vouchers are intended to support eligible low income households from early pregnancy through early childhood to the age of 4 for help with the cost of milk, healthy food, worth up to £1230and free vitamins. Through engagement with stakeholders we have seen an increase in Healthy Start registrations from 56% to 64% or 771 families (the National average was 57.5% in Aug '21 and is now 62%), with every district seeing an increase in registrations. Registrations for Healthy Start vitamins continue to increase steadily, since October 2022 there has been a 129% increase in registrations.



	KCC is scoping providing a secure data trust which would be used to identify eligible households that have not registered for Healthy Start. They would then be contacted to notify them of their eligibility and the benefits from registering. We are looking to create a mock-up of this system to demonstrate how it works to the organisations involved and subject to governance, would allow us to pilot an operational system. The Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Vitamin Project, launched in December 2022, provides 1000 mothers in 5 postcodes with high levels of deprivation, with a full-term supply of Healthy Start vitamins. In addition to the health benefits to the mother and child, the project is: • Promoting the Healthy Start scheme to families likely to be eligible • Promoting Healthy Start vitamins • Training midwifes on the changes to the Healthy Start scheme and importance of promoting pregnancy/early development vitamins • Data to inform the Public Health pre-conception strategy and NHS partners future strategies on pregnancy and early development vitamins. The pilot has resulted in an average increase of 23% in new registrations for Healthy Start vitamins from the targeted towns. Subject to the success of the pilot, the Integrated Care Board have asked to repeat the pilot with the remaining acute NHS trusts.

Digital Inclusion and Capabilities Workstream	
Hardware Access	Between February 2022 and December 2023, a total of 3,837 remanufactured devices have been gifted to residents (an average of 80 devices a week).   We had multiple 'access pathways' to enable residents to receive a device. The pathways (as shown above are): • Pathway A – those Kent residents digitally excluded and in or at-risk of financial hardship. • Pathway B – those Kent residents aged between 4 and 16 that are digitally excluded and in education, employment, or training meeting other criteria. • Pathway C – those Kent residents aged between 16 and 18 that are digitally excluded and not in education, employment or training and working with KCC's NEET Support Service. • Reconnect – this was specifically funded by the Reconnect programme and those funded met the eligibility criteria of Pathway B or C. • Community Organisations – this is a pathway for the Voluntary and Community Sector to access the scheme. The scheme is currently paused. The scheme is due to reopen in April 2023, with targeted support to areas of Kent that have not utilised the scheme based on the digital exclusion evidence. However, in the meantime we are offering laptops as part of the Digital Inclusion Support Scheme – Folkestone project. The devices procured for the scheme have been from a company that is Kitemarked for the remanufacturing process. Therefore, these devices being supplied have contributed to the environmental impacts: • 1.8m kilograms of sequestered carbon emissions. Helping to compensate for the 'embodied' carbon emissions from each laptop original manufacture and first three years of use. • 573.8m litres of water saved, as it is not being used for extraction, refining and production of a new computer or its components. • 954.3k kilograms of carbon reduction – avoided approximately this amount of equivalent emissions by not buying new. The laptops purchased are a carbon-neutral product from a carbon-neutral company with high environmental values.
Digital Champions Network	Since launching in May 2022, we have recruited 540 volunteer digital champions. One of the largest community networks of volunteer digital champions in the country. The digital champions have spent 1,387 hours helping people across Kent in various ways from setting up laptops to helping someone using scanning. In addition, our digital champions have supported residents to set up their UC accounts or use the NHS app.

Connectivity Access	Between August 2022 and December 2022, a total of 874 cellular routers have been provided to residents (an average of 43 routers per week). The scheme is currently paused, whilst the business case to continue the scheme for another year is considered. However, in the meantime we are offering routers and hotspot vouchers as part of the Digital Inclusion Support Scheme – Folkestone project.
Social Tariffs for Broadband	In October 2022, we launched a county-wide campaign to raise awareness of Social Tariffs for Broadband. This is after Ofcom found that only 1.5% of eligible households were taking advantage of these deals with their broadband providers. The campaign had a total reach of 4.4m residents via various channels including social media, radio, outdoor (BT telephone boxes, bus rear and internal panelling) and community handbooks. Following this campaign, we also worked with Maidstone Borough Council to pilot a targeted postcard campaign to those eligible residents, for example those claiming certain benefits. The website data and enquiries generated shows that this messaging has worked at enabling people to be aware of the offer and save on some money on their monthly bills. In January 2023, we wrote to all the other District and Borough councils to give them the opportunity to access funding to print, post and administer postcards to be sent to targeted individuals that would be eligible. So far, we have received funding applications from 4 Councils.
Social Connectivity	Working with social housing and telecom stakeholders, a Kent wayleave agreement and toolkit has been created to ensure equality of access to full fibre broadband (FTTP) for those living in social housing and multi-dwelling units. This project has now been adopted as BAU by the GET Broadband team and has been shared with stakeholders through the Kent Housing Group and is being piloted by Dover district. A key benefit of this project has been supporting housing stakeholders to receive the wayleave payments they are entitled to and provide social value for residents.
Device Recycling Scheme	The workstream will soon be launching a Device Recycling Scheme, which will be a simple, free and secure disposal mechanism for hardware across the county (public sector organisations, private businesses, and individual residents). This will generate value, that we will reinvest into digital inclusion projects (such as the Hardware Access Scheme) making this sustainable. In addition, this scheme will support KCC's environmental objectives, reducing carbon emissions.
Digital Kiosks/Hubs	The workstream is continuing to progress the Digital Kiosk/Hub project. The aim of the project is to pilot and test digital kiosks in strategic locations across the county, to enable inclusion for those excluded. This is being linked with the Strategic Reset Programme's Community Assets Programme, and we are planning to test a 'Hubs' which has Kiosks and Digital Champions within. The Hub model will be piloted at Larkfield Library initially.

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From: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, Peter Oakford
Corporate Director Finance, Zena Cooke

To: Cabinet, 30 March 2023

Subject: Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report – December 2022

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

The attached report sets out the revenue and capital budget monitoring position as at December 2022.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to:

a) NOTE the projected Revenue monitoring position of £53.7m overspend.

b) NOTE the projected Schools' monitoring position of £45.6 overspend.

c) CONSIDER and NOTE the progress on the delivery of £41.2m in-year savings.

d) CONSIDER and NOTE the actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend as far as possible.

e) NOTE the projected Capital monitoring position of £113.5m underspend.

f) NOTE the Prudential Indicators report.

g) NOTE the Reserves monitoring position.

1. Introduction

1.1 The December 2022 budget monitoring report being presented is the third monitoring position for 2022-23 and sets out the revenue and capital projected position.

2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report – December 2022

2.1 The attached report sets out the overall projected position as at 31 December 2022, which is a revenue overspend of +£53.7m and a capital underspend of -£113.5m.

2.2 Whilst the overspend has reduced since the quarter 2 report, the size of the overspend continues to be of serious concern requiring continued management action, and minimising spend to ensure we reduce the overspend as much as possible by the year end. This is particularly important given the 2023-24 and medium-term budget challenge. Inflationary and demand pressures, combined with non-delivery of some agreed savings, continue to impact on both income and expenditure. Any overspend at the end of the financial year over and above the budgeted £25m in the risk reserve, will need to be met from general or other earmarked reserves, but this approach is not sustainable in the medium term. Section 12 of the attached report details the actions that are being and will be taken that are not yet reflected in this report, but which will reduce the overspend position. It also highlights the impact of these actions on the 2023-34 budget position. The management actions previously identified and delivered are reflected in the latest forecast out-turn position.

2.4 The Schools' Delegated budgets are reporting an overspend of +£45.6m. This reflects the impact of high demand for additional SEN support and greater demand for specialist provision. The High Needs deficit is the Council's most significant financial risk and is now part of the DfE's Safety Valve Programme which requires a robust deficit reduction plan to bring the deficit back into balance within 5 years.

3. Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to:

a) NOTE the projected Revenue monitoring position of £53.7m overspend.

b) NOTE the projected Schools' monitoring position of £45.6m overspend.

c) CONSIDER and NOTE the progress on the delivery of £41.2m in-year savings.

d) CONSIDER and NOTE the actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend as far as possible.

e) NOTE the projected Capital monitoring position of £113.5m underspend.

f) NOTE the Prudential Indicators report.

g) NOTE the Reserves monitoring position.

4. Contact details

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Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23

As at December 2022

By Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, Peter Oakford
Corporate Director Finance, Zena Cooke
Cabinet Members
Corporate Directors

To Cabinet – 30 March 2023

Unrestricted

Contents

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1 Introduction

This report sets out the Council's financial position for the year as at the end of December 2022. The Revenue General Fund is projecting a +£53.7m overspend for the full financial year. Children, Young People and Education and Adult Social Care and Health are projecting significant overspends of +£33.3m and +£25.6m respectively.

Whilst the overspend has reduced since the quarter 2 report, the size of the overspend continues to be of serious concern requiring continued management action, and minimising spend as far as possible to ensure we reduce the overspend as much as possible by the year end. This is particularly important given the 2023-24 and medium-term budget challenge. Inflationary and demand pressures, combined with non-delivery of some agreed savings, continue to impact on both income and expenditure.

Any overspend at the end of the financial year over and above the budgeted £25m in the risk reserve, will need to be met from general or other earmarked reserves, but this approach is not sustainable in the medium term. Section 12 in this report details the actions that are being and will be taken that are not yet reflected in this report but which will reduce the overspend position. Section 12 also highlights the impact of these actions on the 2023-34 budget position. The management actions previously identified and delivered are reflected in the latest forecast out-turn position.

1.1	The overall Revenue projection is now a +£53.7m overspend.	The Revenue General Fund projected year end position is a net overspend of +£53.7m. Overspends are projected in all Directorates except CED & NAC. The largest variances are +£33.3m in CYPE and +£25.6m in ASCH, with overspends in DCED of +£3.7m and GET of +£3.5m. NAC is projecting an underspend of -£10.4m and CED is projecting an underspend of -£2.3m. Details can be found in the individual directorate sections.
1.2	There is £9.7m of spend that will be funded from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve.	The projected net spend of £1,252.7m includes £9.7m of Covid-19, and committed Helping Hands and COMF spend which will be funded from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve. £9.7m of this is reflected in this report as a drawdown from the reserve as it relates to the committed spend identified in the 2021-22 outturn report.
1.3	The Schools' Delegated Budgets are reporting a +£45.6m overspend.	The overspend position of +£45.6m reflects the impact of high demand for additional SEN support and high cost per child resulting from greater demand for more specialist provision. The projected deficit on the High Needs budget has increased by £41m in this year from £101m at the end of 2021-22 and is estimated to increase to around £142m by the end of this financial year. The High Needs deficit is the Council's most significant financial risk and is now part of the DfE's Safety Valve Programme which once agreed will require a robust deficit reduction plan to bring the reserve back into balance within 5 years.

1 Introduction

1.4	The Capital budget projection is a net underspend of -£113.5m.	The Capital Programme continues to experience significant slippage. The net underspend is made up of +£28.1m real overspend and -£141.6m slippage, which represents almost 29% of the budget. The largest real variance is an overspend of +£24.1m in GET. Details can be found in the capital sections. The major slippage is -£85.6m in GET and -£36.2m in CYPE. Details can be found in the capital sections.

2 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

2.1	Note the projected Revenue monitoring position of £53.7m overspend	Please refer to sections 3 to 9
2.2	Note the projected Schools' monitoring position of £45.6m overspend	Please refer to section 10
2.3	Consider and note the progress on the delivery of £41.2m in-year savings	Please refer to section 11
2.4	Consider and note the actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend as far as possible	Please refer to Section 12
2.5	Note the projected Capital monitoring position of £113.5m underspend	Please refer to Section 13
2.6	Note and agree the Capital budget adjustments	Please refer to Section 14 for details
2.7	Note the Prudential Indicators report	Please refer to Appendix 2
2.8	Note the Reserves monitoring position	Please refer to Appendix 3

General Fund

Projected position as overspend/(underspend)

Directorate	Revenue Budget	Revenue Projected Outturn	**Net Revenue Projected Variance**	*Last reported position*	*Movement (+/-)*
	£m	£m	**£m**	*£m*	*£m*
Adult Social Care & Health	460.5	486.1	**25.6**	*27.7*	*(2.1)*
Children, Young People & Education	321.2	354.5	**33.3**	*33.9*	*(0.6)*
Growth, Environment & Transport	178.7	182.2	**3.5**	*5.1*	*(1.6)*
Deputy Chief Executive Department	71.6	75.3	**3.7**	*1.4*	*2.2*
Chief Executive Department	33.6	31.3	**(2.3)**	*(0.7)*	*(1.5)*
Non-Attributable Costs	129.4	119.0	**(10.4)**	*(6.5)*	*(3.9)*
Corporately Held Budgets	4.1	4.4	**0.3**	*0.0*	*0.3*
General Fund	**1,199.1**	**1,252.7**	**53.7**	***60.9***	***(7.3)***
Ringfenced Items					
Schools' Delegated Budgets	0.0	45.6	**45.6**	*50.4*	*(4.8)*
Overall Position	**1,199.1**	**1,298.3**	**99.3**	***111.3***	***(12.1)***

General Fund

The General Fund projected position is a net overspend of +£53.7m, with the most significant overspends in Children, Young People and Education of £33.3m and Adult Social Care & Health of £25.6m. The projected overspend represents 4.5% of the Revenue Budget and presents a serious and significant risk to the Council's financial resilience if it is not addressed. The latest monitoring as at the end of January suggests that the forecast overspend has reduced by around £4m. As part of the 2022-23 budget planning process £25m was set aside in a risk reserve that can be used to mitigate in part the projected overspend, but action will be required to address the remaining overspend to avoid a substantial drawdown from general and other reserves being required.

Covid-19

The 2021-22 Outturn position showed the Covid-19 Emergency Grant reserve had a balance of £53.7m and the following was set aside; £15m for the continuation of Contain Outbreak Management (COMF), £8.3m for Helping Hands, £6.8m for Reconnect, £5m for Market Sustainability and £3.7m Covid-19 related roll forward requests. There is £14.9m set aside that is available to support unavoidable future Covid-19 related spend, loss of income and unrealised savings that have been impacted by Covid-19.

The projected Revenue net spend of £1,252.7m includes £9.7m spend relating to Covid-19 and committed COMF and Helping Hands off set by £9.7m (a £9.2m drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve and a £0.6m budget allocation).

Schools' Delegated Budgets

The projected overspend for 2022-23 is +£45.6m, of which +£44.2m relates to the DSG deficit and +£1.4m against Individual School reserves relating to academy conversions and closing school deficits.

The cumulative DSG deficit will increase from £97.6m to £141.8m by the end of 2022-23. This is almost entirely due to an increase in the High Needs budget deficit, which is the Council's biggest financial risk and the finalisation and successful delivery of the Council's deficit recovery plan is critical to bring the budget back into balance over the medium term. The Council is working with the Department for Education (DfE) in the second round of the Safety Valve Programme for those Councils with the highest deficits to support the development of a sustainable plan for recovery. For more information, please refer to section 10.

Since the reporting date of Dec 2022, the DFE announced on 16 March that the authority has successfully secured £140m of High Needs Funding over the next five years to help contribute towards the historical deficit. The impact on this year's position will be reflected in the outturn report.

4 Adult Social Care & Health

General Fund projected +£25.6m overspend

	Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Projected Variance: Net Revenue Forecast Variance	*Last reported position (Sept)*	*Movement (+/-)*
	£m	£m	**£m**	£m	£m
Adult Social Care & Health Operations	411.5	451.2	**39.8**	*37.3*	2.5
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets (ASCH)	40.1	26.2	**(13.8)**	*(9.2)*	(4.7)
Public Health	0.0	0.0	**0.0**	*0.0*	0.0
Business Delivery	9.0	8.7	**(0.3)**	*(0.5)*	0.2
Adult Social Care & Health	**460.5**	**486.1**	**25.6**	***27.7***	**(2.0)**
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	4.2	4.2	**0.0**	*0.0*	0.0
Net Total incl provisional share of CHB	**464.8**	**490.3**	**25.6**	***27.7***	**(2.0)**

The Adult Social Care & Health directorate is projecting a net overspend of +£25.6m.

The Adult Social Care & Health Operations division has a projected net overspend of +£39.8m, which has increased by £2m since quarter 2 and is predominantly due to Older People – Residential Care Services which are projecting a net overspend of +£29.1m.

Forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts are contributing +£2.3m to the overall overspend, with this pressure arising due to both an increase in levels of debt owed to the council as well as the requirement to set aside an amount for debts not yet due. This is based on the bad debt provision policy, so as debt rises, so will the provision required. A review of the debt position is being undertaken to identify and address the increasing levels of client related debt.

£4.5m has been released from unrealised creditors that are not anticipated to be required. The creditor position at the end of each year is an estimate based on the activity position known as at 31 March.

In recent weeks the Government has announced that funding is available to the NHS for the local Integrated Care Boards (ICB) to accelerate the hospital discharge process and social care support over the next two months; it is not yet known the impact on the adult social care budget, but this will be closely monitored over the coming weeks and will be reflected in the projected out-turn position.

Within the ring-fenced Public Health grant, in line with previous years, any underspend against the Public Health grant that is identified will be transferred to reserves to bring the Public Health Grant back to a balanced position. Work is currently underway to identify areas that make best use of the Public Health grant underspend.

Details of the significant variances on the General Fund are shown below:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Older People - Residential Care Services	+£29.1m	High levels of complexity requiring additional support and increased use of expensive short-term beds	+£28.4m of this overspend is driven by demand and costs for older people accessing residential and nursing care services, including +£12.4m from increasing use of more expensive short-term beds, driven in part by individuals leaving hospital with increased complex needs and an increase in situations where it is considered detrimental to move individuals to lower cost placements. Other pressures on this service line include a +£1.4m increase to forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts, +£1.3m in old-year costs, and +£0.7m relating to contract and commissioning savings which are no longer expected to be realised against this service line. The above overspends are partly offset by -£2.7m released from centrally held funds such as prices, winter pressures and provisions.
Adult Mental Health - Community Based Services	+£5.8m	Increases in Supported Living care packages & non-achievement of savings	+£3.8m of this overspend relates to clients receiving supported living care packages, including an increase in average hours provided per client to meet more complex needs. A further +£2.8m relates to savings which are no longer expected to be realised against this service line, with +£1.4m due to arranging care and support where achievement of savings has been impacted by demand and pressures in the social care market, and +£1.4m due to delays in the procurement of new models of care relating to microenterprises and Technology Enabled Care (TEC). The above overspends are partly offset by -£0.9m which relates to unrealised creditors.
Adult Learning Disability - Community Based Services & Support for Carers	+£4.1m	Increased complexity and higher costs than anticipated.	+£6.4m of the overspend relates to clients receiving supported living and day care packages with higher costs mainly driven by increasing complexity of needs. +£0.7m of this overspend is due to unrealised savings, mainly due to contract and commissioning savings which are no longer expected to be achieved this financial year. +£0.1m of the overspend is due to an increase to forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts. The above overspends are partly offset by -£3.0m which related to unrealised creditors (-£2.6m) and centrally held funds (-£0.4m).

Adult Mental Health - Residential Care Services	+£1.9m	Increasing complexity of need and costs and non-achievement of savings	+£1.8m of the overspend is due to the cost of client care packages increasing beyond budgeted levels due to increasing complexity of need and market pressures. +£0.3m of this overspend is due to contract and commissioning savings which are no longer expected to be achieved this financial year. +£0.1m due to an increase to forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts. The above overspends are partly offset by -£0.3m unrealised creditor position and centrally held funds.
Adult Physical Disability - Community Based Services	+£1.6m	Increasing complexity of need and costs and non-achievement of savings	+£0.7m of the overspend is due to service activity exceeding budgeted levels due to increasing complexity of need and market pressures, and a pressure of +£1.1m relating to savings which are no longer expected to be realised against this service line. The above pressures are partly offset by -£0.2m released from centrally held funds.
Adult Physical Disability - Residential Care Services	+£1.3m	Increasing complexity of need and costs and non-achievement of savings	+£1.3m of the overspend is due to service activity exceeding budgeted levels due to increasing complexity of need and market pressures. +£0.1m due to an increase to forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts. +£0.1m of this overspend is due to contract and commissioning savings which are no longer expected to be achieved this financial year. The above pressures are partly offset by -£0.2m released from centrally held funds.
Older People - Community Based Services	-£1.1m	Reduced utilisation of services due to market capacity, and release of centrally held funds.	This service line is forecasting an underlying underspend of -£2.8m where continuing workforce shortages in the social care market have reduced the availability of suitable homecare packages and resulted in more clients receiving alternative support. A release of -£5.0m from centrally held funds to offset pressures across the directorate is contributing to the underspend, alongside -£2.3m from unrealised creditors. The above underspends are partly offset by +£8.5m from savings which are no longer expected to be realised in-year against this service line, of which +£3.6m is due to arranging care and support where achievement of savings has been impacted by demand and pressures in the social care market and the remaining +£4.8m due to delays in the procurement of new models of care relating to microenterprises and Technology Enabled Care (TEC).

			There is also a pressure of +£0.5m from an increase to the forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts.
Strategic Management & Directorate Support (ASCH)	-£2.4m	Release of centrally held funds.	There is a -£2.4m forecast underspend against centrally held funds to contribute towards offsetting the overall ASCH pressure.
Adaptive & Assistive Technology	-£3.6m	Re-alignment of savings	-£3.1m of the forecast underspend on this service line relates to savings, where -£2.9m is due to planned expenditure to achieve efficiencies through greater use of technology enabled care have slipped to the following financial year, and -£0.2m from realigned savings which are now expected to be achieved against this service line.
Provision for Demographic Growth - Community Based Services	-9.5m	Release of centrally held funds.	This is the release of centrally held funds to partly offset pressures across ASCH operations.

5 Children, Young People & Education

General Fund projected +£33.3m overspend

	Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Projected Variance: Net Revenue Forecast Variance	*Last reported position (Sept)*	Movement (+/-)
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Integrated Children's Services (East & West)	165.8	173.2	**7.4**	*9.9*	***(2.6)***
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	91.9	99.9	**8.0**	*8.4*	***(0.4)***
Education	61.2	79.3	**18.1**	*15.5*	***2.6***
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets (CYPE)	2.3	2.1	**(0.2)**	*0.0*	***(0.2)***
Children, Young People & Education	**321.2**	**354.5**	**33.3**	***33.9***	***(0.6)***
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	0.0	0.0	0.0	*0.0*	***0.0***
Net Total incl provisional share of CHB	**321.2**	**354.5**	**33.3**	***33.9***	***(0.6)***

The Children, Young People & Education directorate is projected to be overspent by +£33.3m.

This is due to significant inflationary and demand pressures in school transport services along with higher costs of supporting both looked after children and disabled children and young people.

The £354.5m forecast includes £6.8m in relation to the Reconnect project and £0.1m of Contain Outbreak Management Fund spend. Both have been covered by a drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve as agreed in the 2021-22 outturn report.

Details of the significant variances on the General Fund are shown here:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Home to School Transport (Education)	+£14.5m	Significant inflationary increases on transport contracts and increase in demand	The projection includes +£1.8m overspend on mainstream home to school transport and +£13.3m on Special Education Needs (SEN) transport services, with an underspend of -£0.6m on Kent Travel Saver for 16+. Significant inflationary increases on new transport contracts due to higher operating costs and a reducing supplier base, along with increasing bus ticket prices have led to price rises of between 10-20% and pressures of approximately +£1.6m and +£10.6m on mainstream and SEN transport services respectively. The number of children requiring SEN transport has continued to increase in line with historic trends with 12% year on year increase in the number travelling. This is a consequence of the higher Education Health and Care Plan numbers and greater number of children with SEN not being educated in their local school. The projection assumes work to slow this trend will not start to impact significantly until the latter months of 2023 (leading to a total pressure of +£2.8m).

			The mainstream home to school transport position reflects the rise in the number of pupils travelling from the Autumn term due to a combination of rises in secondary population and wider changes in bus services (leading to a pressure of +£0.4m).
Looked After Children - Care & Support (Integrated Children Services)	+£9.1m	Increase in number and cost of looked after children. High costs of legal services.	The number of looked after children has increased slightly over the past 6 months (6%) resulting in a higher use of independent fostering agency placements (increases in demand +£1.0m overspend). The cost of placements continues to rise with a greater number being placed in more expensive external settings as no suitable alternative is available. In addition, the use of unregulated placements has also become more common where it has become more difficult to find suitable residential placements and at significant cost (increases in cost of placements +£4.6m). Campaigns are continuing to recruit more in-house foster carers, but based on current success rates it is likely some savings may not be achieved whilst some will be delayed to 2023-24 (+£1.0m). The cost of legal services has increased significantly since COVID-19 and projections suggest similar levels of activity will occur in 2022/23 due to the continual backlog in court proceedings (+£2.5m). A review of legal services demand has resulted in greater oversight of both the scrutiny and approval process of legal requests within Integrated Children's Services to ensure legal services are used most effectively. Along with closer working with Invicta Law to stabilise spending moving forward.
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway – Community Based Services (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)	+£4.9m	Increasing cost of Supported Living and Homecare packages	The number of supported living and homecare packages have remained relatively static. However, the average cost of packages continues to increase in response to the level of support required. The service has seen a reduction in the use of residential care but this has resulted in higher packages of community support contributing to the higher cost.
Other School Services (Education)	+£3.5m	Various school related costs	Delays in basic need capital projects have resulted in the use of more temporary accommodation to ensure sufficient school places are available (+£1.7m). Projected estimates of a +£0.5m pressure on essential maintenance of school properties that do not meet the threshold for capital projects. In addition, there are +£1.0m of costs associated with capital surveys to inform future additional works and +£0.7m for feasibility costs relating to capital works that are no longer progressing. All are partly offset by -£0.4m

			underspend from the statutory testing contract for schools.
Looked After Children (with Disability) - Care & Support (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)	+£1.4m	Increased cost of residential and unregulated placements	The continual difficulties in recruiting specialist foster carers to support children with disabilities coupled with shortages in cost effective residential care placements is leading to increasing cost of new placements and continual dependency on high cost unregulated placements.
Children's Social Work Services - Assessment & Safeguarding Service (Integrated Children Services)	+£1.0m	High use of agency required to meet demand and inflationary cost increases of agency workers	Recruitment and retention of social workers continues to be a challenge, along with the need to provide sufficient cover for maternity leave. This has led to a higher number of agency staff to meet demand, coupled with higher costs following inflationary increases.
Special Educational Needs & Psychology Services (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)	+£1.0m	Increased use of agency staff	Difficulties in the recruitment of suitably qualified Education Psychologists and SEN officers has led to an increasing use of agency staff.
Children in Need (Disability) - Care & Support (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)	+£0.5m	Increasing number of Direct Payments and cost of homecare packages	The number and cost of packages for disabled children have increased, this is partly due to inflationary increases and additional support required during to COVID-19.
Youth Services (Integrated Children Services)	-£1.0m	Underspend on secure Accommodation & delay in the recruitment to vacancies	Delay in the recruitment of detached youth workers (-£0.3m) and a lower number of placements in remand secure accommodation (-£0.7m).
Children's Centres (Integrated Children Services)	-£0.8m	Management of vacancies & non-essential spend	Wider management action to delay the recruitment to vacant posts and the halting of all non-essential spend across Children Centres.

6 Growth, Environment & Transport

	Budget	Revenue Projected Outturn	Projected Variance: Net Revenue Projected Variance	*Last reported position (Sept)*	*Movement (+/-)*
	£m	£m	**£m**	*£m*	*£m*
Highways & Transportation	66.3	68.9	**2.6**	*3.6*	*(1.0)*
Growth & Communities	29.1	29.8	**0.7**	*1.2*	*(0.5)*
Environment & Waste	81.9	82.2	**0.3**	*0.3*	*0.0*
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets (GET)	1.4	1.3	**(0.1)**	*0.0*	*(0.1)*
Growth, Environment & Transport	**178.7**	**182.2**	**3.5**	***5.1***	***(1.6)***
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	0.2	0.2	0.0	*0.0*	*0.0*
Net Total incl provisional share of CHB	178.9	184.0	3.5	*5.1*	*(1.6)*

The Growth, Environment & Transport Directorate is projected to be overspent by £3.5m with significant inflationary pressures (c.£5.7m) contributing to this position. This position includes -£0.7m underspend against Residual Waste following delays in procuring the environmental and other works at Closed Landfill Sites (including at North Farm). The spend will now be incurred in 2023-24 and opportunities to reduce this and identify a funding source are currently being explored.

The projected variance now reflects that all Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and Helping Hands projects (£1.0m) are funded from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve. The variance includes £1.5m non-delivered income target for recouping business rates pool income . The variance also reflects a draw down from reserves to offset the £1.1m overspend due to the timing of income received in relation to Kent Travel Saver. The income received in April and May 2023 will repay the reserve.

The projection continues to show that bus operators are being supported through this period of recovery and transition; and are paid at budgeted levels of activity, which are significantly above actual levels of activity. These payments are being paid on a phased reducing basis down towards the actual level of activity in line with the Government request. For Kent Travel Saver (KTS) and the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) this is a combined cost of £2.5m. This is included in the projections and is within the existing cash limits. The GET Directorate Management Team (DMT) have also enacted other mitigations, for example extended vacancy management, delaying non-essential projects/pilots and spend with a view to bringing the forecast overspend position down as far as possible by the year-end. More detail on actions can be found in Section 12.

Details of the significant variance on the General Fund are shown below:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Supported Bus Services (Highways & Transportation)	+£2.6m	Undelivered saving	A budget reduction of £2.2m was agreed at County Council but a delay in progressing the decision has meant that the profiled savings have not been delivered as planned. The decision was confirmed at October's County Council and 90 days' notice has been given to operators with savings assumed to be made from February. The quantum of routes that require withdrawal (to achieve the net £2.2m budget reduction) is in excess of £3m.

Highway Assets Management (Highways & Transportation)	+£1.8m	Energy inflationary pressure, partially offset by income.	The cost of energy for streetlighting and tunnels has increased significantly since the budget was set (+£2.6m). There are also small overspends in Highways Managers, including late costs resulting from Storm Eunice in February 2022, Soft Landscaping and Non-Recoverable Damage. Increases in street works and permit income partially offset the overspends.
Kent Travel Saver (Highways & Transportation)	+£1.4m	Increased operator costs with delays in income offset by reserve	+£1.0m of the overspend relates to increased payments to operators, including additional capacity payments, following an increased take up of passes, offset in part by additional income. The position would be improved should the service not be required to pay bus operators at budgeted levels for the summer term in line with a request from Government (+£0.4m). System issues have resulted in direct debits for the first two monthly instalments not being taken from parents who pay the full cost of the pass. It was decided that the instalments would slip by two months with the final payments being taken in April and May. This means the income falls into the next financial year leaving a significant shortfall this financial year (+£1.1m). Due to the timing nature of this overspend, it will be met from reserves in 2022-23 and the reserve repaid with late income received in April and May 2023.
Growth and Support to Businesses (Growth & Communities)	+£1.2m	Non-achieved income target	The business rate pool between KCC and districts and boroughs fund a range of regeneration and economic development projects. To date it has not been possible to identify and agree alternative projects and spend that could be funded by the Business Rate pool. The shortfall in income is (+£1.5m). This is partially offset by other small variances including vacancies in staffing.
Waste Facilities & Recycling Centres (Environment & Waste)	+£0.2m	Favourable recycling prices offset by other pressures	Favourable prices relating to the material recycling facility as well as additional income for recyclables (-£1.2m) and a reduction in tonnes primarily composting and food waste (-£0.5m) have been more than offset by other variances. There are overspends within haulage (+£0.4m), increased price of composted waste (+£0.4m), inflationary increases in the costs of managing Transfer Stations and Household Waste Recycling Centres (+£0.5m), and shortfalls in some areas of income (+£0.6m).

Residual Waste, (Environment & Waste)	+£0.0m	Inflationary pressure offset by reduced volumes and underspend on works at closed landfill sites	This position includes a significant price pressure for Allington Waste to Energy plant as the contractual uplift based on April RPI was much higher than the budgeted estimate (£2.6m). This is partially offset by reduced tonnes (-£2.3m). Also within this position is an underspend on the environmental and other works at Closed Landfill Sites (including at North Farm) following delays in procurement (-£0.7m).
Public Protection (Enforcement) (Growth & Communities)	-£0.2m	Trading Standards new burdens grant not received offset by vacancies and income	The budget for this service was built on the assumption that funding would accompany the additional burdens being placed on Trading Standards following EU Exit (including Border Ports, Animal Health, and Feed Officers/Teams) but no additional Government funding has been forthcoming (+£0.5m). This is more than offset by underspends including vacancy management and additional income.
Libraries, Registration & Archives (Growth & Communities)	-£0.4m	Registration income offset by reduced Library income	Levels of Registration income remain high post pandemic (-£0.9m) but Library usage has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, with income lower in areas such as fines and printing (+£0.4m). No government funding for the new burden costs resulting from increased demands on the Registration service, following the introduction of the Marriage Schedule Act 2021 (+£0.1m) has been forthcoming.
Highways & Transportation Divisional Management Costs (Highways & Transportation)	-£0.5m	Additional income and other minor variances	Additional grant income within the Public Transport budget plus vacancies and other minor variances.
Transportation (Highways & Transportation)	-£0.8m	Management action and an underspend on Driver Diversion Schemes	This position includes the impact of management action identified to reduce the Council's projected overspend. This is primarily additional income, including a contribution towards costs from Developer Agreements, and savings in expenditure (-£0.5m). There is also an underspend within Driver Diversion Schemes resulting from vacancy management, an increase in client numbers and a reduction in venue costs (-£0.3m).

English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) (Highways & Transportation)	-£1.9m	Activity is below budgeted level	The service is projecting an underspend (-£1.9m) as activity is projected to be below the levels built into the budget. The Government's expectation is that bus operators are paid at pre pandemic rates, reducing towards actual activity by the end of the financial year. Without this request, the service would have been projecting an additional underspend of around (-£2.1m), (-£4.0m in total).

7 Chief Executive's Department

	Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Projected Variance Net Revenue Forecast Variance	*Last reported position (Sept)*	*Movement (+/-)*
	£m	£m	**£m**	£m	£m
Finance	12.7	12.8	**0.1**	0.1	*0.0*
Strategic Commissioning	8.0	7.5	**(0.5)**	(0.1)	*(0.4)*
Governance, Law & Democracy	8.3	7.2	**(1.1)**	(0.2)	*(0.9)*
Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance	4.5	4.3	**(0.2)**	(0.1)	*(0.1)*
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets (S&CS)	0.0	(0.6)	**(0.6)**	(0.4)	*(0.1)*
Chief Executive's Department	**33.6**	**31.3**	**(2.3)**	***(0.7)***	***(1.5)***

The Chief Executive's Department is projected to underspend by -£2.3m.

The position includes an assumed request to roll forward of £0.7m for Local Member Grants into 2023-24.

The position consists of the following variances within several key services as below:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Local Member Grants	-£0.7m	Unspent member grants to be the subject of a roll forward bid into next financial year.	The position shows an underspend against Local Member Grants which will be subject to a roll forward request of £0.7m at the end of this financial year.
Strategic Management & Departmental Budgets (CED)	-£0.6m	Reduced early retirement costs and management action to reduce spend	This projected underspend is due primarily to reduced early retirement costs and reduced spend on controllable budgets.
Strategic Commissioning	-£0.5m	Difficulties recruiting commissioning staff	Staffing underspend due to difficulties recruiting commissioning staff; additional grant income above budget
Governance & Law	-£0.4m	Staff vacancies not appointed and additional income	Increased income from Schools' appeals together with reduced cost of provision due to appeals being held virtually post pandemic. Staffing underspend due to unappointed vacancies
Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance	-£0.2m	Management action to reduce spend	Reduction in non-essential spend
Finance	+£0.1m	Overspend against staffing	This projected overspend relates to staffing and is due primarily to currently unfunded trainee costs.

8 Deputy Chief Executive's Department

	Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Projected Variance Net Revenue Forecast Variance	*Last reported position (Sept)*	*Movement (+/-)*
	£m	£m	**£m**		*£m*
Infrastructure	6.2	5.5	**(0.7)**	*0.1*	*(0.7)*
Strategic Management & Departmental Budgets (DCED)	3.2	3.2	**0.0**	*0.0*	*0.0*
Technology	24.0	24.0	**0.0**	*(0.2)*	*0.2*
Corporate Landlord	27.1	31.8	**4.7**	*1.9*	*2.9*
Marketing & Resident Experience	6.0	5.9	**(0.1)**	*0.0*	*(0.1)*
Human Resources & Organisational Development	5.1	4.8	**(0.3)**	*(0.2)*	*(0.1)*
Deputy Chief Executive's Department	**71.6**	**75.3**	**3.7**	***1.4***	***2.2***

The Deputy Chief Executive's Department is projected to overspend by +£3.7m.

The most significant projected overspend is +£4.7m in Corporate Landlord due to increase utility costs across all KCC properties and is a reflection of the national trend of rising energy costs. Since completing the December monitoring, we have recently received a new dataset of forecasts for utilities costs from Laser, which indicates that the forecast outturn position contained in the CLL figure above, will reduce significantly. Finance is currently working to verify the impact of the changes before year-end.

Details of the significant variances on the General Fund are shown here:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Corporate Landlord	+£4.7m	Inflationary Pressure on Utilities	There is a +£4.8m projected overspend which is due to an anticipated increase in utility costs across all properties. These increases are related to the current national trend and are significantly higher than the budgeted price increase funded as part of the 2022-23 budget. The projected overspend has been modelled by Laser and invoices paid up to the end of the calendar year.
Property related services	-£0.7m	Vacancy management and increased income over budgeted levels.	Underspend against staffing budgets in Property due to vacancy management and increased capitalisation of staff time; an additional benefit of one-off in year income from school meals contract rebates and recharging for regulatory compliance interventions.
Human Resources & Organisational Development	-£0.3m	Additional income from several sources	Underspend due to internal income from reallocation above budgeted figure offsetting pressures elsewhere within the division, in addition to income from sales, fees and charges.

9 Non-Attributable Costs

	Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Net Revenue Forecast Variance	*Last reported position (Sept)*	*Movement (+/-)*
			Projected Variance		
	£m	£m	£m	*£m*	***£m***
Non-Attributable Costs	129.4	119.0	(10.4)	*(6.5)*	***(3.9)***
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	(0.3)	0.0	0 .3	*0.0*	***0.3***
Net Total incl provisional share of CHB	**129.1**	**119.0**	**(10.1)**	***(6.5)***	***(3.6)***

Non-Attributable Costs, including Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately, are projected to be underspent by (£8.5m). -£4.8m of the underspend relates to net debt costs largely due to the estimated impact of the increase in the Bank of England base rate on the Council's cash balances and savings from debt restructuring.

Details of the significant variances on the General Fund are shown below:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Non-Attributable Costs	-£8.8m	Net debt costs, S31 grant for Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF) and an increase in Extended Rights to Travel grant.	-£4.8m net debt costs due to the estimated impact of the increase in the Bank of England base rate on our interest on cash balances and savings from debt restructuring. -£3.4m of the underspend is due to the drawdown from reserves of the S31 grant for Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF) which was accrued for in 2021-22 based on a government data collection exercise and the final figure has now been confirmed. This funding had not been built into the 2022-23 budget and will be an in-year underspend. -£1.0m increase in the Extended Rights to Travel grant compared to the budget assumption. In addition to the £8.8m underspend there are other significant items to report that have a net nil impact on the NAC projected position. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) has been recalculated based on assets completed in 2021-22. This has resulted in a saving of £2.0m. In line with usual practice, it is intended that this underspend is transferred to the MRP smoothing reserve to be used to fund future fluctuations in MRP, therefore there is no overall impact in the current year.

9 Non-Attributable Costs

			A forecast overspend of £0.5m against the Insurance Fund mainly due to increased cost of premiums including Insurance Premium Tax will be offset by a drawdown from the Insurance Reserve. An increase of £0.8m in the Retained Business Rates levy for 2021-22 compared to the accrual included in the 2021-22 accounts will be transferred to the Economic Development/Regeneration reserve in line with agreed practice after funding the payment to Kent Fire of their 3% share. This is still an estimated figure and will not be confirmed until the Kent District Council NNDR3 figures have been audited. A £0.5m increase in the forecast return from our limited companies based on the latest update from the Shareholder Board. All proceeds for 2022-23 from our companies are transferred to the Strategic Priorities reserve
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	+£0.3m	Workforce management savings not achieved.	Workforce management savings are now considered to be a non-cashable productivity gain. Initiatives such as automation programme have freed up staff time but not entire roles.

10 Schools' Delegated Budgets

The latest forecast for the Schools' Delegated Budget reserves is a surplus of £59.9m on individual maintained school balances, and a deficit on the central schools' reserve of £141.8m.

The balances of individual schools cannot be used to offset the overspend on the central schools reserves and therefore should be viewed separately. The table below provides the detailed movements on each reserve.

The Central Schools Reserve holds the balance of any over or underspend relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This is a specific ring-fenced grant payable to local authorities to support the schools' budget. It is split into four main funding blocks: schools, early years, high needs and central, each with a different purpose and specific rules attached. The Council is required to hold any under or overspend relating to this grant in a specific reserve and is expected to deal with any surplus or deficits through future years' spending plans.

	Individual School Reserves	Central Schools Reserve
Balance brought forward	61.3	-97.6
Forecast movement in reserves:		
Academy conversions and closing school deficits	-1.4	
School Block Related Spend		-3.1
High Needs Placements, Support & Inclusion Fund		-41.7
Underspend on Early Years		0.5
Underspend on Central DSG Budgets		0.0
Forecast reserve balance	59.9	-141.8

Note: a negative figure indicates a drawdown from reserves/deficit

In accordance with the statutory override implemented by the then Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) during 2020-21, and in line with the Department for Education (DfE) advice that local authorities are not expected to repay deficits on the DSG from the General Fund and can only do so with Secretary of State approval, the central DSG deficit of £141.8m will be held in a separate unusable reserve from the main council reserves. DLUHC have confirmed this statutory override has been extended for three years to March 2026 whilst Councils implement recovery plans. The Council continues to work with the Schools Funding Forum to set out the challenge and agree a plan to address the deficit.

The Council is part of the DfE's Safety Valve Programme for those Councils with the highest deficits to support the development of a sustainable plan for recovery; this will include funding from the DfE to pay off part of the deficit but only if the Council can demonstrate a credible plan. The DSG deficit is the Council's biggest financial risk; therefore, the successful implementation of the Council's deficit recovery plan is critical. The SEND Green Paper and the recently published SEND Implementation Plan sets out the Government's proposed reforms to the SEND and alternative provision (AP) system which in part is expected to support a more sustainable high needs funding system although it is recognised this will not impact immediately and local actions are required.

Since the reporting date of Dec 2022, the DFE announced on 16 March that the authority has successfully secured £140m of High Needs Funding over the next five years to help contribute towards the historical deficit. The impact on this year's position will be reflected in the outturn report.

10 Schools' Delegated Budgets

Key Issues	Details
School Block: One-off Settlement	The DSG Reserve as at 31st March 2022 of £98m is formed from a net surplus on the Schools Block of £3m and a net deficit on the High Needs block of £101m. The two blocks of funding have different purposes and rules and Secretary of State Approval is needed to transfer funding from the schools' block to other funding blocks. The Schools Block funds primary and secondary schools' budgets, and the accumulated balance from previous years underspend, has been fully committed to be paid to schools, as a one-off additional payment to support the cost of changes to the calculation of pay for term time only staff. Payments began in 2021-22 and the remaining payments are expected to be paid in 2022-23.
Early Years: general underspend	The Early Years Block is used to fund early years' providers the free entitlement for eligible two, three and four-year olds. Each year, when setting the funding rate an estimate must be made as to likely hours that will be provided to ensure it is affordable within the grant provided. This can lead to minor under or overspends if activity is slightly lower or higher than expected. This has led to an underspend of £0.5m, which will be used to partly fund spend on the Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund which is currently funded from the High Needs Block and reduces the overspend on High Needs Block.
Reduction in government funding for Central Services	Since 2020-21, the Government has reduced the funding used to support some of the central services currently funded from the DSG (£3.3m). Although some of this has been addressed through the Medium-Term Financial Plan (£1.5m) and other short term alternative funding sources (£1.3m) without any direct impact to schools; we are currently undertaking an initial scoping of the areas we may need to review in terms of our relationship with schools in line with Government policy, funding and the wider DSG deficit recovery plan and implement changes that will eliminate the funding shortfall.
Higher demand and higher cost for high needs placements	The High Needs Block (HNB) is intended to support the educational attainment of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and pupils attending alternative education provision. The HNB funds payments to maintained schools and academies (both mainstream and special), independent schools, further education colleges, specialist independent providers and pupil referral units. Some of the HNB is also retained by KCC to support some SEND services (staffing/centrally commissioned services) and overheads. The net deficit on the high needs block was £101m as at 31st March 2022 and is estimated to increase to around £142m by 31st March 2023. The overspend on the high needs block has been growing rapidly over recent years and is the most significant financial risk to the council. The forecast in-year funding shortfall for High Needs placements and support in 2022-23 is +£42m due to a combination of both higher demand for additional SEN support and higher cost per child resulting from greater demand for more specialist provision. The forecast levels of growth are expected to be similar to previous years, since the introduction of the legislative changes in 2014, which also saw the expansion of duties to the age of 25 without sufficient extra funding. Many other local authorities are also reporting deficits on their high needs block resulting from significant increases in their number of EHCPs and demand for SEN services. However, the increases locally are increasing at a significantly faster rate than the other comparative councils and the council is now placing a greater proportion of children in both special and independent schools compared to other local authorities, and a smaller proportion of children with SEND included in mainstream schools. The tables below detail the trend in both spend

and number of HNB funded places or additional support across the main placement types.

Table: Total Spend on High Needs Block by main spend type

	19-20 £'ms	20-21 £'ms	21-22 £'ms	22-23 £'ms
Maintained Special School	97	106	123	137
Independent Schools	40	49	60	68
Mainstream Individual Support & SRP* **	38	46	54	61
Post 16 institutions***	16	17	19	21
Other SEN Support Services	44	49	43	48
Total Spend	234	264	299	334

*Specialist Resource Provision

** Please note this data excludes any costs incurred by primary & secondary schools from their own school budget.

***Individual support for students at FE College and Specialist Provision Institutions (SPIs)

Table: Average number of HNB funded pupils receiving individualised SEN Support/placements. This is <u>not</u> the total number of children with SEN or number of EHCPs.

	19-20 No	20-21 No	21-22 No	22-23 No
Maintained Special School	4,751	5,118	5,591	6,007
Independent Schools	907	1,126	1,348	1,450
Mainstream Individual Support & SRP*	3,922	4,510	5,258	5,818
Post 16 institutions***	1,196	1,281	1,453	1,586
Total Number of Pupils	10,776	12,035	13,650	14,861

Table: Average cost of HNB funded pupils receiving individualised SEN Support or placement cost.

	19-20 £s per pupil	20-21 £s per pupil	21-22 £s per pupil	22-23 £s per pupil
Maintained Special School	£20,330	£20,629	£21,648	£22,789
Independent Schools	£43,851	£43,734	£44,799	£46,897
Mainstream Individual Support & SRP*	£9,691	£10,294	£10,245	£10,414
Post 16 institutions***	£13,393	£13,309	£13,090	£13,101

Since 2020-21 the Government has provided further funding; however, as can be seen from the projection, this has been insufficient to meet the demand and we will need to take further actions to ensure we are able to support children with SEN sustainably, in partnership with the Schools Funding Forum. The Council, with support from Schools, Schools Funding Forum and the Secretary of State have continued to transfer £10m from the schools' budget to the high needs budget each year to fund activities to support SEN Support services in mainstream schools. These activities are being implemented and their impact monitored.

Our response to the Written Statement of Action (WSoA), put in place to address a number of areas of concern raised in the 2019 Ofsted/CQC Local Area SEND Inspection, overlaps in a number of places with our strategy for reducing the pressure on the High

Needs budget. The recent re-inspection has identified further accelerated progress is required to address these concerns and a renewed focus on actions to support improvements across the SEN system. Overlapping actions include:

- Reviewing our commissioning strategy for SEN provision across the county including supporting the development of new special schools and Specialist Resource Provisions to reduce our increasing reliance on independent schools including the opening of two new special schools last year which when fully opened will avoid over 350 higher cost placements.
- Reviewing commissioning arrangements including independent providers, home tuition and therapy services.
- Improving parental confidence through supporting inclusive practice and capacity building in mainstream schools and FE Colleges to reduce reliance on special and independent schools. This will support the council's ambition set out in the report presented to Cabinet in January setting out the council's intention to support a model of provision where the proportion of children and young people supported in each provision type (mainstream and specialist provision) will more closely reflect both statistical neighbours and national averages.
- Further collaborative working with Health and Social Care partners

The longer-term impact of children being out of school during the COVID pandemic on this budget is starting to be evidenced though increasing demand for Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) services.

11 Savings

Target for year £51.6m
£36.8m savings to be delivered

The budget agreed at County Council included the requirement to deliver savings totalling £41m during 2022-23. A further £10.6m of undelivered savings from the previous year are included in the overall 2022-23 savings requirement of £51.6m. £26.2m of the total £41m agreed savings are on track to be delivered. Therefore savings of £36.8m, including £10.6m of unachieved savings from the previous year, are forecast to be delivered in 2022-23 with the breakdown of the position as follows:

- A net position of £15.5m is forecast for ASCH, CYPE and GET as not achieved in 2022-23 and will slip into future years;
- £4.2m has been identified by ASCH, CYPE, and GET as undeliverable;
- The Public Health, CED and DCED savings for 2022-23 are £2.6m and are on track to be delivered;
- The NAC overachieved saving is due to £2.0m relating to additional MRP saving due to fewer assets becoming operational in 2021-22 as a result of slippage in the capital programme, £2.3m due to debt restructuring; and £0.5m over-achievement of forecast dividends from our wholly-owned companies;
- £10.6m of undelivered savings from the previous year have been delivered.

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2022-23 £m	2022-23 Target £m	Not achieved in 2022-23 £m	Saving no longer required £m	Not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery £m	Forecast Savings 2022-23 £m
Adult Social Care & Health	5.4	22.2	(12.2)		(1.1)		14.3
Public Health		2.2		(0.1)			2.1
Children, Young People & Education	5.2	2.7	(0.8)		(0.9)		6.1
Growth, Environment & Transport		7.1	(2.5)		(2.2)	0.2	2.6
Deputy Chief Executive's Department		0.1					0.1
Chief Executive's Department		0.4					0.4
Non Attributable Costs		6.1				4.8	10.9
Corporately Held Budget		0.3					0.3
Total	**10.6**	**41.0**	**(15.5)**	**(0.1)**	**(4.2)**	**5.0**	**36.8**

11 Savings

Target for year £51.6m
£36.8m savings to be delivered

Directorate	2022-23 Target £m	Previous year saving delivered in 2022-23 £m	Not achieved in 2022-23 £m	Saving no longer required £m	Not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery £m	Forecast Savings 2022-23 £m	*Split of Forecast savings 2022-23* *As planned* £m	*from alternatives (ongoing)* £m	*from alternatives (one-off)* £m
Adult Social Care & Health	**22.2**	**5.4**	**(12.2)**		**(1.1)**		**14.3**	**11.7**	**2.0**	**0.6**
Transformation: Service Redesign	8.4	5.4	(7.8)		(1.0)		5.0	2.5	1.9	0.6
Efficiency: review of existing contracts for commissioned services	5.0		(4.4)				0.6	0.6	0.1	
Income: uplift in social care client contributions	2.5						2.5	2.5		
Policy: Housing Related Support - Homelessness	2.3						2.3	2.3		
Policy: Strategic Review of in-house services	3.4						3.4	3.4		
Policy: review existing contracts & grants with voluntary sector	0.6				(0.1)		0.5	0.4		
Policy: Adult social care non residential charging										
Public Health	**2.2**			**(0.1)**			**2.1**	**2.1**		
Grant Income: Increase in Public Health Grant	2.0						2.0	2.0		
Income: increase in income for externally funded posts	0.1						0.1	0.1		
Small efficiency savings	0.2			(0.1)			0.1	0.1		

Children, Young People & Education	**2.7**	**5.2**	**(0.8)**		**(0.9)**		**6.1**	**4.0**	**1.4**	**0.7**
Transformation: Change for Kent Children (In-house fostering, newly qualified social workers & social work establishment)		3.1	(0.2)		(0.9)		2.0	0.2	1.4	0.4
Transformation: Community Learning & Skills										
Efficiency: SEN Transport re-procurement		2.0					2.0	2.0		
Efficiency: savings to offset reduction in Central Services for Schools Block DSG	0.8		(0.5)				0.3			0.3
Efficiency: efficiency measures within Community Learning & Skills	0.2						0.2	0.2		
Grant income: new Supporting Families grant	0.8						0.8	0.8		
Income: uplift in social care client contributions	0.1						0.1	0.1		
Policy: Care Leavers placement cost reductions	0.4						0.4	0.4		
Policy: above inflation increase in price of Kent 16+ Travel Saver	0.4						0.4	0.4		
Policy: Adult social care non residential charging										
Policy: introduce HTST hubs for SEN children		0.1	(0.1)							
Growth, Environment & Transport	**7.1**		**(2.5)**		**(2.2)**	**0.2**	**2.6**	**2.2**	**0.3**	**0.1**
Transformation: re-focus Sports & Physical activity service to deliver Public Health outcomes with grant funding allocated accordingly	0.2						0.2	0.2		

11 Savings

Target for year £51.6m
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Transformation: introduction of use of Digital Autopsy within Coroners service	0.1		(0.1)			
Transformation of Country Parks						
Efficiency: Waste renegotiation of gate fee	0.2		0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2
Efficiency: Waste dampening of impact of new recycling performance payments	0.2			0.2	0.3	
Efficiency: Review of school road crossing patrol service	0.1		0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Efficiency: Release of LRA ambition delivery budget	0.1			0.1	0.1	
Efficiency: review of early retirement budget						
Efficiency: Kent Scientific Services savings from expanding toxicology service						
Efficiency: Review of LRA non staffing spend						
Efficiencies within Heritage Conservation Service						
Grant Income: Assumed new burdens grant for ongoing EU Exit costs incl Border Ports and new responsibilities under the Marriage Schedule Act 2021	0.7	(0.6)		0.1		0.1
Income: Reprioritise external income to support the wider economic recovery within Kent	1.5	(1.5)		0.0		
Income: Increase in net income for street works and permit scheme	0.4			0.4	0.4	
Income: Kent Travel Saver price increase to offset bus operator inflationary fare increases	0.1			0.1	0.1	
Income: surplus generated from Solar Park						

Income: Review of charges for service users (Coroners SLA with Medway & Highways charges)	0.1			0.1	0.1	
Policy: Review and reduction in subsidised bus contracts	2.2	(2.2)		0.0		
Policy: above inflation increase in the price of the Kent Travel Saver pass	0.9			0.9	0.7	
Policy: HWRC booking system	0.2	-0.2		0.0		
Policy: Charge all non-Kent residents for using HWRCs	0.1			0.1		0.1
Policy: Reduction in Trading Standards budget	0.1	(0.1)		0.0		
Policy: Review of book start service to nursery settings						
Policy: Change neighbourhood notification as part of determination of planning applications						
Deputy Chief Executive's Department	**0.1**			**0.1**	**0.1**	
Efficiency: Emergency Planning deletion of temporary post						
Policy: Review of on-call payments for tactical managers & emergency response team	0.1			0.1	0.1	
Chief Executive's Department	**0.4**			**0.4**	**0.4**	
Transformation: Automation of Adult Social Care payment system	0.1			0.1	0.1	
Efficiency: Review of early retirement budget	0.3			0.3	0.3	
Non Attributable Costs	**6.1**		**4.8**	**10.9**	**10.9**	
Income: Return from our companies	4.0		0.5	4.5	4.5	

11 Savings

Target for year £51.6m
£36.8m savings to be delivered

Financing: Reduction in overall level of prudential borrowing including review of amounts set aside for debt repayment (MRP)	2.1					4.3	6.4	6.4		
Corporately Held Budget	**0.3**						**0.3**			**0.3**
Efficiency: Workforce Management	0.3						0.3			0.3
Total	**41.0**	**10.6**	**(14.3)**	**(0.1)**	**(4.5)**	**2.7**	**35.3**	**29.8**	**3.7**	**1.6**

Explanation of the Directorate Savings variances are shown below:

11.1	The ASCH budget savings for 2022-23 are £22.1m plus £5.4m previous year saving. Of the overall £27.5m £14.3m is identified as being on track to be delivered with £12.2m forecast to slip into future years, and £1.1m assumed at this stage not to be achievable.	£12.2m of slippage is due to delays in the procurement of new models of care; Digital Front Door, Microenterprises and Technology Enabled Care (TEC) £4.8m, Commissioning activity £4.4m and a further £3.0m on 'Arranging support and Reviews', both of which are anticipated to be achieved fully once the new adult social care and health operating model is implemented next year, which has been delayed due to the scale and size of the restructure. Overall, it is felt that £1.1m will not be achieved over the medium term. £1m relates to 'Arranging Support' and £0.1m relates to Commissioning activity this will not be achieved over the medium term primarily due to the demand and pressures in the social care market, increased unit costs and potential overlap with other commissioning and review work that is underway.
11.2	The CYPE budget savings for 2022-23 £2.7m plus a £5.2m previous year saving. £6.1m has been identified as on track to be achieved, £0.9m will not be achieved and the remaining £0.8m has been slipped into future years.	CYPE budget savings for 2022-23 were set at £2.7m and £5.2m of a prior year savings target has been added to the 2022-23 target, a total of £7.9m. £6.1m is forecast to be achieved this year, of which £2.1m relates to CFKC CSW agency and staffing savings that were not achieved and has been covered through alternative actions including use of MTFP funding to reflect higher social worker caseloads resulting from a more complex environment following COVID and one-off grants. The remaining £0.8m savings has slipped into future years and is due to: • delays in the piloting of standard pick up points for some SEN transport services until 2023-24 to allow more time to explore and plan for any changes.

		• efficiency savings to offset the anticipated 20% annual reduction in Dedicated Schools Grant: Central Services for Schools Block has not been achieved and is to be considered as part of a wider review of the DSG and services currently paid for on behalf of the schools. This has been delayed further to reflect any requirements of the DSG safety valve plan. • £0.2m of CFKC savings relating to foster carer recruitment has been slipped to future years where COVID has delayed delivery.
11.3	The GET budget savings for 2022-23 are £7.1m. £2.7m is identified as being on track to be delivered with £2.2m forecast to slip into future years, £2.2m assumed at this stage not to be achievable.	The £2.2m saving that has not been delivered relates to a budget reduction to Subsidised/Supported Bus services that was agreed at County Council. A delay in progressing the decision has meant that the profiled savings have not been delivered as planned. The decision has now been taken and 90 days notice shortly to be given to operators so the saving will commence from mid February 2023. The £2.2m saving that has not been delivered comprises of two elements: • £0.7m was primarily an income target from a grant expected from Government for new burdens in relation to a new border control team that was a required following Brexit/Transition. No new burdens monies have been provided. • £1.5m was a proposal to try and utilise Business Rates income to fund regenerative and environmental activities. This has not been delivered in-year. The proposal will look to be rolled out to fund future growth pressures and projects going forward but this will be worked up working collaboratively with districts on certain projects/initiatives rather than having a target set.
11.4	The NAC budget savings for 2022-23 are £6.1m with £10.9m forecast to be achieved.	£2.0m over achievement relates to additional Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) saving due to fewer assets becoming operational in 2021-22 due to slippage in the capital programme, but this is simply re-phasing of MRP into future years, and a further £2.3m of savings have been achieved from debt restructuring. £0.5m over-achievement of forecast dividends from our wholly-owned companies.
11.5	The CHB budget savings for 2022-23 are £0.3m but are not achievable	The £0.25m workforce management saving is now considered to be a non-cashable productivity gain rather than a cashable saving. Initiatives such as automation programme have freed up staff time but not entire roles.

12 Reducing the gap

This section sets out the management action being taken to reduce the Council's projected overspend of £53.7m, which are not yet reflected in this report. Previously identified management actions totalling £5.4m are now reflected in the latest projected out-turn position. The latest actions identified are expected to deliver a reduction of £1.8m in spend by the end of the financial year, £1.0m one-off reductions and £0.8m that will have an on-going impact. Work is continuing to identify more actions to reduce the overspend further, to be as close as a possible to a balanced budget position. This is particularly important given the 2023-24 and medium term budget challenge. This section 12 also highlights the impact of these actions on the 2023-34 budget position.

Any overspend at the end of the financial year will need to be met from general or earmarked reserves, but this approach is not sustainable in the medium term.

Corporate Board Agreed Action	ASCH	CYPE	GET	CED	DCED	TOTAL	22-23 one-off	22-23 recurring	2023-26 MTFP impact 23-24	24-25	25-26
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Corporate Directors to continue to work with their DMTs and services to substantially reduce the current gap e.g. reduced activity in non-essential areas,			-760			-760.0	0.0	-760.0	-2,142.0	-1,060.0	-510.0
"Deep dives" in key areas of demand led spend to identify options for savings / spending reductions through reducing future activity forecasts						0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,243.8	-845.6	
Maximising use of grant funding and other income for existing eligible spend		-1,000				--1,000.0	-1,000.0	0.0			
Formal process to approve workforce spend e.g. vacancy management, use of interims/agency etc.						0.0	0.0	0.0	-300.0		
Resource Review Panels to review spending for key demand led budgets e.g. care placements and packages						0.0	0.0	0.0	-3,284.1	-2,400.2	
	0.0	-1,000.0	-760.0	0.0	0.0	-1,760.0	-1,000.0	-760.0	-7,969.9	-4,305.8	-510.0

12 Reducing the gap

Directorate & Division	Details of Actions to be taken	22-23 one-off	22-23 Recurring	23-24	24-25	25-26
		£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
CYPE - ICS	Explore strategies, including statutory guidance, to reduce dependency on social work agency staff			-1,005.0	-300.0	
CYPE - ICS	Review of Integrated Children's Placements: Reduce dependence on high levels of additional support and seek enhanced contributions from health.			-1,000.0		
CYPE - ICS	Reduction in Legal Services Spend through cost efficiencies by Invicta Law and review of the use of legal services by social workers			-1,014.6	-845.6	
CYPE - ICS	Section 17 payments will only be made in exceptional circumstances where there is a clear statutory responsibility or where this avoids children coming into care			-229.2		
CYPE - ICS	Maximise use of grants to meet statutory responsibilities	-1,000.0				
CYPE - SEND	Review of 18-25 community-based services (including daycare, transport, direct payments and supported living): ensuring strict adherence to policy, increased use of framework providers and enhanced contributions from health.			-1,754.8	-1,334.1	
CYPE - SEND	Review of Children with disability packages: ensuring strict adherence to policy, review of packages with high levels of support and enhanced contributions from health			-1,529.3	-1,066.1	
		-1,000.0	**0.0**	**-6,532.9**	**-3,545.8**	**0.0**

12 Reducing the gap

Directorate & Division	Details of Actions to be taken	22-23 one-off	22-23 Recurring	23-24	24-25	25-26
		£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
GET - H&T	Increased income from Technology bagging-up to offset rise in activity			-100.0		
GET - H&T	Developer Agreements contribution, plus other income, to part-offset cost increases			-250.0		250.0
GET - H&T	Rebate from a Solar Farm offset against streetlight energy charges		-760.0	-760.0	-760.0	-760.0
		0.0	-760.0	-1,110.0	-760.0	-510.0

Directorate & Division	Details of Actions to be taken	22-23 one-off	22-23 Recurring	23-24	24-25	25-26
		£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
CED - Strat Comm	Management action to reduce non-essential spend			-27.0		
CED - Strat Comm	Hold vacancies in year pending the review of the Strategic Commissioning structure.			-300.0		
		0.0	0.0	-327.0	0.0	0.0

Directorate	Capital Budget £m	Variance £m	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m
Adult Social Care & Health	1.8	-0.4	0.3	-0.7
Children, Young People & Education	96.7	-34.8	1.4	-36.2
Growth, Environment & Transport	255.1	-61.5	24.1	-85.6
Chief Executive's Department	0.6	-0.4	0.0	-0.4
Deputy Chief Executive's Department	39.3	-16.4	2.3	-18.7
TOTAL	**393.5**	**-113.5**	**28.1**	**-141.6**

The total approved General Fund capital programme including roll forwards for 2022-23 is £393.5m

The current estimated capital programme spend for the year is forecast at £280.0m, which represents 71% of the approved budget. The spend to date as at the end of December 2022 is £170.3m, representing 43% of the total approved budget.

The directorates are projecting a £113.5m underspend against the budget, this is split between a +£28.1m real variance and -£141.6m re-phasing variance.

Inflation

Across the capital programme there are inflationary pressures that are forecast to hit predominantly from 2023-24. The main areas impacted are below:

Education capital projects – There is a £15.9m forecast inflation pressure based on the latest information from quantity surveyors. The majority of the inflation pressure is likely to hit in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Highways Asset Management (HAM)

The resurfacing element of HAM has been impacted by inflation from January 2023 when the contract was renewed for next year's programme of works. The estimated impact in this financial year is a +£1.3m overspend. The overall position will be reviewed at the end of the financial year, with one option being to use rephasing to fund the overspend. This would result in less funding being available for next year's planned works, increasing the maintenance backlog.

For structures and other areas within this budget the inflation increase will result in less work being done within the budget available and things will get pushed back to future years.

Major Highways Schemes - schemes in delivery

The Major Capital Programme team has recently completed two schemes (Gravesend Bus Hub and Market Square in Dover) and are currently delivering five schemes which have achieved funding, awarded a construction contract and are currently being delivered on site through a contractor. Where the existing scheme allowance for inflation and cost increases cannot be met by risk and contingency budgets, projects have been descoped to meet the available funding.

In all cases, additional funding options will need to be explored and requested from Central Government or the District Council that KCC are delivering on behalf of. The Council will only consider being a last resort for covering increased costs on an exceptional basis in very limited circumstances.

Major Highways Schemes - schemes not yet in delivery

The Major Capital Programme Team are currently progressing 13 schemes which have unlocked external funding, been designed and have either achieved or are very close to achieving planning (where required). An increase in cost due to inflation is dependent on how the market prices each scheme through the procurement phase and each scheme will be considered on an individual basis before progressing. The KCC Commissioning Team have been engaged and several contract awards are to be published in the next 3 to 6 months as KCC continues to present positive opportunities for the construction market.

Major Highways Schemes – funding unlocked for new schemes

Following the Levelling Up Fund announcements on 19th January 2023, the Major Projects Team in KCC will be accountable for further funding which has been awarded from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Although inflation and material availability continue to create instability and concern to those projects that were successful, scheme promoters had the benefit of estimating costs following significant increases in inflation through the start of 2022 and will have been able to adjust budgets for risk, contingency and inflation accordingly before submitting the bids in August 2022. This is the case for the Dover Access Improvements and Folkestone Town Centre projects, which were awarded funding in this second round of bidding.

2022-23 Variances

The major variances (>£1m rephasing and >£0.1m real variances) are described below:

Adult, Social Care & Health:

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
New variances to report:			
Community Sexual Health Services	0.2		There are increased project costs due to structural changes, addressing poor buildings conditions such as damp, and increased fit out costs. This overspend will be funded from an increased revenue contribution from Public Health.

Children, Young People & Education:

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
New Variances to Report:			

Annual Planned Enhancement	1.4	-0.2	The real variance represents +£2.5m decarbonisation projects for which Salix funding may be available but has not yet been bid for. If unsuccessful there will be a funding gap. There is a -£0.8m real variance due to a duplication of forecasts for Nonington School when the budget was transferred from annual planned maintenance to modernisation.
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2016	-0.3		The real variance is due to small over and underspends across a number of projects as they reach completion.
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2017	3.8	-8.0	The real variance is due to: -£2.7m Deal School and -£1m Oakley Satellite now being reported under High Needs Provision 22-24. +£0.3m Ebbsfleet Green Primary – correction of prior years costs. +£0.3m Sunny Bank Primary due to additional works agreed to finalise the project. +£0.3m Westlands School, a contribution was made to the school for early works prior to the basic needs project. +£6.2m correction to overall budget due to funding re Royal School for the Deaf inadvertently added back twice into basic need, which was highlighted during the 21-22 closure of accounts. Rephasing due to: -£4.5m Meopham School – the original costs were high. A contract has only recently been awarded following a re-tendering process. -£3.4m Thamesview School due to a delay going out to tender due to a change in moving from SCAPE framework to the Kent Framework, and high costs including inflation. (Previously reported +£3.2m real and -£6.3m rephasing).
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2018	-0.7	-3.6	The real variance is due to: -£ 1.2m Garlinge Primary now being reported under the High Needs Provision line, +£1.3m Tunbridge Wells Boys Annex where the previous forecast was incorrect, and additional works were carried out which are to be funded from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). -£0.9m Simon Langton Boys – the school has now met the additional contractor costs for additional works requested by the school. The rephasing variance is due to: -£2.3m Dartford Bridge Primary – offices within the school site are being used by other services and need to be vacated before the expansion can proceed, -£1.0m Gravesend Grammar Boys, the project was delayed due to delays with land purchase, -£0.3m Isle of Sheppey Special School – this is a DfE managed project. (Previously reported -£0.8m real and -£2.2m rephasing).

Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2019	0.6	-19.8	Real overspend due to: +£0.9m Towers School – previous forecast too low but is within ROD. +£0.6m Whitstable & Seasalter Junior which includes improvement and modernisation works from Annual Planned Enhancement. -£0.5m Nexus Special School now being reported under High Needs Provision 2022-24. -£0.6m Teynham Primary School a change of scope led to redesign and a new contractor being appointed. Rephasing is due to: -£4.6m Borden Grammar due to a review of design required. -£2.9m Chilmington Green Secondary – initial service installation works have not yet been started. -£3.6m Queen Elizabeth's Grammar – a school managed project where expenditure is dependent on parties agreeing and signing a funding agreement. -£3.6m Highstead Grammar – this is a school managed project. -£1.1m Maidstone Girls Grammar- the costs came in high and the quantity surveyor is now reviewing the project which has delayed works. -£1.1m Cable Wharf Primary due to a replacement school for Rosherville which has been selected under the school rebuild programme. KCC are to add just 1FE. (Previously reported +£1.0m real variance and -£12.0m rephasing).
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2020 (2021-25)	-3.5		The real variance is due to: -£0.5m Dover Christ Church as places are not needed until 2028-29 so it has been removed. -£2.4m St Mary of Charity Primary where places are not needed until 2026 at the earliest. -£0.5m Guston CEPS as places are not needed until 2027-28. (Previously reported -£0.5m real and -£2.8m rephasing).
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2021 (2022-26)		-£3.7	The rephasing variance is due to project lead times, planning issues and the signing of funding agreements. (Previously reported -£0.3m real and -£2.3m rephasing).
Overall Basic Need Programmes			Across the basic need programmes over the next three years, there is a forecast in excess of current budget of approximately £12.8m. Of this, £11.5m is due to forecast inflation pressures, which are not expected to materialise until 2023/24 and 2024/25. There are sufficient basic need grant allocations to cover the expected overspend in the current programme, however cash limit changes are on hold pending discussions around total pressures on the capital programme.
High Needs Provision	0.3		The variance is due to: +£0.4m Tenders for the Canterbury Academy are higher than expected due to the requirement of a steel frame.

			+£0.1m Parkside Primary where design changes have increased costs. -£0.3m St Nicholas school New Romney, where costs were completed under budget. (Previously reported +£0.6m real variance).
High Needs Provision 2022-24		+4.4	The rephasing is due to a number of projects that were previously reported under basic need and are now within High Needs. The funding has been brought forward to cover the forecast 22-23 costs: Deal Special School, Garlinge Primary, Oakley Satellite, Nexus Satellite and Sunny Bank Primary. (Previously reported -£0.6m real and +£6.3m rephasing).
Barton Court Academy Free School	-0.1		The school is now completing the playing field works rather than contributing funding to KCC to compete the works. Therefore both the spend and income will reduce.
School Roofs		-2.5	Birchington CEPS has been selected under the school rebuild programme. The delivery date is currently unknown. Confirmation that no KCC funding is required is pending. (Previously reported -£2.6m).
Previously reported variances:			
Nest 2		*-1.6*	*Rephasing due to land being sought and the project is still at discussion/planning stage.*

Growth, Environment & Transport:

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
New Variances to Report:			
Highways Asset Management and Programme of Urgent Safety Critical Works (Highways & Transportation)	10.8	-17.4	The real variance is due to: +£7m for the pothole blitz programme – for which a one off funding solution is being sought. +£1.3m due to inflation. +£1.7m for emergency works on the Thanet Way and in Tenterden. The rephasing includes: - £3.4m of Challenge Fund grant relating to tunnels/ structures lighting and re-construction of the Thanet Way. The remaining rephasing £13.9m is due to a lack of Senior Resource in the Structures Operation Team due to the inability to recruit specialist staff and rolling forward funds due to the scale of some projects and lead in time for design, tendering and commissioning. There are also delays with Amey delivery times. (Previously reported -£16.8m rephasing).
Integrated Transport Schemes (Highways & Transportation)	0.8	-1.1	The real variance is due to a number of additional schemes for which there is additional external funding. The rephasing is due to staff vacancies, bad weather conditions and inability to book road space due to other schemes progressing. (Previously reported +0.7m real variance).
Housing Infrastructure Fund – Swale (Highways & Transportation)		-1.3	The rephasing is due to reprogramming of the Key Street works avoiding the M2 Junction 5 traffic management issues. There is an approximate 3-month delay to the Grovehurst Road contract award. (Previously reported -£1.3m).
Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 2 (Highways & Transportation)		-1.8	KCC are not able to construct 4 of the 5 active travel tranche 2 funded schemes this year due to lack of support at consultation stage by the community and local Councillors for the initial designs. Other design options are being looked at with a view to further consult in the next few months. A change control request for the 4 schemes delayed has been sent to Active Travel England (ATE) by KCC. The changes requested are based on programme and budget changes. ATE will inform us on whether this is acceptable mid-February 2023 with likely construction dates pushed back to late 2023 or early 2024.

LED Conversion (Highways & Transportation)		-1.0	Re-phasing is required as the budget is to convert newly adopted assets to LED where the approved design was prior to the LED conversion project. The date for adopting new developments is an unknown quantity, therefore the carry forward reflects that less assets have been adopted this year than expected. The current 2022/23 forecast allows for those assets that we know have recently been adopted and are due to be converted to LED this year.
Urban Traffic Management Control (Highways & Transportation)		-1.4	There is a delay in the construction of two junctions due to other works within the vicinity causing programme movement.
Folkestone & Hythe Waste Transfer Station (Environment & Waste)		-4.8	The project has been delayed due to securing the funding required through the S106 development agreement from Otterpool LLP in addition to securing appropriate wider planning conditions to secure the preferred site for the scheme.
Kent Empty Property Initiative (Growth & Communities)	2.2		The real variance is due to additional loans expected to be issued, to be funded by additional grant and external funding. (Previously reported +£1.6m real and +£0.6m rephasing).
Javelin Way Development (Growth & Communities)	0.6		The real variance is due to the increased costs of the fit out to Kent Music which is being funded by additional income from them. There have also been additional costs due to UKPN delays and the extension of time accrued by WWM because of delays to the project. This will be funded by increased income from sales values and a further grant.
Previously reported variances:			
A299 Bluebell Hill M2 and M20 Interchange Upgrades (Highways & Transportation)		*-4.4*	*This project is awaiting commitment of funding from the Department for Transport therefore it has been profiled across future years*
Bath Street Fastrack (Highways & Transportation)		*-2.0*	*Although there have been design delays due to statutory undertaking requirements the construction contract has been awarded in February 2023 and will proceed from March onwards. Completion is currently expected by December 2023.*

Bearsted Road (National Productivity Investment Fund) – Kent Medical Campus (Highways & Transportation)	*1.4*	*-7.9*	*Significant challenges have been encountered during the design phase which has delayed the programme and contract award. The current profiling reflects expected construction to commence in January 2023 (delayed from April and then August 2022), however since the original pricing of the contract, there have been significant increases in construction costs, notably due to increase in energy and fuel prices and on top of this inflation costs have increased significantly along with changes to red diesel tax and National Insurance increases. Until the price and programme is agreed there could be further changes to the profiling and the overall cost The predicted overspend is due to delays and loss of income due to COVID.*
Dartford Town Centre (Highways & Transportation)		*-3.2*	*The project has been delayed due to partner project management changes, that are now resolved, therefore budget has been reprofiled to 2023/24. (Previously reported -£2.9m rephasing).*
Dover Inter Border facility (Highways & Transportation)	*0.7*		*The real variance is due to additional grant that needs to be added to the cash limit.*
Fastrack Full Network (Highways and Transportation)		*-8.8*	*Delays to the Preconstruction stage and a review of the ability of a contractor to deliver the works has prevented the start of the tunnel works. The project costs have increased significantly, particularly due to inflation pressures, and are now beyond the available budget. A review has begun to determine if further funding is available from external partners to provide the required budget. (Previously reported -£8.1m rephasing).*
Faversham Swing Bridge (Highways & Transportation)		*-1.2*	*There are ongoing discussions with Peel Ports relating to this project.*
Government Transition Works (Highways & Transportation)	*2.0*		*The variance is due to additional grant funding for the works at Sevington, which will be added to the cash limit.*
Herne Relief Road (Highways & Transportation)		*0.7*	*The spend on this project has been reprofiled to more accurately report the anticipated monthly spend for the works based on the current programme for the scheme. Funding is available to cover this spend being brought forward. (Previously reported -£1.0m).*
Sturry Link Road (Highways & Transportation)		*-3.2*	*Delays in appointing the principal contractor has resulted in reprofiling to future years. (Previously reported -£1.7m)*

Leigh (Medway) Flood Storage Areas (Environment & Waste)	-0.1	-0.8	*The funding originally allocated to this project (£2.5m) has now been split between this and a new line – Surface Water Flood Risk Management. The real variance therefore shows the amount to be transferred in this financial year.*
Surface Water Flood Risk Management (Environment & Waste)	0.1		*Funding to be vired from Leigh (Medway) Flood Storage Areas.*
Local Authority Treescape Fund (Environment & Waste)	0.1		*Additional grant is expected to cover the spend.*
Broadband Contract 2 (Growth & Communities)		-1.3	*Invoice from BDUK is expected in 2023-24.*
Digital Autopsy (Growth & Communities)		-2.5	*The rephasing is due to the project tender (ITT) for the DA and body store delivery failing. The project is now looking at alternative options to bring in the necessary providers. Given the amount of time this will take to bring forward, the capital spend has been deferred as the capital element can only be entered into at the same time as the revenue contracts to ensure the project is de-risked. (Previously reported -£1.9m rephasing).*
Innovation Investment Initiative (i3) (Growth & Communities)		-2.6	*Due to the launch of the new Kent and Medway Business Fund scheme and the time constraints this has placed on the team it is not possible to also promote the i3 scheme this year so any forecasted expenditure has been pushed back to future years.*
Kent & Medway Business Fund (Growth & Communities)		-4.8	*Rephasing is due to profiling now in line with anticipated loan applications and approvals. (Previously reported -£3.0m)*
A226 St Clements Way (Highways & Transportation)	-0.2		*The defects period of the main works has been completed and retention has been released. An allowance has been held back this year to complete some minor works and for landscape works. The underspend is to be released back to the Strategic Transport Infrastructure Programme (formerly known as Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme) as these are the conditions of the funding.*
Dover Bus Rapid Transit (Highways & Transportation)		-3.9	*The profiling of the scheme has been updated to reflect the latest works programme from Colas, and has resulted in rephasing following slow mobilisation.*

Green Corridors (Highways and Transportation)		*-2.8*	*The rephasing is due to the construction of the three largest sites (sites 6, 8 and 11) will span 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. The construction periods have been delayed so that the sites can be procured together and constructed by a single contractor. Other works nearby mean that the construction of these sites cannot begin before January 2023 due to road space availability and procurement timescales. (Previously reported -£2.4m).*
Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 3 (Highways & Transportation)		*-1.2*	*The areas covered by this grant are Herne Bay Seafront and Sevenoaks Urban area. Timeframes suggest £1.2m of the funding received will be in contract by the end of this financial year but spend will incur in 2023-24, hence the rephasing. (Previously reported -£1.1m).*
Thanet Parkway (Highways & Transportation)	*5.4*		*The costs in excess of budget were expected to start crystalising in 2022-23 financial year but are still not confirmed by Network Rail and are now likely to be incurred in part in 2023-24. An estimate of overspend has been calculated at £5.4m following the grants received from the Local Growth Fund (LGF), Getting Building Fund (GBF) and the New Station Fund (NSF) being spent on the delivery of the new station. An additional funding amount of £0.875m has been secured from the GBF and further funding options are being sought while the position continues to be closely monitored.*
Kings Hill Solar Farm (Growth & Communities)	*0.6*		*Higher than anticipated costs have resulted in a forecast overspend, which will be funded from reserves. (Previously reported +£0.2m)*
Marsh Million (Growth & Communities)	*-0.3*		*The project has now come to an end and distributions will be made to the contributors of the scheme.*

Chief Executive's Department:

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
New variances to report:			
There are no variances to report			

Deputy Chief Executive's Department:

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
New variances to report:			
Modernisation of Assets (MOA)	+2.3		The real variance is due to inflation (approximately £0.7m) and addressing category 1 and urgent works. There is a £0.3m revenue contribution towards works at Turner Contemporary and £0.35m additional external funding for works at Tennyson Lodge. The options to cover the remaining overspend include bringing funding forward from the 23-24 MOA budget or to use rephasing from elsewhere in the programme. (Previously reported +£4.8m).
Asset Utilisation		-1.2	Feasibility consultancy works have been rephased to 2023-24.
Strategic Reset Programme		-3.0	The revised timelines for going out to Public Consultation for the Community Assets Programme has resulted in a re-phasing of the capital works for the delivery of this programme.
Previously reported variances:			
Dover Discovery Centre		*-4.5*	*The project has been rephased as there have been delays in planning approval. The forecast for this year is for design costs only. (Previously reported -£4.1m).*
Strategic Estate Programme		*-9.9*	*The rephasing reflects the descoping of initial Stage 2 proposals for Sessions and Invicta refurbishment to keep costs in line with the approved budget, which alongside a delay in the release of the Sessions House Masterplan means a postponement of the original planned commencement date for any refurbishment. (Previously reported -£9.0m)*

14 Capital Budget Changes

Cabinet is asked to approve the following changes:

Project	Year	Amount (£m)	Reason
Annual Planned Enhancement (CYPE)	22-23	-0.319	To vire to fund works in basic need projects.
Basic Need Programme KCP 2016 and previous (CYPE)	22-23	+0.035	To be vired from Annual Planned Enhancement.
Basic Need Programme KCP 2017 (CYPE)	22-23	+0.005	To be vired from Annual Planned Enhancement.
Basic Need Programme KCP 2018 (CYPE)	22-23	+0.279	To be vired from Annual Planned Enhancement due works are now being progressed as part of the basic need project.
Highway Asset Management (GET)	22-23	+0.168	Increased revenue contribution from unbudgeted income, towards additional inspectors costs.

Cabinet is asked to note the following changes to the Capital Budget:

Project	Year	Amount (£m)	Reason
Modernisation of Assets (DCED)	22-23	0.785	Additional grant to be added to the cash limit.
Asset Utilisation Oakwood House (DCED)	22-23	1.469	Additional grant to be added to the cash limit.
Barton Court Academy Free School (CYPE)	22-23	-0.1	School is completing works rather than contributing to KCC to complete works.

15 Treasury Management Monitoring

Treasury management relates to the management of the Council's debt portfolio (accumulated borrowing to fund previous and current capital infrastructure investments) and investment of cash balances. The Council has a comparatively high level of very long-term debt, a significant proportion of which was undertaken through the previous supported borrowing regime.

15.1	Total external debt outstanding in December was £804.76m down by £21.21m since 31st March 2022	KCC debt includes £485.31m of borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). The vast majority is maturity debt (debt is only repaid upon maturity) at a fixed rate of interest. The average length to maturity of PWLB debt is 13.12 years at an average interest rate of 4.51%. Outstanding loans from banks amount to £216.10m. This is also at fixed term rates with average length to maturity of 39.48 years at an average interest rate of 4.54%. The council has £90m of Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans. These loans can only be renegotiated should the lender propose an increase in interest rates. The average length to maturity of LOBO loans is 41.13 years at an average interest rate of 4.15%. The balance of debt relates to loans for the LED streetlighting programme. The outstanding balance is £13.35m with an average of 12.53 years to maturity at an average rate of 1.98%. KCC's principal objective for borrowing is to achieve an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest rates and certainty of financing costs. This is achieved by seeking to fund capital spending from internal resources and short-term borrowing, only considering external long-term borrowing at advantageous interest rates.
15.2	Majority is long term debt with only 10.58% due to mature within 5 years	Maturity 0 to 5 years £85.16m (10.58%)[1] Maturity 5 to 10 years is minimal Maturity 10 to 20 years £287.70m (35.75%) Maturity over 20 years £431.90m (53.67%)
15.3	Total cash balance at end of December was £410.30m, up by £53.50m from the end of March	Cash balances accrue from the council's reserves and timing differences between the receipt of grants and other income and expenditure. Balances are forecast to decline over the remainder of the year in line with the typical trend observed in previous years.

[1] Split across the next five years is as follows: Year 1 £0.70m, Year 2 £20.30m, Year 3 £23.16m, Year 4 £24.00m, and Year 5 £17.00m

15.4	Cash balances are invested in a range of short-term, medium term and long-term deposits	Investments are made in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy agreed by full Council alongside the revenue and capital budgets. The treasury management strategy represents a prudent approach to achieve an appropriate balance between risk, liquidity and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses on the sum invested. Longer term investments aim to achieve a rate of return equal or exceeding prevailing inflation rates. Short term deposits (same day availability) are held in bank accounts and money market funds. Current balances in short-term deposits in December were £78.99m (19.25% of cash balances). Short-term deposits enable the Council to manage liquidity. Bank accounts and money market funds are currently earning an average rate of return of 3.04%. Deposits are made through the Debt Management Office (an executive agency responsible for debt and cash management for the UK Government, lending to local authorities and managing certain public sector funds). As at the end of December, the Council had £9.81m in government bonds. These deposits represent 2.39% of cash investments with an average rate of return of 3.84%. Medium term deposits include covered bonds, a form of secured bond issued by a financial institution that is backed by mortgages or public sector loans. In the UK the covered bond programmes are supervised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). King and Shaxson acts as the Council's broker and custodian for its covered bond portfolio. As at the end of December, the Council has £126.81m invested in covered bonds earning an average rate of return of 3.38%. The Council has lent £21.21m through the No Use Empty Loans programme which achieves a return of 2.50% that is available to fund general services. This total includes £6.6m of loans made since March. The Council has now agreed 3 rolling credit facilities (RCF) with registered providers totalling £25m, for which we are receiving a fee ranging from 0.25% to 0.40%. None of the facilities have been drawn so far. Long term investments are made through Strategic Pooled Funds. These include a variety of UK and Global Equity Funds, Multi Asset Funds and Property Funds. In total the Council has £172.18m invested in pooled funds (41.96% of cash balances). Excluding capital returns, these funds have earned a total income of £42.12m since inception, at an average annual rate of 4.05%. Capital returns on pooled funds can be volatile, and therefore only cash that is suitable for longer term investment is placed in these investments. At the end of December 2022 Strategic Pooled Funds had an aggregate capital loss of £7.47m since inception.

15.5	Treasury Management Advice	The Council secures external specialist treasury management advice from Arlingclose. They advise on the overall strategy as well as borrowing options and investment opportunities. Arlingclose provide regular performance monitoring reports.
15.6	Quarterly and Bi-annual reports	A fuller report is presented to Governance and Audit Committee on a regular bi-annual basis. A report on treasury performance is reported twice a year to full Council.

Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
Community Based Preventative Services	13.3	12.3	-1.0
Housing Related Support	4.6	4.0	-0.6
Statutory and Policy Support	1.2	1.5	0.3
Provision for Demographic Growth - Community Based Services	10.2	0.7	-9.5
Strategic Management & Directorate Support (ASCH)	6.8	4.4	-2.4
Social Support for Carers	3.2	2.9	-0.3
Partnership Support Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
Strategic Safeguarding	0.6	0.4	-0.2
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	40.1	26.2	-13.8
Public Health - Advice and Other Staffing	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health - Children's Programme	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health - Mental Health, Substance Misuse & Community Safety	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health - Sexual Health	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adult In House Carer Services	2.4	2.6	0.2
Adult In House Community Services	5.9	5.7	-0.3
Adult In House Enablement Services	7.5	6.6	-0.9
Adult Learning Disability - Case Management & Assessment Service	5.6	5.5	-0.1
Adult Learning Disability - Community Based Services & Support for Carers	101.7	105.8	4.1
Adult Learning Disability - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers	72.3	72.3	0.0
Adult Mental Health - Case Management & Assessment Services	10.0	10.0	0.0
Adult Mental Health - Community Based Services	11.4	17.2	5.8
Adult Mental Health - Residential Care Services	15.6	17.5	1.9
Adult Physical Disability - Community Based Services	21.0	22.6	1.6
Adult Physical Disability - Residential Care Services	17.9	19.2	1.3
ASCH Operations - Divisional Management & Support	6.9	6.4	-0.5
Older People - Community Based Services	37.3	36.2	-1.1
Older People - In House Provision	14.5	15.2	0.7
Older People - Residential Care Services	45.9	75.0	29.1
Older People & Physical Disability - Assessment and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Services	21.7	22.1	0.4
Older People & Physical Disability - In House Community Homecare Service	0.0	0.0	0.0
Older People & Physical Disability Carer Support - Commissioned	1.2	1.3	0.1
Physical Disability 26+ Lifespan Pathway & Sensory and Autism 18+ - Community Based Services	5.9	6.7	0.7
Physical Disability 26+ Lifespan Pathway & Sensory and Autism 18+ - Residential Care Services	1.1	1.2	0.1
Sensory & Autism - Assessment Service	0.7	0.7	0.0
Service Provision - Divisional Management & Support	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adaptive & Assistive Technology	5.1	1.5	-3.6
Adult Social Care & Health Operations	411.5	451.2	39.8
Business Delivery	8.3	7.9	-0.4
Independent Living Support	0.7	0.8	0.1
Business Delivery Unit	9.0	8.7	-0.3
Adult Social Care & Health	460.5	486.1	25.6
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	4.2	4.2	0.0

Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	2.3	2.1	-0.2
Community Learning & Skills (CLS)	-0.4	-0.3	0.1
Early Years Education	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education Management & Division Support	1.4	1.3	-0.2
Education Services provided by The Education People	4.5	4.5	0.0
Fair Access & Planning Services	0.3	0.3	0.0
Home to School & College Transport	49.7	64.2	14.5
Other School Services	5.8	9.3	3.5
Education	**61.2**	**79.3**	**18.1**
Adoption & Special Guardianship Arrangements & Service	15.5	15.4	-0.2
Asylum	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Care Leavers Service	6.0	5.9	-0.1
Children in Need - Care & Support	3.3	3.2	-0.1
Children's Centres	4.6	3.8	-0.8
Children's Social Work Services - Assessment & Safeguarding Service	51.2	52.2	1.0
Early Help & Preventative Services	6.9	6.9	0.0
Integrated Services (Children's) Management & Directorate Support	5.7	5.1	-0.6
Looked After Children - Care & Support	66.8	75.9	9.1
Pupil Referral Units & Inclusion	0.1	0.1	0.0
Youth Services	5.7	4.7	-1.0
Integrated Children's Services (East & West)	**165.8**	**173.2**	**7.4**
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Community Based Services	32.9	37.8	4.9
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers	9.3	9.3	0.0
Children in Need (Disability) - Care & Support	5.5	6.1	0.5
Childrens Disability 0-18 Commissioning	1.7	1.7	0.0
Disabled Children & Young People Service (0-25 LD & Complex PD) - Assessment Service	9.0	9.4	0.3
Looked After Children (with Disability) - Care & Support	16.4	17.8	1.4
Looked After Children (with Disability) - In House Provision	3.6	3.5	-0.1
Special Educational Needs & Disability Management & Divisional Support	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Special Educational Needs & Psychology Services	13.2	14.2	1.0
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	**91.9**	**99.9**	**8.0**
Children, Young People & Education	**321.2**	**354.5**	**33.3**
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Revenue Budget £m Forecast £m Variance £m

Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	1.4	1.3	-0.1
Growth and Support to Businesses	4.7	5.9	1.2
Community (Assets & Services)	2.8	2.9	0.1
Public Protection	11.4	11.2	-0.2
Libraries, Registration & Archives	9.5	9.0	-0.4
Growth and Communities Divisional management costs	0.8	0.8	0.0
Growth & Communities	29.1	29.8	0.7
Highway Assets Management	33.0	34.8	1.8
Transportation	6.6	5.7	-0.8
Supported Bus Services	4.5	7.1	2.6
English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS)	13.8	11.9	-1.9
Kent Travel Saver (KTS)	4.8	6.2	1.4
Highways & Transportation divisional management costs	3.6	3.1	-0.5
Highways & Transportation	66.3	68.9	2.6
Environment	2.4	2.4	0.0
Residual Waste	45.8	45.8	0.0
Waste Facilities & Recycling Centres	31.9	32.1	0.2
Environment and Waste Divisional management costs	1.8	1.9	0.1
Environment & Waste	81.9	82.2	0.3
Growth, Environment & Transport	178.7	182.2	3.5
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	0.2	0.2	0.0

Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

Revenue Budget £m | Forecast £m | Variance £m

	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
Strategic Refresh Programme	0.0	0.0	0.0
Strategic Management & Departmental Support	0.6	0.6	0.0
Health & Safety	0.4	0.4	0.0
Business & Client Relationships	2.2	2.2	0.0
Strategic Management & Departmental Budgets (DCED)	3.2	3.2	0.0
Human Resources & Organisational Development	5.1	4.8	-0.3
Marketing & Resident Experience	6.0	5.9	-0.1
Property related services	5.9	5.3	-0.6
Emergency Planning	0.2	0.2	-0.1
Infrastructure	6.2	5.5	-0.7
Technology	24.0	24.0	0.0
Business Services Centre	0.0	0.0	0.0
Corporate Landlord	27.1	31.8	4.7
Total - Deputy Chief Executive Department	71.6	75.3	3.7
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	0.0	-0.6	-0.6
Grants to Kent District Councils to maximise Council Tax collection	3.2	3.1	0.0
Finance	9.6	9.7	0.1
Finance	12.7	12.8	0.1
Governance & Law	6.9	6.5	-0.4
Local Member Grants	1.4	0.7	-0.7
Governance, Law & Democracy	8.3	7.2	-1.1
Strategic Commissioning	8.0	7.5	-0.5
Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance	4.5	4.3	-0.2
Total - Chief Executive Department	33.6	31.3	-2.3
Non Attributable Costs	129.4	119.0	-10.4
Corporately Held Budgets (to be allocated)	-0.3	0.0	0.3
Total excluding Schools' Delegated Budgets	**1,199.1**	**1,252.7**	**+53.7**
Total Including Schools' Delegated Budgets	**0.0**	**45.6**	**+45.6**

Appendix 2 - Monitoring of Prudential Indicators as at 31 Dec 2022

The prudential indicators consider the affordability and impact of capital expenditure plans, in line with the prudential code.

Prudential Indicator 1 : Estimates of Capital Expenditure (£m)

	21-22 Actuals	22-23 Budget	22-23 Forecast
Total	335.3	339.3	280.00

Prudential Indicator 2: Estimate of Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (£m)

The CFR is the total outstanding capital expenditure not yet financed by revenue or capital resources. It is a measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need.

	21-22 Actuals	22-23 Budget	22-23 Forecast
Total CFR	1,294.10	1,364.00	1,280.62

Prudential Indicator 3: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement (£m)

Projected levels of the Authority's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities, leases and transferred debt) are shown below, compared with the CFR.

	21-22 Actuals	22-23 Budget	22-23 Forecast
Other Long-term Liabilities	232.07	235.80	232.07
External Borrowing	825.97	802.50	802.29
Total Debt	1,058.04	1,038.30	1,034.36
Capital Financing Requirement	1,294.10	1,364.00	1,280.62
Internal Borrowing	236.06	325.70	246.26

Prudential Indicator 4 : Authorised Limit and Operation Boundary for External Debt (£m)

The Authority is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (the authorised limit for external debt). A lower "operation boundary" is set should debt approach the limit.

	21-22 Actuals	22-23 Limit	22-23 Forecast
Authorised Limit - borrowing	826	876	805
Authorised Limit - PFI and leases	232	245	232
Authorised Limit - total external debt	1,058	1,121	1,037
Operational Boundary - borrowing	826	851	805
Operational Boundary - PFI and leases	232	245	232
Operation Boundary - total external debt	1,058	1,096	1,037

Prudential Indicator 5: Proportion of Finance Costs to Net Revenue Stream (%)

Financing costs comprise interest on loans and minimum revenue provision (MRP) and are charged to revenue. This indicator compares the net financing costs of the Authoity to the net revenue stream.

	21-22 Actual	22-23 Budget	22-23 Forecast
Proportion of net revenue stream	9.18%	9.06%	8.37%

Appendix 3 - Reserves Monitoring as at 31 December 2022

	Balance as at 1 April 2022 £m	Forecast Contribution to/(from) Reserve £m	Projected Balance at 31 March 2023 £m
General Fund (GF) Balance	56.2		56.2
Budgeted contribution to/(from) in MTFP		3.0	3.0
	56.2	3.0	59.2
Earmarked reserves:			
Vehicle, Plant & Equipment (VPE)	18.7	1.0	**19.7**
Smoothing	124.7	(3.2)	**121.5**
Major Projects	62.3	3.4	**65.7**
Partnerships	26.3	6.1	**32.4**
Grant/External Funds	79.1	(48.1)	**31.0**
Departmental Under/Overspends	8.4	(38.6)	**(30.2)**
Insurance	13.8	(0.5)	**13.3**
Public Health	16.8	(3.5)	**13.3**
Trading	1.2	0.0	**1.2**
Special Funds	0.6	0.0	**0.6**
Total Earmarked Reserves	351.9	**(83.4)**	268.5
Total GF and Earmarked Reserves	408.1	**(80.4)**	327.7

Schools Reserves	Balance as at 1 April 2022 £m	Forecast Contribution to/(from) Reserve £m	Projected Balance at 31 March 2023 £m
School delegated revenue budget reserve - committed	21.8	(0.8)	21.0
School delegated revenue budget reserve - uncommitted	39.3	(0.6)	38.7
Community Focussed Extended Schools Reserves	0.2	0.0	0.2
Total School Reserves	61.3	**(1.4)**	59.9

DSG Adjustment Account - Unusable Reserve

	Balance as at 1 April 2022	Forecast Contribution to/(from) Reserve	Projected Balance at 31 March 2023
	£m	£m	£m
Unallocated Schools Budget	(97.6)	(44.2)	(141.8)

The General fund Reserve has been increased as agreed by County Council in the 2022-23 MTFP.

The earmarked reserves are decreasing mainly due to the following:

- Funding of £53.7m underlying overspend including using the £24.9m set aside in the risk reserve.
- £30.3m drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve to fund the continuation of projects agreed in the 2021-22 Outturn report.
- The balance of £28.8m is currently being reflected in the Departmental under/overspends until year end when it will be decided which reserves the balance should be funded from.
- The 'Smoothing' reserves are showing a net drawdown of £3.2m, this includes drawdown from the risk reserve of £24.9m, referred to above, offset by planned contributions to reserves.

The DSG Adjustment Account deficit has increased due to pressures in Schools Funding. More details can be found in Section 10.

The net £80.4m drawdown reflected in the table above covers more than the reserve drawdowns set out in the Revenue section of this report, as this includes funding elements, which are roll forwards and the S31 Compensation grants.

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From: Roger Gough – Leader of the Council

David Cockburn – Chief Executive Officer

To: Cabinet – 30 March 2023

Decision No: n/a

Subject: **Quarterly Performance Report, Quarter 3, 2022/23**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The purpose of the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is to inform Cabinet about key areas of performance for the authority. This report presents performance to the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3, 2022/23).

Of the 37 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) contained within the QPR, 15 achieved target (Green), 16 achieved and exceeded the floor standard but did not meet target (Amber). 6 KPIs did not meet the floor standard (Red).

Recommendation(s): Cabinet is asked to NOTE the Quarter 3 Performance Report.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is a key mechanism within the Performance Management Framework for the Council. The report summary for Quarter 3, 2022/23 is attached at Appendix 1, and includes data up to the end of December 2022.

1.2. The QPR includes 37 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) where results are assessed against Targets set at the start of the financial year.

2. Quarter 3 Performance Report

2.1. Results for KPIs compared to Target are assessed using a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) status.

2.2. Of the 37 KPIs included in the report, the latest RAG status are as follows:

- 15 are rated Green (two fewer than the previous Quarter) - the target was achieved or exceeded.
- 16 are rated Amber (three more than the previous Quarter) – performance achieved or exceeded the expected floor standard but did not meet target.
- 6 are rated Red (one fewer than the previous Quarter) – performance did not meet the expected floor standard.

2.3. The 6 indicators where the RAG rating is Red, are in:

- Customer Services
  - Percentage of complaints responded to within timescale.
- Governance and Law
  - Percentage of Freedom of Information Act (FoI) requests completed within 20 working days
  - Percentage of Data Protection Act (DPA) Subject Access requests completed within statutory timescales.
- Environment and Transport
  - Emergency highway incidents attended within 2 hours of notification.
- Children, Young People and Education
  - Percentage of Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks.
- Adult Social Care
  - Proportion of new Care Needs Assessments delivered within 28 days.

2.4. With regards to Direction of Travel, 3 indicators show a positive trend (one more than the previous Quarter), 26 are stable or with no clear trend, and 8 are showing a negative trend (3 more than the previous Quarter).

2.5. Taken as a whole, this latest report suggests that whilst we are performing adequately, we are finding it increasingly difficult to deliver to the highest standards, which we have historically held ourselves to (demonstrated by the increase in Amber RAG ratings at the expense of Green ratings).

2.6. The challenges are multiple and complex, with some services continuing to report problems securing the necessary workforce (whether that be people that the Council employs directly, contractors struggling to recruit and/or retain staff or difficulties attracting foster carers) and others pointing to demand pressures (for example due to extreme winter weather).

3. Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the Quarter 3 Performance Report

4. Contact details

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Kent County Council

Quarterly Performance Report

Quarter 3

2022/23

Produced by: Kent Analytics
E-mail: performance@kent.gov.uk
Phone: 03000 416205

Executive Summary

15 of the 37 indicators are rated as Green, on or ahead of target (two fewer than last Quarter). 16 indicators reached or exceeded the floor standard (Amber) with 6 indicators not achieving the floor standard and so RAG rated Red (one fewer than last Quarter). Three indicators were showing an improving trend (one more than last Quarter), with 8 showing a worsening trend (three more than last Quarter).

	G	A	R	⇧	⇨	⇩
Customer Services	1	1	1		3	
Governance and Law			2		2	
Growth, Economic Development & Communities	2				2	
Environment and Transport	2	3	1		6	
Children, Young People and Education	5	7	1	2	6	5
Adult Social Care	1	4	1		4	2
Public Health	4	1		1	3	1
TOTAL	**15**	**16**	**6**	**3**	**26**	**8**

Customer Services – Satisfaction with Contact Point advisors improved in Quarter 3 and moved back above target. The percentage of phone calls answered also improved, moving above floor standard but still not achieving target, and so is RAG rated Amber. The percentage of complaints responded to within timescale decreased to a similar level seen this time last year, and remains RAG rated Red.

Customer Services KPIs	**RAG rating**	**DoT**
% of callers to Contact Point who rated the advisor who dealt with their call as good	GREEN	⇨
% of phone calls to Contact Point which were answered	AMBER	⇨
% of complaints responded to within timescale	RED	⇨

Governance and Law - Freedom of Information (FOI) / Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) requests responded to in timescale and Data Protection Act Subject Access requests completed within timescale remain below floor standards.

Governance and Law KPIs	**RAG rating**	**DoT**
% of Freedom of Information Act (FoI) requests completed within 20 working days	RED	⇨
% of Data Protection Act (DPA) Subject Access requests completed within statutory timescales	RED	⇨

Growth, Economic Development & Communities – The No Use Empty programme, which returns long term empty domestic properties into active use, maintained above target performance. The amount of Developer Contributions secured as a percentage of amount sought was close to 100%. Total issues from libraries are 9% higher than the same Quarter last year and continue to exceed pre-Covid levels.

Growth, Economic Development & Communities KPIs	**RAG rating**	**DoT**
Number of homes brought back to market through No Use Empty (NUE)	GREEN	⇨
Developer contributions secured as a percentage of amount sought	GREEN	⇨

Environment & Transport – All Highways' indicators were impacted by the wet and cold weather at the end of the Quarter. Potholes repaired within 28 days remained at 86% against a target of 90%, and was RAG rated Amber. Routine highway repairs completed within 28 days also remained at the same performance level as the previous Quarter, being one percentage point below target at 89%, and remains at Amber. Attendance at Emergency Incidents within two hours of notification fell below floor standard to 93% (Red RAG rating), and the Callback satisfaction survey dropped below target to 93%. Municipal Waste recycled or converted to energy continues to be above target, and reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions also remains ahead of target.

Environment & Transport KPIs	**RAG rating**	**DoT**
% of routine pothole repairs completed within 28 days	AMBER	⇨
% of routine highway repairs reported by residents completed within 28 days	AMBER	⇨
% of emergency highway incidents attended within 2 hours of notification	RED	⇨
% of satisfied callers for Kent Highways & Transportation, 100 call back survey	AMBER	⇨
% of municipal waste recycled or converted to energy and not taken to landfill – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇨
Greenhouse Gas emissions from KCC estate (excluding schools) in tonnes – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇨

Education & Wider Early Help – Schools continue to exceed the inspection target, but Early Years settings remain below, although 96% are still rated good or outstanding. Completion of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in timescale remains below the floor standard with little change from last Quarter. Pupils with EHCPs placed in independent or out of county special schools remains below target with little change. Permanent pupil exclusions remains on target. The number of first-time entrants to the youth justice improved slightly, moving about its floor standard but remaining below target.

Education & Wider Early Help KPIs	**RAG rating**	**DoT**
% of all schools with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements	GREEN	⇨
% of Early Years settings with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements (childcare on non-domestic premises)	AMBER	⇩
% of Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks – rolling 12 months	RED	⇨
Percentage of pupils (with EHCP's) being placed in independent or out of county special schools	AMBER	⇨
% of pupils permanently excluded from school – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇨
Number of first-time entrants to youth justice system – rolling 12 months	AMBER	⇩

Children's Social Care & Early Help – Three of the seven indicators met target, one fewer than last Quarter. Percentage of case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers improved slightly but remains below target. The percentage of Child Protection Plans that were repeat plans, increased and is now missing target. The Percentage of foster care placements which are in-house or with relatives improved for the first time in several Quarters to move above floor standard. Percentage of Care Leavers in education, employment or training improved for the third consecutive Quarter but remains below target.

Children's Social Care & Early Help KPIs	**RAG rating**	**DoT**
Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months	GREEN	⇨
% of case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers	AMBER	⇩
% of children social care referrals that were repeat referrals within 12 months	GREEN	⇧
% of child protection plans that were repeat plans	AMBER	⇩
Average no. of days between becoming a child in care and moving in with an adoptive family – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇨
% of foster care placements which are in-house or with relatives and friends (excluding UASC)	AMBER	⇩
% of care leavers in education, employment or training (of those KCC is in touch with)	AMBER	⇧

Adult Social Care – One of the six KPIs met target (RAG rated Green), one fewer than last Quarter. The proportion of new Care Needs Assessments delivered within 28 days, declined further below floor standard. The proportion of clients receiving Direct Payments is unchanged and remains below target. The proportion of older people still at home 91 days after discharge declined for the second quarter in a row and remains below target. Long Term support needs of older people met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, decreased but did not meet target. Percentage of KCC supported people in residential or nursing care where the CQC rating is Good or Outstanding is on a declining trend and moved below target for the first time for several Quarters. The number of new support packages being arranged reduced to its lowest since March 2021.

Adult Social Care KPIs	**RAG rating**	**DoT**
% of people who have their contact resolved by ASCH but then make contact again within 3 months	GREEN	⇨
Proportion of new Care Needs Assessments delivered within 28 days	RED	⇨
% of people receiving a long-term community service who receive Direct Payments	AMBER	⇨
Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services	AMBER	⇩
Long Term support needs of older people (65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000	AMBER	⇨
% of KCC supported people in residential or nursing care where the CQC rating is Good or Outstanding	AMBER	⇩

Public Health – Four out of five KPIs are meeting or exceeding target. The Number of eligible people receiving an NHS Health Check – rolling 12 months is below target but remains on a positive trend. Number of mandated checks delivered by the health visiting service remains above target but is on a declining trend.

Public Health KPIs	**RAG rating**	**DoT**
Number of eligible people receiving an NHS Health Check – rolling 12 months	AMBER	⇧
Number of mandated universal checks delivered by the health visiting service – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇩
% of first-time patients (at any sexual health clinics or telephone triage) who are offered a full sexual health screen	GREEN	⇨
Successful completion of drug and alcohol treatment	GREEN	⇨
% of Live Well clients who would recommend the service to family, friends or someone in a similar situation	GREEN	⇨

Customer Services	
Cabinet Member	Shellina Prendergast
Corporate Director	Amanda Beer

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	⇧	⇨	⇩
	1	1	1		3	

Customer contact through Contact Point (KCC's call centre) is provided via a strategic partnership, whilst Digital services are provided by KCC. The percentage of callers who rated their advisor as good, moved above target to 98%.

The percentage of calls answered by Contact Point improved to 92% for the Quarter, moving above the floor standard but remaining below target. In October, the largest increase in calls continued to be Blue Badges, with customers checking on their applications due to process delays. Agilisys worked with the service to assist with communication and help manage customers' expectations and lower call volumes relating to blue badges were received later in the Quarter.

Due to weather incidents in November, there was an increase in highways and specifically drainage calls. December saw extreme temperatures and snow for a week which caused an increase in calls regarding the salting of roads, and then increased calls reporting potholes. Extreme weather causes spikes in calls that are concentrated on those days, and this then adversely impacts the answer rate for that period.

Overall Contact Point received 21% fewer calls compared to the previous Quarter (which includes September the busiest month of the year) and 4% fewer calls compared to Quarter 3 last year. The 12 months to December 2022 saw a 3% increase in calls compared to the 12 months to December 2021.

Average call time increased for the third Quarter in a row, now at 6 minutes 32 seconds, and whilst the rate of increase has slowed, it remains well above the target of 5 minutes 45 seconds. This is likely due to simple and quicker transactions being processed online, with those calling often having more complex queries.

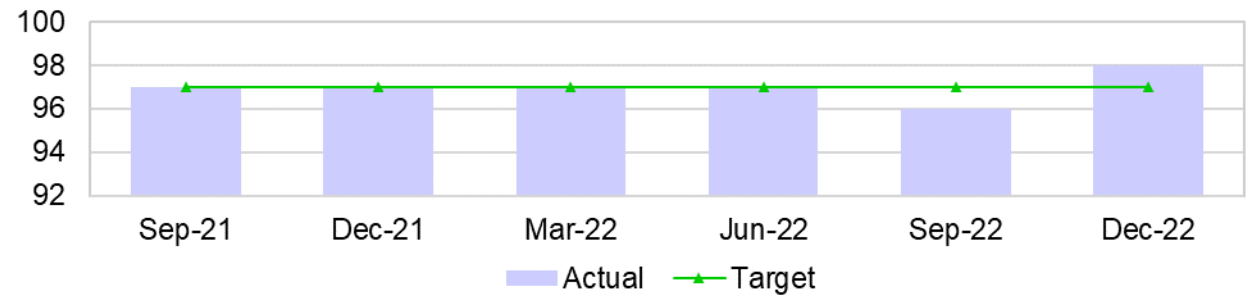
Quarter 3 saw a reduction in visits to the website, although the total remained within expectations. Pages relating to Household Waste Recycling Centres continue to be the most visited, with pages regarding school term dates also very popular.

Quarter 3 saw a decrease in the number of complaints received compared with the previous Quarter but an increase on the same Quarter last year. Between October and December, 73% of complaints were responded to within timescales. Performance for the year to date is currently at 76%, significantly below target.

There was a decrease in complaints received for Adult Social Care and Health, particularly in complaints regarding Blue Badge applications in December. Children, Young People and Education, are still below target particularly within the Special Educational Needs service, where there is a concerted effort to work towards responding to a significant backlog of complaints. Whilst this work continues it is expected that performance will remain low, as current open cases are likely to exceed the 20 working days target.

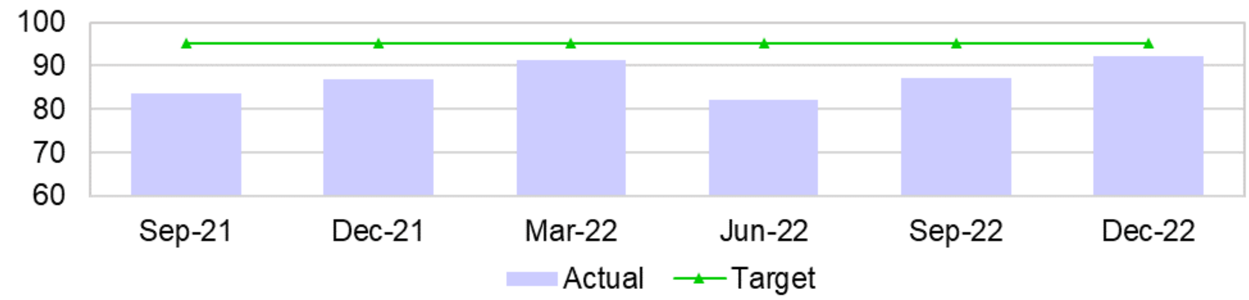
Key Performance Indicators

Percentage of callers to Contact Point who rated the advisor who dealt with their call as good	GREEN ⇨



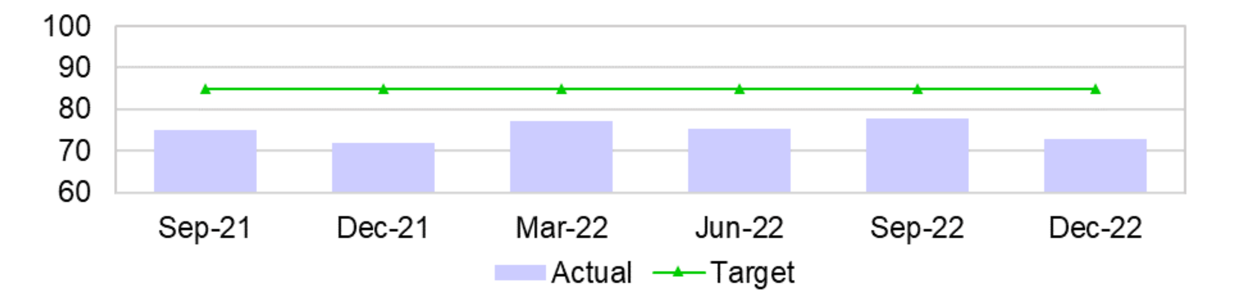
Current: 98%	Target: 97%	Previous: 96%

Percentage of phone calls to Contact Point which were answered	AMBER ⇨



Current: 92%	Target: 95%	Previous: 87%

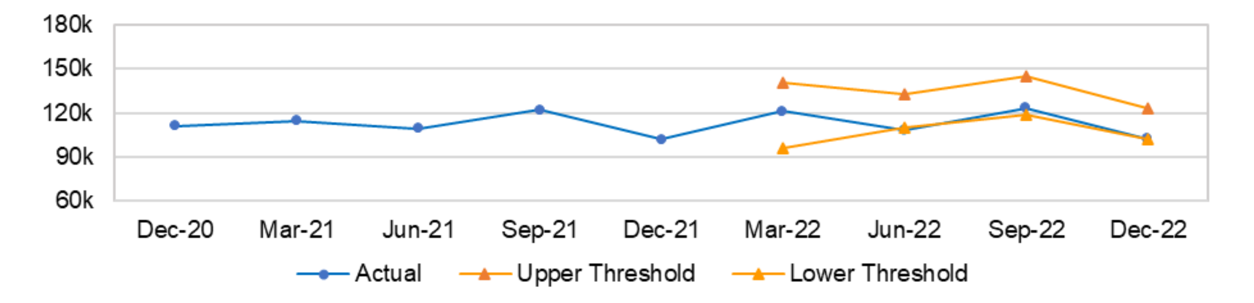
Percentage of complaints responded to within timescale	RED ⇨



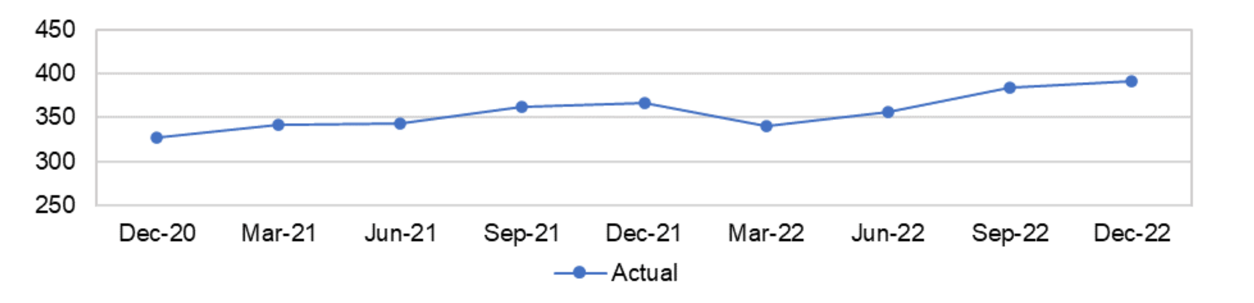
Current: 73%	Target: 85%	Previous: 78%

Activity indicators

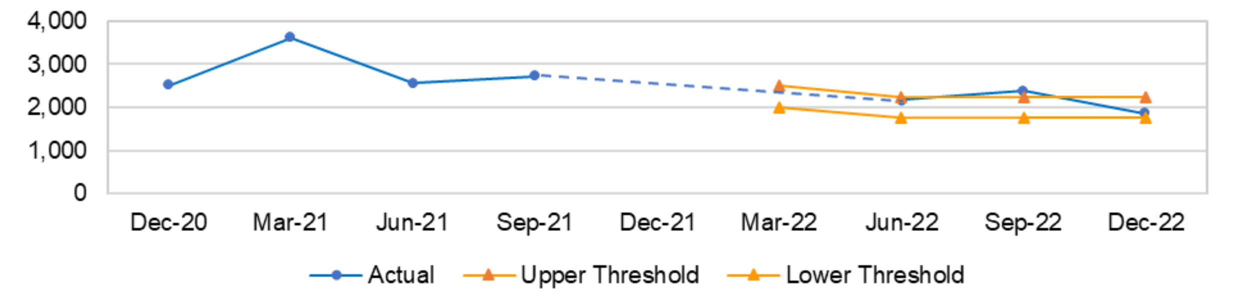
Number of phone calls responded to by Contact Point – by quarter



Average Contact Point call handling time in seconds – by quarter

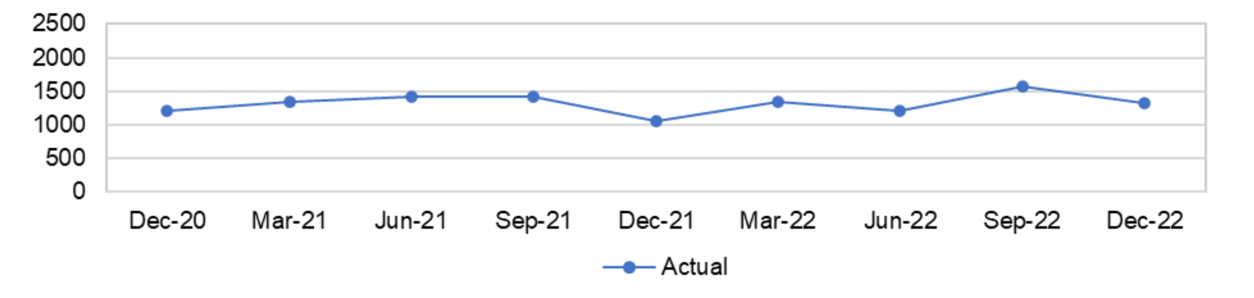


Number of visits to the KCC website (in thousands) – by quarter*



* Due to a review of KCC's use of cookies on kent.gov.uk no visitor data was available from October until February. This information was reported again for the Quarter to June 2022.

Number of complaints received - by quarter



Customer Services – Call and Website Activity

Number of phone calls to Contact Point (thousands)

Contact Point received 21% fewer calls compared to the previous Quarter and 4% fewer calls than Quarter 3 last year. The 12 months to December 2022 saw a 3% increase in calls compared to the 12 months to December 2021.

Service area	Jan – Mar 22	Apr – Jun 22	Jul – Sep 22	Oct – Dec 22	Yr to Dec 22	Yr to Dec 21
Adult Social Care	27	28	28	24	107	112
Integrated Children's Services	19	19	20	16	73	73
Highways	14	13	13	15	55	62
Blue Badges	14	15	14	10	52	36
Transport Services	10	9	18	8	46	38
Registrations	6	8	9	7	30	21
Waste and Recycling	9	11	8	6	35	48
Libraries and Archives	7	7	7	6	27	31
Schools and Early Years	5	6	5	5	21	19
Adult Education	5	5	6	4	20	12
Driver improvement	4	3	4	3	14	14
Main line	3	3	4	3	14	13
KSAS*	8	3	3	3	18	19
Other Services	3	3	2	1	9	9
Total Calls (thousands)	**134**	**133**	**142**	**112**	**521**	**507**

* Kent Support and Assistance Service

Customer Services – Complaints Monitoring

Quarter 3 saw the number of complaints received decrease from the previous Quarter by 16%, but increase by 25% on the same Quarter last year (Quarter 3, 2021/22). Over the last 12 months there has been a 4% increase in complaints received compared to the same time previous year.

In Quarter 3, frequently raised issues included SEN provision and complaints relating to public transport, including cancellation of some services and perceived delays in replacing bus passes.

Service	12 mths to Dec 21	12 mths to Dec 22		Quarter to Sep 22	Quarter to Dec 22
Highways, Transportation and Waste Management	2,745	2,835		808	712
Adult Social Services	735	916		283	224
Integrated Children's Services	834	878		227	241
Libraries, Registrations and Archives	165	217		101	44
Education & Young People's Services	265	218		57	37
Chief Executive's Department and Deputy Chief Executive's Department	214	147		40	32
Environment, Planning and Enforcement & Economic Development	216	155		42	26
Adult Education	31	69		22	7
Total Complaints	**5,205**	**5,435**		**1,580**	**1,323**

Customer Services – Digital Take-up

The table below shows the digital/online or automated transaction completions for key service areas where there are ways to complete other than online.

Transaction type	Online Jan 22 - Mar 22	Online Apr 22 - Jun 22	Online Jul 22 - Sep 22	Online Oct 22 - Dec 22	Total Transactions Last 12 Months
Renew a library book*	80%	82%	81%	83%	1,034,356
Report a Highways Fault	58%	57%	57%	65%	93,677
Book a Driver Improvement Course	88%	87%	85%	84%	32,715
Book a Birth Registration appointment	86%	87%	87%	90%	20,251
Apply for or renew a Blue Badge	73%	74%	79%	85%	17,928
Report a Public Right of Way Fault	91%	93%	93%	94%	16,963
Apply for a Concessionary Bus Pass	70%	72%	74%	76%	15,621
Apply for a HWRC recycling voucher	99%	99%	99%	100%	5,729

* Library issue renewals transaction data is based on individual loan items and not count of borrowers.

Some transactions formerly reported, such as the Kent Travel Saver and Highways Licence applications, have been removed from the table as these transactions have moved to be solely online.

Governance, Law & Democracy	
Cabinet Member	Shellina Prendergast
Corporate Director	David Cockburn

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	⇧	⇨	⇩
			2		2	

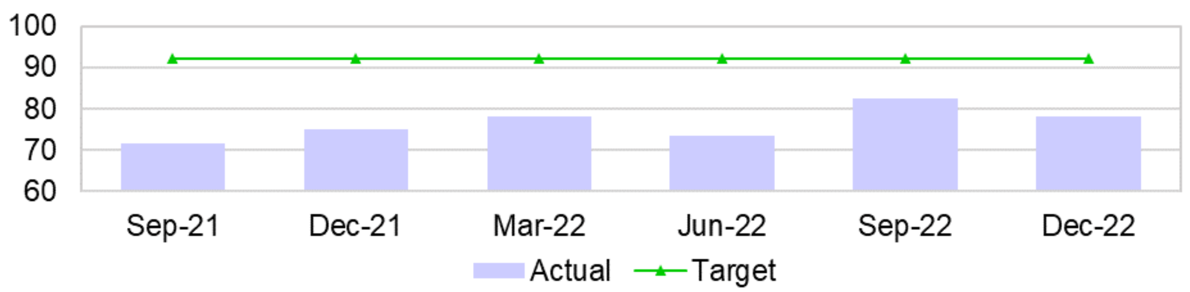
Achievement of target for both Freedom of Information (FOI) / Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) requests, and Data Protection Act Subject Access requests completed within timescales remains challenging.

The percentage of FOI / EIR requests completed within timescale reduced from last Quarter and remains below floor standard. With regard to Directorate performance between April and December, the largest number of requests were received by Growth, Environment and Transportation and Waste (78% completed in timescale), followed by Children, Young People and Education (76% completed in timescale), Deputy Chief Executive's Department (82% completed in timescale), Chief Executive's Department (77% completed in timescale), and finally Adult Social Care and Health, who had the fewest requests (74% completed in timescale). Reasons for delays in dealing with requests include the complexity of some requests and teams having to prioritise other work.

For Subject Access Requests (SARs), the majority of these come under the Children, Young People and Education Directorate, and in addition to similar issues as above there continues to be the need for the acquisition and use of redacting tools for electronic records which can add significant time when responding to requests.

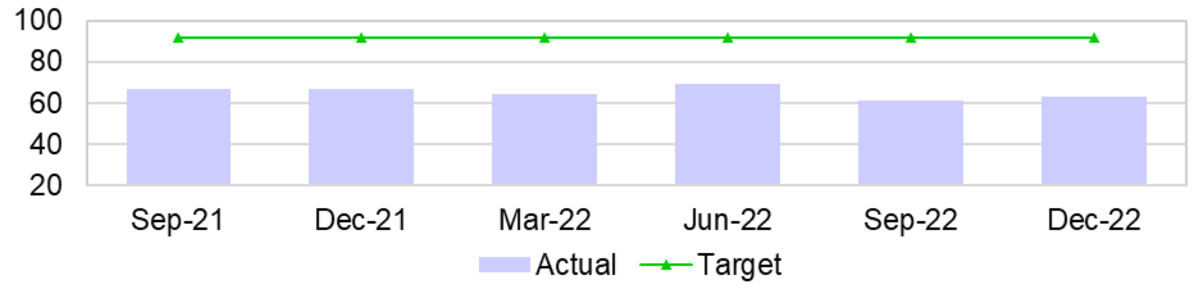
Key Performance Indicators

Freedom of Information (FOI) / Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) requests completed within 20 working days	RED ⇨



Current: 78%	Target: 92%	Previous: 83%

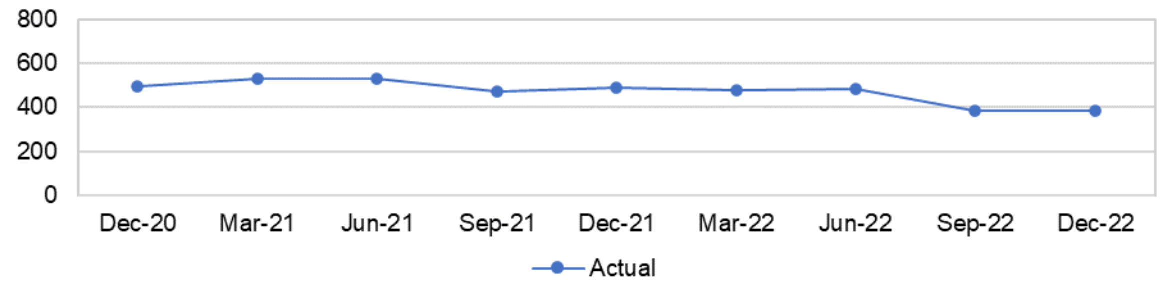
Data Protection Act Subject Access requests completed within timescales	RED ⇨



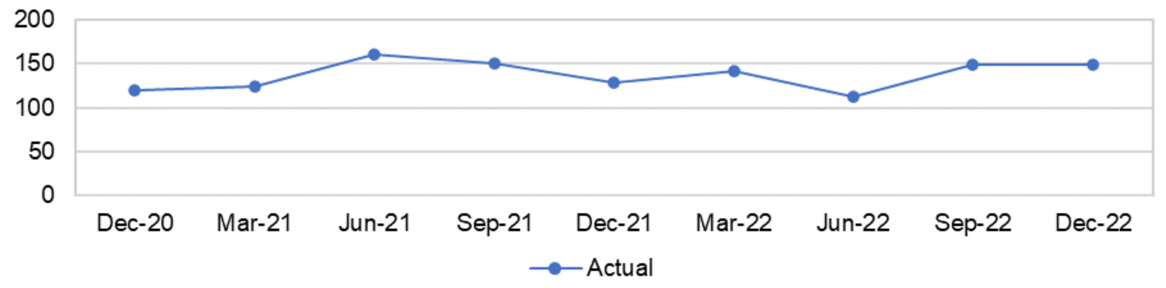
Current: 63%	Target: 90%	Previous: 61%

Activity indicators

FOI/EIR requests – by Quarter



Data Protection Act Subject Access requests – by Quarter



Growth, Economic Development & Communities	
Cabinet Members	Derek Murphy, Mike Hill
Corporate Director	Simon Jones

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	⇧	⇨	⇩
	2				2	

Support for business
KCC has continued to use funds from the Government's Regional Growth Fund (RGF) to create and sustain employment opportunities in Kent during Quarter 3.

Since 2017 the latest figures (to the end of Quarter 2, 2022/23), show the Kent and Medway Business Fund (KMBF) has provided finance of £16.7m to 113 Kent and Medway businesses, creating 443 new jobs and safeguarding a further 138 jobs in the Kent and Medway area.

The current economic climate has had an adverse impact on those Kent's businesses which had previously received loans, with a continued increase in the number of requests to revise loan repayment terms. From the feedback provided by the companies, we believe that this is due to increases in costs, particularly energy bills, and the ending of Government business support schemes set-up during the pandemic. Despite this, there was a small increase in the number of jobs expected to be created in the latest data return (Quarter 2).

There has however been an increase of 26.0 FTE in the job delivery of the scheme overall following a small drop of 4.0 FTE in Quarter 1; this is a return to the normal trends of the scheme which has generally seen small net increases in job creation each Quarter.

Early in Quarter 3, the KMBF launched a new secured loan scheme for Kent & Medway Businesses seeking loans between £100,000 and £500,000 with 50% match funding from private sources. To date, 110 pre-applications to the value of £23.5m have been received; of these, 25 businesses have submitted full applications to the value of £5.33m, of which eight have received approval for loans to the value of £1.58m.

A new scheme called "KMBF Small Business Boost" (KMBF SBB) opened to pre-applications on 29th July 2022, with a launch event taking place on 8th September 2022. The scheme offers unsecured loans with a zero interest rate for borrowing between £26,000-£99,000; loans are expected to have 20-30% match funding from private sources. To date, 133 pre-applications to the value of £8.49m have been received; of these, 30 companies have submitted full applications for loans totalling £2.26m, fifteen have been approved up to January 2023 to the value of £1.23m. The KMBF SBB remains open to applications for funding from businesses in the Kent and Medway area.

The South-East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) has, in addition, provided funding for the Innovation Investment Loan scheme which the KMBF team manages for applications from companies in Kent and Medway. Since 2017, £6 million of loans have been made to 18 businesses creating 138 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) jobs and safeguarding 63.43 FTE jobs.

Converting derelict buildings for new housing and commercial space
In Quarter 3, a further 63 long term empty properties were made fit for occupation through the No Use Empty (NUE) Programme bringing the total to 7,676 since the programme began in 2005. There is a healthy pipeline of new projects and on average there are 60 live projects at any given time. NUE processed ten new loan applications in Quarter 3 and by end of Quarter 4, expect to exceed the total number of applications approved in the previous financial year (40). The total NUE investment in converting derelict properties has increased to £96.9m (£55.2m from KCC recycled loans and £41.7m from private sector leverage).

NUE were awarded £2.5m under the SELEP Growing Places Fund (GPF) to convert additional derelict properties from 2022/23. As at the end of Quarter 3, loans to the value of £882,000 have been approved which will fund 33 new homes.

GPF awarded a separate £2m for NUE Commercial Phase II. The target is to return 18 empty commercial units back into use and create 36 new homes by March 2023. Three new projects were approved in Quarter 3 increasing the number of projects supported to sixteen (covering Canterbury (3), Dover (3), Faversham, Folkestone (2), Herne Bay, Hythe, Margate, Ramsgate (2), Sheerness and Sittingbourne) and these will return 20 empty commercial units back into use and create 51 homes. NUE are discussing two further commercial projects (Dover and Margate) which if approved would utilise all remaining GPF funds available and help exceed both commercial and residential targets.

KCC Treasury have made available £24m for NUE to bring forward empty/derelict sites with planning permission for new builds. At the end of Quarter 3, loans to the value of £25m have been approved. This has been achieved by recycling £7.6m of loan repayments following the completion of 14 projects which has resulted in 67 new homes. The total number of new homes funded to date is 185 across 8 Kent districts. There is a strong pipeline of new build projects, with latest applications received including a further 12 new builds in Dover and 27 new builds in Thanet.

NUE also administer loans for Medway Council (One loan is approved and is expected to be in contract in Quarter 4) and Southend on Sea City Council (three loans are approved, one is in contract and two more loans are expected to be in contact in Quarter 4).

Infrastructure projects
In Quarter 3 of 2022/23, The SELEP Accountability Board made the following decisions:

- Agreeing to award an additional £875,000 of Getting Building Fund (GBF) to Kent County Council for the Thanet Parkway Railway Station project and agreed that this funding can be retained against the project until 31 March 2023.

- Agreeing to award an additional £235,728 GBF to Kent County Council for the Javelin Way Development project which can be spent up to 31 March 2023.

The SELEP Accountability board held an exceptional meeting on 27 January to consider the reallocation of £2.5m of Getting Building Fund (GBF) funding in the South East.

A number of existing projects came forward to request additional GBF funding to support their ongoing delivery and to ensure the delivery of their agreed outputs as well as some additional activity in certain cases. Among these were two Kent projects which were awarded additional funding to contribute towards unforeseen cost increases (due to Brexit, Covid-19 and an increase in materials' costs):

- Dover Techfort (Dover Citadel Ltd) was allocated an additional £850,000 GBF for the refurbishment of two further Casemates to bring them back into economic use hosting a workspace and a retail/hospitality venue.

- Discovery Park was awarded a further £250,000 to tackle increasing external costs which arose since the project started. The additional funding will ensure that the following activity is completed: the refurbishment of two floors within the East Block of Building 500 to provide 30,000sqft of net lettable incubator space. The new facility will include self-contained laboratory units, informal breakout and café space and shared lab support facilities.

Some £2m GBF remains unallocated and SELEP is currently seeking guidance from central government about how these capital funds can be used. The SELEP strategic board will consider in March initial proposals for how the funding might be targeted.

Broadband
In Quarter 3, the broadband team are continuing to support Building Digital UK (BDUK) on the Kent phase of the Government's Project Gigabit Programme. The aim of this programme is to deliver gigabit-capable connections to areas that are not expected to benefit from connectivity upgrades by telecoms operators.

BDUK advised Kent County Council that they launched the Kent Project Gigabit procurement on the 13th December 2022. BDUK, who are leading the procurement work, are currently forecasting that they will complete this procurement work by the end of November 2023.'

Funding Kent's Infrastructure
KCC has a statutory right to seek financial contributions for capital investment from developers of new housing sites. In Quarter 3, nine Section 106 agreements were completed and a total of £1.35 million was secured. This represents 99.9% of the amount sought.

s.106 contributions secured £000s	Jan to Mar 2022	Apr to Jun 2022	Jul to Sep 2022	Oct to Dec 2022
Primary Education	4,047	575	3,714	518
Secondary Education	4,716	3,385	3,486	738
Adult Social Care	92	116	107	42
Libraries	170	70	160	16
Community Learning	41	13	35	5
Youth & Community	60	55	40	18
Waste	26	61	146	12
Highways	242	2,067	1,650	0
Total	**9,395**	**6,342**	**9,339**	**1,349**
Secured as % of Amount Sought	65%	99%	100%	99.9%

Kent Film Office

In the 3rd Quarter of 2022/23, the film office handled 148 filming requests and 73 related enquiries. We logged 189 filming days bringing an estimated £1.8m direct spend into Kent & Medway. Highlights for the Quarter include Silent Witness, EastEnders Christmas Special, My Lady Jane and The Witcher S3.

We facilitated three Runners positions and one Camera Assistant position on four different productions over 5 days.

Libraries, Registration and Archives

Despite Quarter 3 traditionally being a quieter time for LRA, the service experienced growth during this Quarter in comparison with the same period in 2021/22 which highlights continued recovery and work to highlight the role of libraries in supporting people through rising costs of living.

Library visitors increased by 34% on the same period last year, and were at 72% of pre-pandemic levels for the same period, being 4% above the average for a national comparator group as reported by Libraries Connected.

Physical issues have increased by 6% and were at 87% of pre-pandemic levels for the same period, surpassing a national comparator group average of 84%. Factoring in the 13% increase in e-issues, the total issues during Quarter 3 are up by 9% on last year and have now consistently exceeded pre-Covid levels for the year to date.

The LRA Events and Activities offer continues to bring people together, and in addition to the popular Rhyme Time and Talk Time sessions in libraries, there are growing numbers of Meet and Practise English sessions (including several groups for Ukrainian refugees), activities for children such as Lego and Coding clubs, increasing numbers of class visits to libraries across the county as well as continued increased volume of Playground activity for the 0-2 age range. The number of events has increased by 6% on the last Quarter, and at over 30,000 attendees the target for Quarter 3 has been significantly exceeded.

As with libraries, the Archive service traditionally experiences a dip in visitors during Quarter 3, and this coupled with a week's closure in October for essential maintenance to Kent History and Library Centre meant that visitors to the Search Room fell from 598 in Quarter 2 to 433 in Quarter 3. However this figure is on a par with the Quarter 1 visits, and up by 11% on the same period last year. A corresponding dip in remote enquiries means that the target for Quarter 3 has not been met, but at 1,844 enquiries is within the forecast parameters.

A survey of the visitors to the Archive Search Room during Quarter 3 has yielded a customer satisfaction rating of 98%.

Birth registrations have levelled out, with a similar number to Quarter 2, and 2% fewer than last year when the Service was still dealing with the backlog after the pandemic. Death registrations have increased by 7% from last year, with 1,524 registrations in October being the highest number of registrations in a month so far this year.

Ceremonies naturally dip in Quarter 3, but continue to exceed pre-Covid figures, with a 13% increase in Quarter 3 compared to the same Quarter pre-Covid. A total of 1,417 ceremonies were delivered, which included the welcoming of 657 new citizens.

The Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) has seen some growth in Quarter 3, with 25 one-to-one sessions completed with clients exceeding the target set for the Quarter. Seven webinars were also delivered on subjects such as Understanding Intellectual Property, and How to Write a Business Plan. In addition three BIPC Local spaces have been installed in Deal, Sandwich and Whitstable Libraries, so that clients can engage in one-to-one advice sessions with the team via Zoom from these locations. The BIPC Locals will officially be launched In Quarter 4 with coffee morning sessions to promote these spaces.

Active Kent and Medway

To date this year 45 projects have been supported by Active Kent and Medway through bids to Sport England's Together Fund. A report has been produced outlining the impact that the investment has had on tackling inequalities linked to inactivity and how individuals and communities continue to benefit from the funding. This Quarter we have successfully bid for a further £75k to add to the £216k we have already distributed to clubs and organisations this year.

On Mental Health Awareness Day (10th October) we launched our Winter Wellbeing campaign. Promoted in conjunction with Everyday Active the campaign focuses on helping people to find ways to be active in the colder, darker months of the year.

Community Safety

Focus areas during this period include the rising cost of living, with wardens assisting the setting up of Warm Banks / Hubs across the districts and the increasing demand on food banks. With the rise in energy costs, advice has been given about energy usage and supporting residents to access grants and funds. For example, a number of residents were successfully supported in obtaining grants for new boilers. Wardens also provided timely support during the recent water supply disruptions in Thanet, Charing and Pembury.

The Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) held the fifth and final 'Domestic Homicide Review lessons identified' online event on the 24th November during Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week, exploring the theme of harmful practices and cultural competence. Over 160 people attended with 96% of respondents rating it as excellent, very good or good.

The KCST delivered an online Data Workshop on 5th December 2022 for district/borough community safety colleagues to help with the annual strategic assessment process and inform the priority setting for Community Safety Partnership Community Safety plans. The biggest input on the day came from the Kent Police Central Analytical Team but other speakers covered Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Contextual Safeguarding and Counter-Terrorism.

Explore Kent
Through funding from Active Travel England, Explore Kent is promoting active travel over the next 12 months, in partnership with the KCC Active Travel Interventions team and a range of partners including Active Kent and Medway, in the areas of Sevenoaks, Canterbury, Herne Bay, Gravesham, Folkestone and Hythe and Birchington (Thanet). This will utilise a range of promotional films which have been produced (e.g. The Big Bike Revival, ReCYCLE Your Bike).

The Service continued to promote the use of the public rights of way network, including newly opened sections of the England Coast Path, and commenced work with a media company to create five films to promote the Countryside Code and worked with community magazines to promote winter wellbeing walks. We also secured a partnership project, with Natural England, to engage people in health inequality areas (Thanet, Swale, Folkestone and Hythe, Gravesham and Dartford) with use of the England Coast Path as a health resource on their doorstep.

We worked to promote the mental and physical health benefits of being active outdoors, working with partners, including coordinating a Countryside Communications group (comprising: Country Parks, Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Active Kent and Medway) to collaborate on campaigns including: Wonderful Winter Walks - Explore Kent, #WinterWellbeingInKent, Year of the Coast 2023, and Up the Kent Downs

Explore Kent's digital channels saw strong engagement; now at 22,246 Twitter followers, 5,854 followers on Instagram and 10,164 followers on Facebook. The ExploreKent.org website had a total of 239,934 page views and 18,932 of our route guides were downloaded.

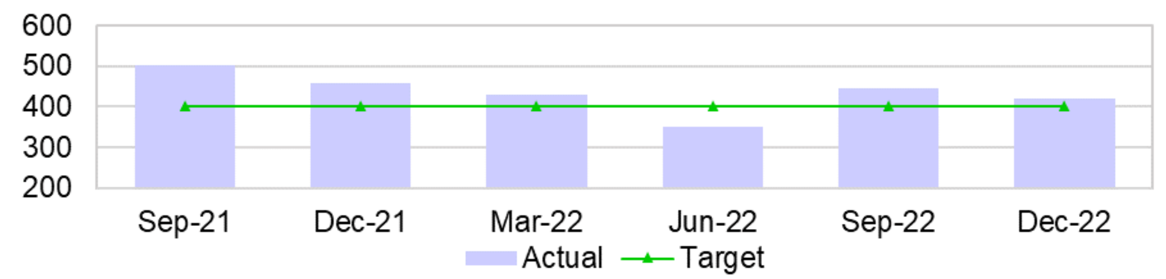
Kent Country Parks (KCP)
KCP continue work focussing on inclusion and accessibility, including new leaflets promoting new facilities - Changing Places, inclusive play and trampers (rough terrain mobility vehicles), and easy access paths and trails.

The Kent Country Parks Strategy public consultation closed in December and data is being analysed and pulled together for Member presentation in February and March. A programme of works has commenced to address leaks and roofing issues on the Shorne Woods Country Park visitor centre. Work is due to be completed during Quarter 4.

Poor weather, and potentially cost of living, has impacted on income with KCP cafes not meeting targets in November and December.

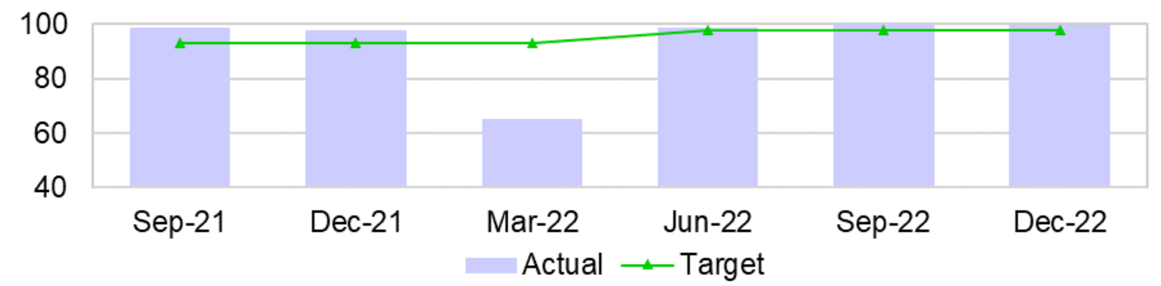
Key Performance Indicators

Number of homes brought back to market through No Use Empty (NUE) – Rolling 12 months	GREEN ⇨



Current: 420	Target: 400	Previous: 445

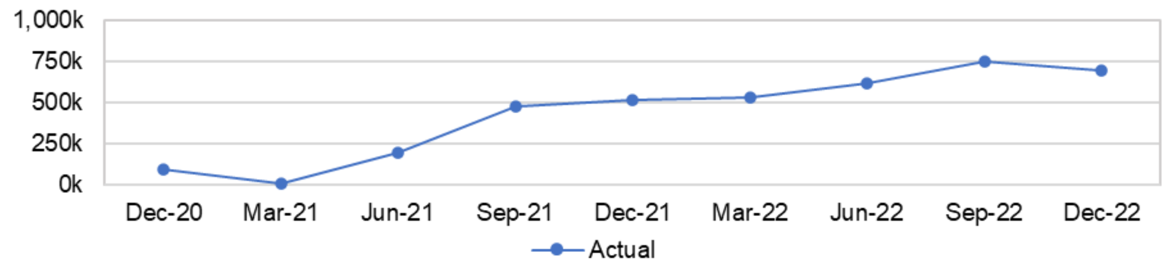
Developer contributions secured as a percentage of amount sought	GREEN ⇨



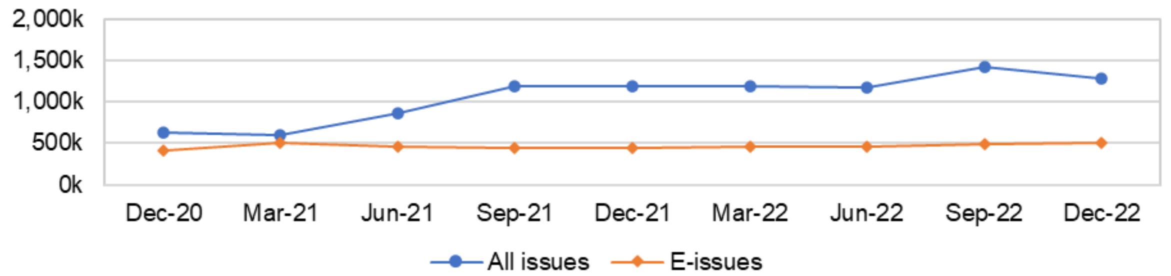
Current: 99.9%	Target: 98%	Previous: 100%

Activity indicators

Total number of physical visits to Kent libraries



Total number of book issues from Kent libraries



Environment and Transport	
Cabinet Members	David Brazier, Susan Carey
Corporate Director	Simon Jones

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	⇧	⇨	⇩
	2	3	1		6	

Highways

For Quarter 3, two of the Highways KPIs are RAG rated Green, three are Amber and one RAG rated Red.

The number of potholes requiring repair rose steeply at the end of Quarter due to bad weather, resulting in over 1,500 repairs. Those completed within the target of 28 days remained at 86%, resulting in an Amber RAG rating. We are continuing to work with Amey to get back to the target of 90%.

Routine faults responded to in 28 days has narrowly missed the 90% target, being at 89% for the Quarter. The number of faults increased again this quarter to over 12,400, again due to the poor weather.

Attendance at Emergency Incidents within two hours of notification has fallen below floor standard to 93% (Red RAG rating) as a result of the very high demand caused by the heavy rain in November, and snow and ice in December. For the Quarter, we attended 890 callouts on time with 59 failing the target attendance time but with all incidents made safe.

The monthly call back survey, where we call 100 highways customers whose enquiries have been closed in the last month, was temporarily paused due to high workloads in August and September of 2022 at the request of the KCC contact centre (Agilisys). Alternative options to the survey are still being considered such as e-forms. The survey resumed in October with a below target result of 93% for the Quarter. Respondents commented on delays in getting repairs completed and about a lack of gritting on pavements, although that is not the Council's responsibility.

The total number of customer contacts regarding highway issues in Quarter 3 increased to 46,921, with 28,917 of these identified as faults requiring action by front line teams, which is an increase on usual demand due to the cold and wet weather. Use of the online reporting tool remains high and nearly 70% of all enquiries in December came directly from the public via the tool.

At the end of December there were 7,318 open enquiries (work in progress), which compares to 5,535 at the same time last year, reflecting the busier period in some parts of the business.

Permit requests to undertake works on Kent roads remain high and co-ordination of all works on the highway remains pressured. Many of the pressures are as a result of an increase in immediate/urgent permits due to burst mains over the winter period. There continue to be ongoing issues with South East Water's (SEW) poor performance, showing little sign of improvement. The Compliance manager will be escalating the case higher up in SEW.

Asset Management

In July 2021, KCC published its new Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) covering 2021/22 to 2025/26. It explains how effective and efficient highways asset management, as a key enabling service, facilitates the delivery of Kent's strategic objectives. It also includes asset condition forecasts based on assumed levels of investment, what maintenance services KCC provides and what it does not, an assessment of associated risk and a five-year forward works programme. We have recently published a revised two-year programme covering 2022/23-2023/24 and will publish the revised programme for 2024/25-2026/27 shortly.

We are currently trialling a new strategic asset management tool that will enable members and officers to model the effect of different budgets and investment strategies more easily. It is also our intention to publish a mid-term HAMP update during 2023. Officers have developed a project plan and are currently implementing the various actions in the HAMP, focussing on increasing asset lifespans, reducing lifecycle costs and improving future maintainability. We are improving our knowledge of our highway assets and their condition and introducing new maintenance hierarchies.

Road Safety

The casualty figures for Quarter 3 show a decrease of 92 casualties compared to the same Quarter last year. Overall for this Quarter, total casualty figures are down by 312 and people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) are down by 40 when compared with the same Quarter in 2019/20 (pre-pandemic).

Quarter 3											
2022/23				2021/22				2019/20			
Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
17	125	899	1,041	13	164	956	1,133	6	164	822	992

Kent Roads and National Highways in Kent.

In support of the Safe Speeds theme, the Kent Safety Camera Partnership undertook speed enforcement using a combination of fixed and mobile cameras. The number of offences detected during the Quarter are detailed in the table below alongside numbers for the same Quarter in 2021.

Detected Offences			
August - December 2022		August - December 2021	
Kent	7,940	Kent	8,324
Medway	3,184	Medway	2,912
Total	11,124	Total	11,236

335,000 drivers passed through an operational Speedwatch group, which resulted in 30,673 people being detected as speeding in 2022. 10,500 hours of community volunteering time was used on this project.

In support of the Safe Behaviour theme, the Kent Driver Education Team have delivered courses, in Quarter 3, to over 7,350 drivers that have offended and opted to take a rectification course as part of their penalty. This is an increase on last year when just under 7,000 attended.

Whilst the current Quarter has been quieter for Bikeability delivery given the Christmas break, we have still delivered training to over 2,500 children since the start of the financial year. We continue to work with our School Crossing Patrols to ensure their safety and the safety of crossing users. The new school term brought some new starters to the team who are being trained by our instructors at their school sites. Our pedestrian training team are delivering our two practical pedestrian road safety packages in schools, Small Steps and School Steps.

Crash Remedial Measures & Local Transport Plan (LTP)
Delivery of the 2022/23 Crash Remedial Measures (CRM) and Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme is nearing completion with a number of schemes still to be completed by our contractor due to delays with workforce resources and road space. The team are now designing and consulting on the LTP and CRM programme for 2023/24, looking at crash cluster sites and also looking at high risk routes for improvement schemes as appropriate.

The Active Travel team are continuing to work with the Member walking & cycling group to assist districts and boroughs with their walking and cycling plans and developing a Kent-wide Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan (KCWIP). Active Travel England have granted us £565,000 revenue funding to support capability building activities that will enable authorities to undertake ambitious and inclusive active travel programmes. This fund can also be used for behaviour change initiatives that result in sustained increases in walking, wheeling and cycling for everyday journeys. Active Travel England has also released the latest round of capital funding which the team can bid for in February.

Traffic Management
Work continues with preparations for undertaking enforcement of moving traffic offences. A supplier is required to supply and deploy certified equipment and systems, as without this, we cannot carry out any enforcement. There have been some delays to this process and it is therefore unlikely we will be able to commence enforcement at our first sites until at least Summer 2023.

We have completed a review of all existing on-street signage with National Highways for the “diversion routes for emergency use” on the A20 between M20 Junction 13 and the entry to the Port of Dover. We are reviewing recommendations made to refresh, upgrade or replace around 125 signs on Kent’s network. Works are expected to commence Summer/Autumn 2023, all of which will be fully funded by National Highways.

The Network Innovation team secured £350k from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot funding (approx. £10m pot for England) for EV charger roll-out. The County Council were one of nine local authorities to secure initial funding. A more significant funding scheme is expected in the future.

Local Growth Fund (LGF) Transport Capital Projects
Through SELEP, KCC is managing £128m of Government funding from rounds 1 to 3 of the LGF. There are currently two schemes causing concern, Sturry Link Road and the Maidstone Integrated Transport Package.

For the Sturry Link Road project, the remaining £4.656m LGF allocated to the project is currently subject to the condition that the land acquisition is completed by 31st August 2023. The land acquisition has been held up due to delays with the associated development coming forwards alongside the project. An extension to this deadline will therefore be sought at the SELEP Accountability Board meeting in March 2023. The tender returns for the design and build contract costs are higher than anticipated, and negotiations are ongoing with the tenderers with a view to awarding the contract in March 2023.

In regard to the Maidstone Integrated Transport Package, the scheme has been downgraded to medium/high risk by SELEP. The programme is progressing and the Armstrong Road junction improvements were completed in February 2023. There is a risk that inflationary pressures will affect the remainder of the programme, which has been delayed to avoid conflict with the Bearsted Road (non-LGF) improvement scheme works. The scheme no longer needs to be reported separately to each Accountability Board meeting, however progress on the programme delivery will continue to be closely monitored by SELEP.

Transport Strategy

In late October 2022, National Highways submitted the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the new Lower Thames Crossing. KCC as a host authority was required to submit an Adequacy of Consultation response within 14 days to the National Planning Inspectorate (PINS) who subsequently accepted the application in late November 2022. The project is now in the pre-examination stage which is expected to last between three and five months. In the next Quarter, KCC will submit its Relevant Representation which is a summary of the main issues it wants to be examined. Work funded by National Highways on the desktop study to develop local road mitigations continued and this will help inform KCC's Relevant Representation and Local Impact Report for the Lower Thames Crossing proposal.

Work with National Highways also continued with the business case development for Road Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3) pipeline schemes for Brenley Corner and A2 Lydden to Dover (public consultations on which are now expected later in 2023).

Partnership working with Transport for the South East (TfSE) continued with the publication of the final Strategic Investment Plan following the public consultation that KCC responded to in the previous Quarter.

Work to develop a new Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5) for Kent has continued with the start of work on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). However, delays to the government publishing new guidance for local transport plans has resulted in an elongation of the overall LTP5 development programme.

Delivery of Thanet Parkway railway station and car park are now practically complete and work to rectify snags was underway in this period. Network Rail were progressing the Entry into Service process that will allow the station to open. The level crossing and signalling works (essential before the station can open) started on site in January 2023.

Public Transport
Public Transport Officers continue to work with the Department for Transport in trying to secure funding that would support our bus service improvement plan. Reflecting the quality of our plan, Kent was awarded an indicative allocation of £35m to deliver its bus initiatives but the national funding position and a need to provide clarity over KCC's own bus service support has delayed the provision of this funding. The service continues to liaise with the DfT on this matter.

The service has continued to respond to changes to the bus network prompted by falling use and passenger revenue, increased costs and driver shortage experienced by bus operators. This has resulted in a continued number of bus service cancellations and the team have been using Government funding to try to retain school buses until the end of the current school year at least.

Governance of the decision to withdraw 38 KCC funded bus service contracts concluded in the Autumn allowing the service to give notice on these contracts which will cease from February 2023. This process started in February 2022 and will save KCC around £2m per year from the Bus Subsidy budget.

At the end of the year, the service launched its Community Transport Grant process. This is making £450k available that Parishes and other organisations can bid for to support locally provided transport schemes that can respond to some of the changes affecting buses in Kent. Applications close in February and the intention is to award grants and for schemes to commence in Quarter 1, 2023/24.

Waste Management
The KPI target on diversion from landfill continues to be met, with 99.2% of waste over the last 12 months being recycled, composted, or used for energy generation. The 0.8% going to landfill includes asbestos, with landfill being the only approved way to dispose of this material.

The total volume of waste collected over the previous 12 months appears to have now stabilised following reductions since September 2021. Kerbside waste remains 5% above pre-pandemic levels and HWRC volumes down 38%, with total waste collected now 5% below pre-pandemic levels.

Natural Environment and Communities
In October, funding from the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF) was secured; designed to enable capacity building in upper tier authorities, the £300k will enable us to recruit two full time officers to work with partners and landowners to develop opportunities for tree establishment, secure the funding necessary to bring these projects to reality and then oversee their delivery. We will also have the funding to recruit two graduate project officers (each 12 months long, to run one after another) to add further support to Plan Tree work and, importantly, develop entry level skills and experience which can hopefully then be applied in Kent by going on to work for one of the Plan Tree partners. We also have funding to commission work to map opportunities for tree establishment to help develop our project pipeline. The WCAF project will run until March 2025.

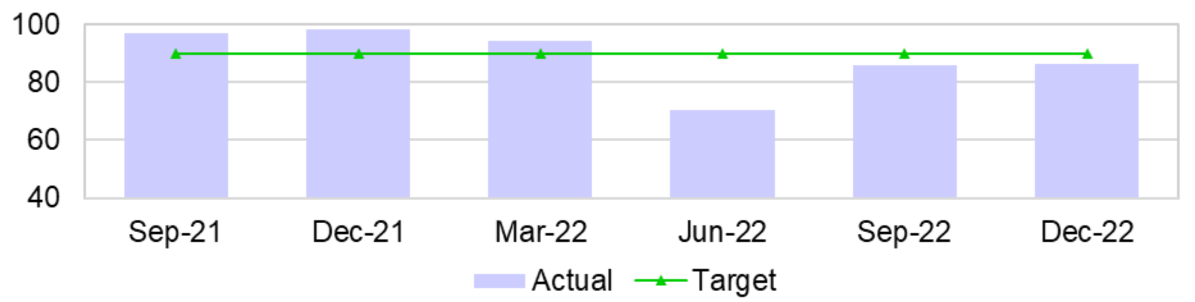
Sustainable Business and Communities

Phase Two of Solar Together is nearing completion with 1,131 households (approximately 75% of the expected total) having had their panels installed by the end of December 2022. This is already close to five times the number for Phase One, which saw 237 households install solar panels in total.

We have seen significant electricity generation from KCC's Bowerhouse II solar farm which is having a positive impact on KCCs carbon journey by producing solar energy to the equivalent of 1,603 tCO_2e up to the end of the latest Quarter we have data for (September 2022). The solar energy produced is sent directly to the grid, with Bowerhouse expected to deliver approx. 30% of KCC's Net Zero carbon reductions. Our greenhouse gas emission reductions remain ahead of target, placing us in a strong position to deliver this year's savings target as set within KCC's Net Zero 2030 plan.

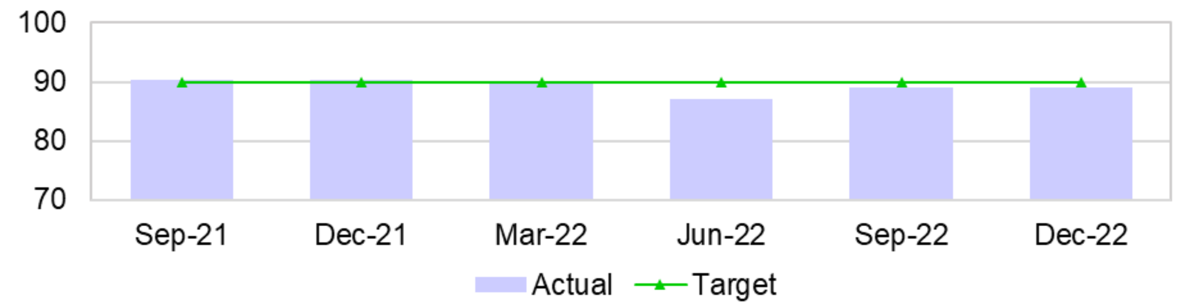
Key Performance Indicators

Percentage of routine pothole repairs completed within 28 days		AMBER ⇨



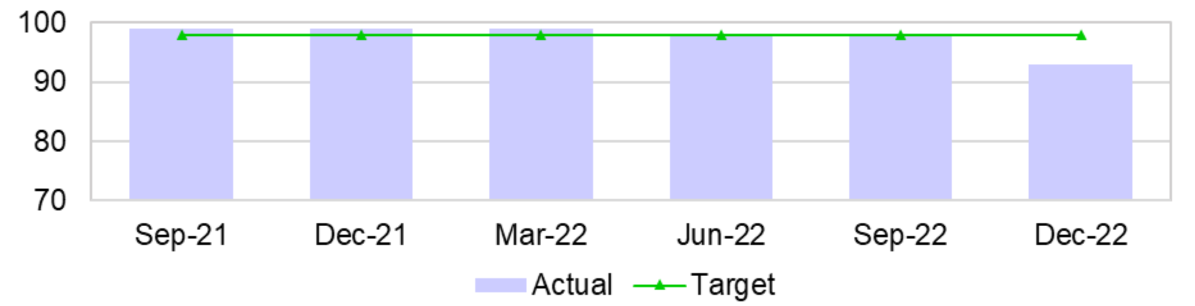
Current: 86%	Target: 90%	Previous: 86%

Percentage of routine highway repairs reported by residents completed within 28 days		AMBER ⇨



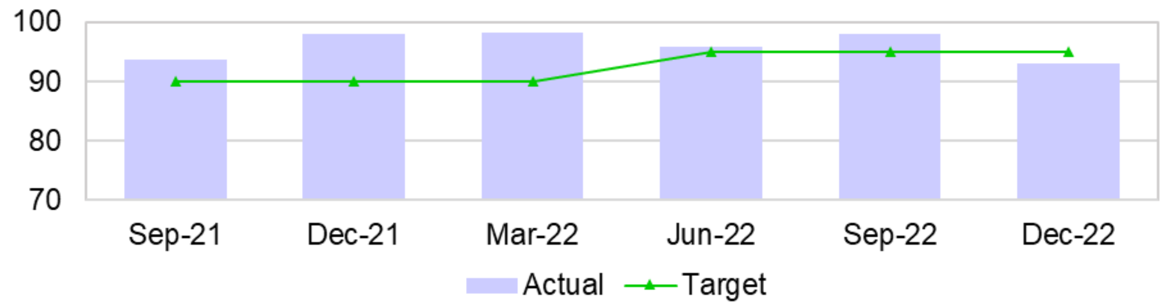
Current: 89%	Target: 90%	Previous: 89%

Emergency highway incidents attended within 2 hours of notification		RED ⇨



Current: 93%	Target: 98%	Previous: 98%

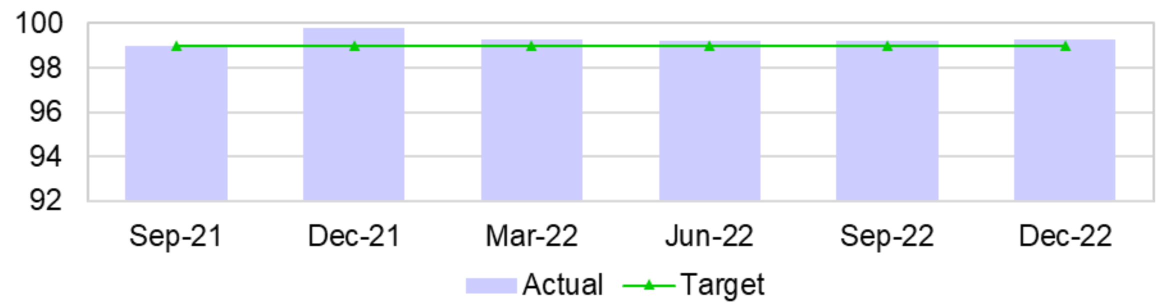
Percentage of satisfied callers for Kent Highways and Transportation, 100 call back survey	AMBER ⇨



Current: 93%	Target: 95%	Previous: 98%

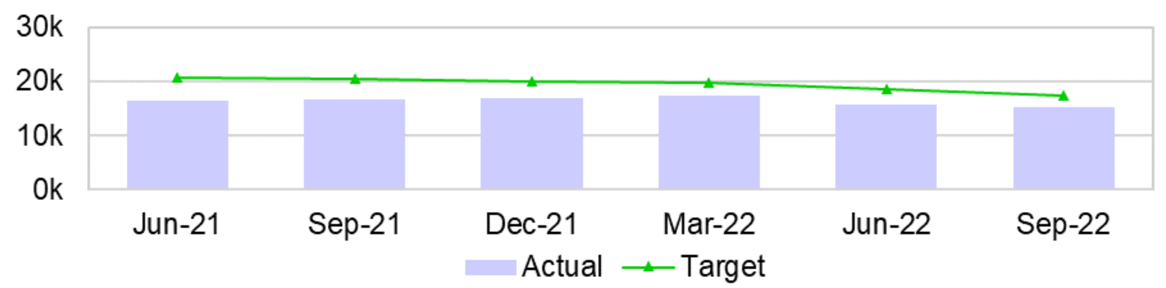
NB: The September 2022 Quarter only includes results for July 2022, with the survey having been paused in August and September so the Contact Centre can prioritise incoming calls. The survey resumed in October.

Percentage of municipal waste recycled or converted to energy and not taken to landfill – rolling 12 months	GREEN ⇨



Current: 99.2%	Target: 99%	Previous: 99.2%

Greenhouse Gas emissions from KCC estate (excluding schools) in tonnes – rolling 12 months	GREEN ⇨

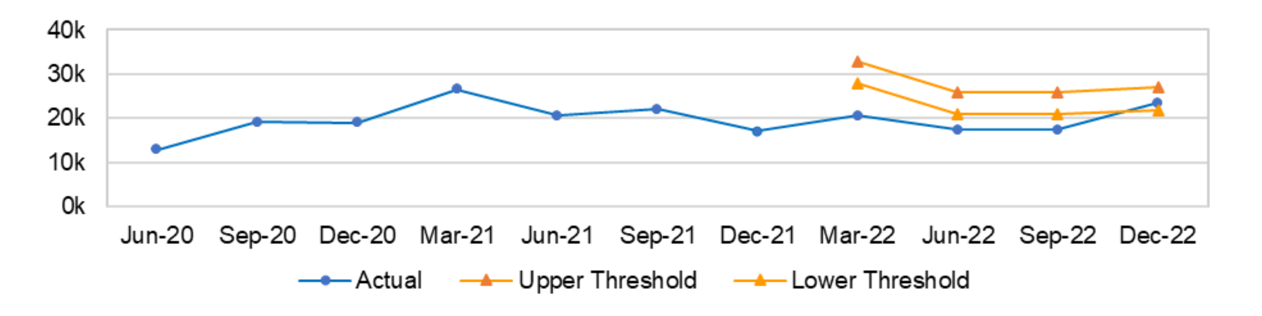


Current: 15,324	Target: 17,362	Previous: 15,605

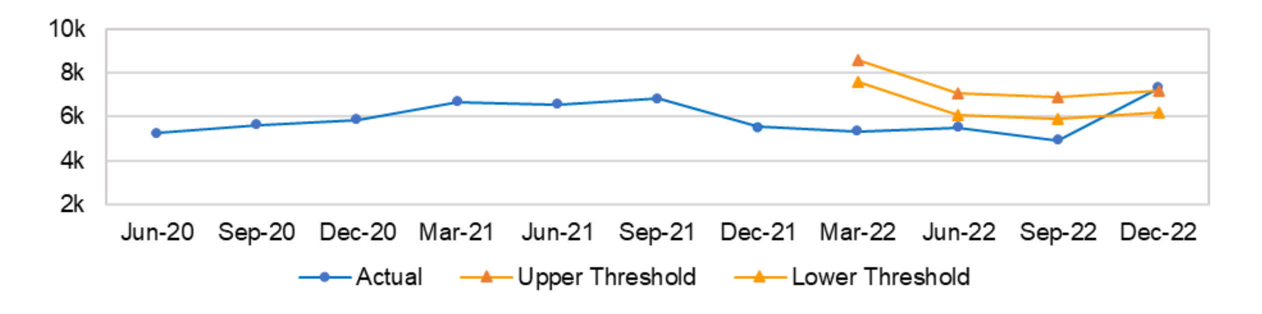
Reported one Quarter in arrears

Activity indicators

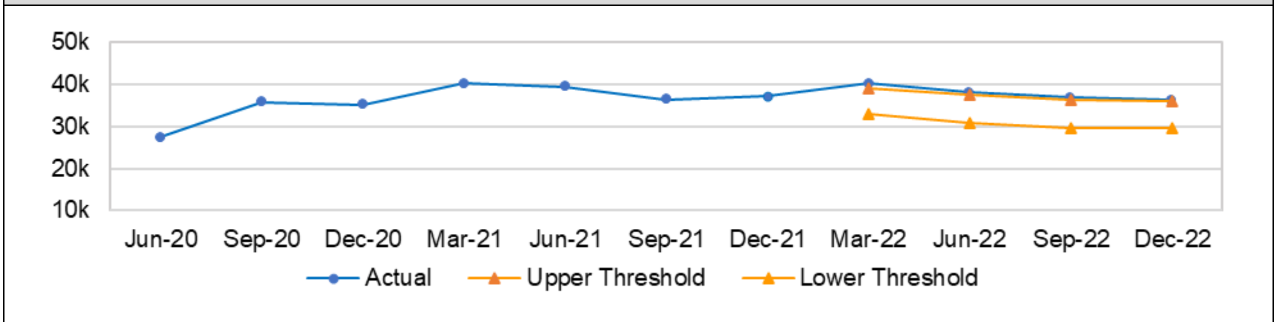
Number of Highways enquiries raised for action – by Quarter



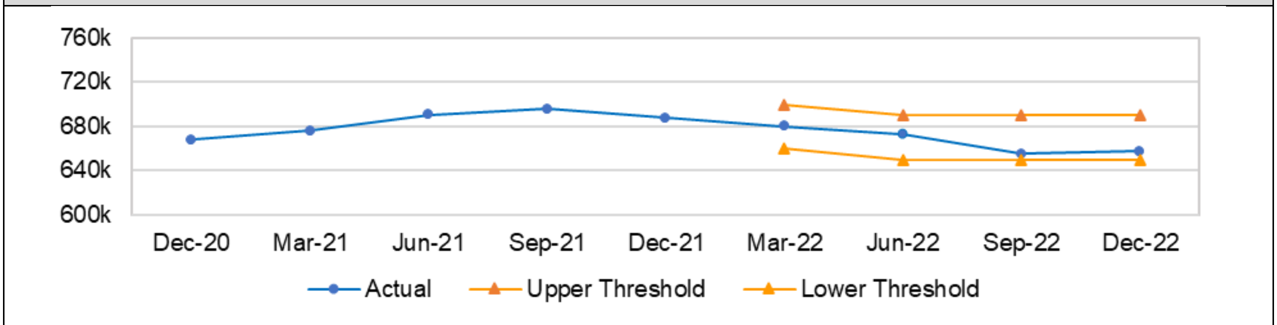
Highways Work in Progress (active enquires/jobs)



Number of streetwork permits issued



Total municipal waste tonnage collected – rolling 12 months



Children, Young People and Education	
Cabinet Member	Rory Love, Sue Chandler
Corporate Director	Sarah Hammond

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	⇧	⇨	⇩
	5	7	1	3	6	4

Schools

The 2022 Summer term saw the return of statutory end of year tests and assessments. In Key Stage 2, the percentage of pupils who achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths in Kent was 59% equalling the national performance. At Key Stage 4 (GCSEs and equivalents) the attainment 8 score in Kent was 49.2 compared to the national figure of 48.8. The progress 8 score in Kent was below national with a score of -0.19 compared to -0.03 which means pupils made less progress than other pupils across the country who achieved similar results at the end of Key Stage 2.

Based on the latest inspection data as at the end of December 2022, 92% of schools in Kent (533 of the 582) were Good or Outstanding, compared to the national figure of 88%. The percentage of Primary schools judged as Good or Outstanding at 93% compares favourably to the national figure of 90%. 88% of Secondary schools were judged to be Good or Outstanding compared to 81% nationally. The percentage for Special schools, at 88%, was one percentage point lower than the national position. 83% of Alternative Provision schools (five out of six) were good or outstanding compared to the national figure of 86%.

There were significant changes to the implementation of the Education Inspection Framework (EIF) this quarter which, as with any shift in EIF implementation, poses an immediate and escalated risk to all schools. Changes include stricter judgements on the effective delivery of phonics and early reading. There are also higher expectations around the use of phonic linked texts shifting from a focus on in-class individual pupil or group texts to reading areas and home readers. Whilst schools have increased their understanding of what they need to do to ensure curriculum cohesion and progression, progression in the Early Years Foundation Stage has increased in focus.

Feedback from schools continues to suggest that leaders are navigating a variety of challenges from budgets to staffing, curriculum adaptations for all, to attendance and anxiety-based school avoidance. Schools continue to reach out for support and are looking strategically at how to tackle the challenges as they arise.

Early Years

The latest inspection data for the percentage of Early Years settings rated Good or Outstanding is 96%, two percentage points below the target although in line with national performance. The Education People continue to target, though Annual Conversations, all good and outstanding settings, but prioritising those due an Ofsted inspection to support them to retain a good or better Ofsted judgement, making clear recommendations where appropriate. Settings with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate judgement receive targeted and bespoke support, with support for plans of action and follow up visits as required.

3,390 two-year olds have been funded through the Free for Two (FF2) scheme in the 2022 Autumn term equating to a 73% take up. This is an increase of 5 percentage points compared to the same period last year. Established and regular communications with the Early Years and Childcare Sector as a whole continue, including the scheduled termly (six times annually) generic Early Years and Childcare Bulletin, communications in between these continue when appropriate and necessary and ongoing contact with individual providers as required. The Early Years and Childcare Service's Threads of Success training offer continues to be delivered principally on virtual platforms as recruitment and retention challenges are making it very difficult for providers to attend face to face training.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)
Based on the rolling 12-month average to December 2022, 42.0% of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) were issued within 20 weeks excluding exceptions (976 out of 2,323). In the single month of December, performance was 39.8% with 35 plans out of 88 being issued within timescale. Performance has deteriorated in the second half of 2022 as a result of staff turnover and vacancies in the casework team. This is being addressed through the current recruitment processes, and through a range of improvement activities that are taking place following the SEND revisit in September 2022 to ensure the service is as efficient as possible to support the development of high-quality, timely EHCPs, for those children that need them. Revised criteria have been agreed to help manage EHC needs assessment requests and reduce inappropriate EHC plans which do not meet the criteria set out in the SEND code of practice. This has successfully reduced the number of EHC need assessments carried out for under-fives. These criteria are being rolled out across all age groups during Quarter 1, 2023/24.

At the end of December, 10.5% of pupils with EHCPs were placed in independent or out of county special schools. Changes made to the phase transfer process this year (nursery to primary, primary to secondary, Year 11 to Sixth Form) are planned to reduce the number of children transitioning into specialist settings, support more children with EHCPs in mainstream settings, and ensure maintained special school places are targeted at those children with the most complex needs. This strategy will contribute to reducing pupils placed in the independent sector over time. Additional resource has been put in place to address the backlog of annual reviews that have been waiting for more than 12 months. Ensuring EHCPs are reviewed every year will inform timely decision making about placements. This work is underpinned by the Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education, training for schools to develop capacity, the development of further Specialist Resourced Provision (SRPs) within mainstream schools, exploration of locality budgets, and a more rigorous process for decision making and agreement for independent placements.

Wider Early Help
Fifty-six pupils were permanently excluded during the rolling 12-month period to December 2022 (which equates to 0.02% of the school population); 13 were 'primary' phase and 43 'secondary' phase pupils. The previous comparative pre-Covid rolling 12-month figure (Jan 2019 to Dec 2019) was 30; 11 were 'primary' phase and 19 'secondary' phase pupils. Tonbridge and Malling district accounted for 13 of the 56 pupils (2 'primary' phase and 11 'secondary' phase) excluded across the County for the 12-month period to December 2022.

The Department for Education published new exclusions guidance for schools and LAs in September 2022 which includes more detailed guidance on the movement of pupils to avoid permanent exclusions, such as the use of managed moves and directions off site. The PRU Inclusion and Attendance Service (PIAS) Advisers continue to work closely with schools and families to find alternatives to permanent exclusion and this also includes training for governing boards on their responsibilities within the statutory processes. There have been a number of successes in finding solutions for some cases following a permanent exclusion, meaning governors have not been required to consider them in appeal panels. There has also been an extensive amount of multi-agency work ongoing through direct support with schools and families as well as initiatives for schools provided by KCC which focus on inclusive practice to deter permanent exclusions being issued in the first place. PIAS will be working with Kent Association of Headteachers and schools to develop the DfE attendance guidance into a model attendance policy to be in place by September 2023.

The number of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System in Kent in December at 286 (rolling 12-month figure) is above the target of 270. On 24 October 2022, the national investment in Youth Justice was announced by the MOJ, with Local Authorities being offered additional funding to deliver a 'Turnaround Programme.' Funding is intended to enable expansion of early intervention and the delivery of evidence-based interventions. The delivery model uses an Early Help approach to deliver a multi-agency plan, similar to Supporting Families. The grant funding agreement between the Secretary of State for Justice and KCC was agreed and signed in November. The proposed KCC model has been presented and agreed at the County Youth Justice Board and Directorate Management Team and Quarter 3 has been the mobilisation period, in which we agreed the structure, job descriptions/person specs and commenced recruitment prior to full implementation in March 2023. The programme should result in a reduction in first time entrants once it is established.

Early Help
At the end of December 2022, 2,553 families were open to Early Help units, providing support for 5,266 children and young people under the age of 18. This is a 9.3% increase in the number of families supported compared to the end of the previous Quarter, but fewer than the same period last year.

The performance measure for 'Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months' was 13.4% for the rolling 12 months to December 2022, just a 0.1% change from the previous Quarter, and continuing to achieve the target of below 15.0%.

Children's Social Care - Staffing and Caseloads
The number of open cases (including those for care leavers above the age of 18) was 12,094 at 31st December, a decrease of 86 (0.7%) children and young people when compared to end of the previous Quarter (12,180 September 2022).

There were 5,383 referrals to children's social care services in the Quarter, a decrease of 0.9% when compared to the previous Quarter (5,437) but an increase of 10.0% compared to Quarter 3, 2021 (4,893). The rate of re-referrals within 12 months for the 12 months to December 2022 was 21.1%, compared to 20.9% the previous Quarter, and so continues to achieve the target of below 25.0%. This compares to the England average of 21.4% for 2021/22.

The percentage of case-holding social worker posts held by permanent, qualified social workers employed by Kent County Council (78.1%) has improved since the previous quarter (75.8% for September 2022), having experienced decreases in the early part of 2022. This equates to an increase of 19.2 full-time equivalent posts during the Quarter but is 36.5 fewer permanent qualified social workers compared to December 2021. The average caseload for Social Workers in Children's Social Work Teams was 23.6 cases in December 2022, reducing for the second Quarter in a row but remaining outside of the target of no more than 18 cases.

Child Protection

On 31st December 2022 there were 1,406 children subject to a child protection plan, similar to the end of the previous Quarter (1,415). The rate per 10,000 children (aged 0-17) was 41.8, which remains below the last published rate for England of 42.1 (31st March 2022). The percentage of children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time is on a worsening trend, and increased by 0.5% in the Quarter, from 22.1% in September 2022 to 22.6% in December 2022, which is just outside the Target range of between 17.5% and 22.5%. This compares to an average for England of 23.3% (March 2022).

Children in Care

The number of citizen children in care decreased by 27 (1.8%) in the Quarter, to 1,470. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) in care increased by 90 in the Quarter to 489. Some of these young people will be awaiting transfer under the National Transfer Scheme. The number of children in care placed in Kent by other local authorities (OLA) increased by 11 in the Quarter to 1,244.

Status	Mar 22	Jun 22	Sep 22	Dec 22
Citizen	1,403	1,445	1,497	1,470
UASC	362	403	399	489
Total	**1,765**	**1,848**	**1,896**	**1,959**
Gender				
Male	1,114	1,199	1,218	1,276
Female	648	647	675	679
Non-binary	3	2	3	4
Age Group				
0 to 4	232	243	267	266
5 to 9	194	215	210	206
10 to 15	714	723	703	687
16 to 17	625	667	716	800
Ethnicity				
White	1,228	1,264	1,362	1,368
Mixed	103	104	109	114
Asian	54	45	39	35
Black	43	56	75	102
Other	337	379	311	340

The percentage of Children in Care (excluding UASC) placed in KCC in-house foster care or with family/friends increased from 74.8% in September 2022 to 75.5% in December 2022, remaining below the target of 85.0%, but moving above the 75.0% floor standard. Performance against this measure is impacted by the numbers of children coming into care and the availability of in-house foster placements.

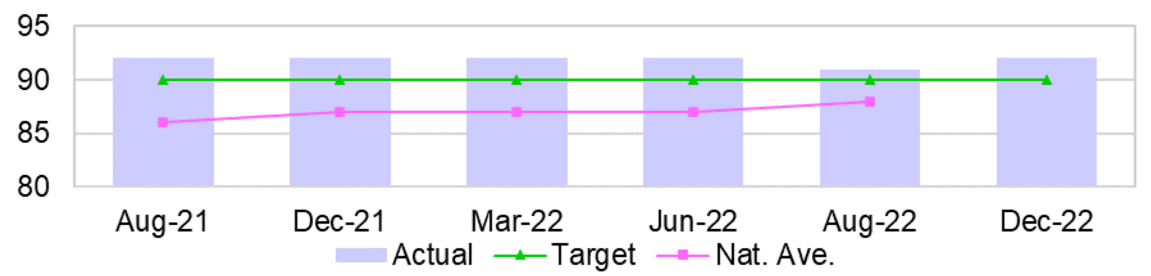
For children who were adopted in the last 12 months the average number of days between coming into care and moving in with their adoptive family continues to outperform the nationally set target of 426 days. The average number of days for Kent's children at the end of December 2022 was 364 days, compared to 370 days the previous Quarter.

Care Leavers

The number of care leavers at the end of December 2022 was 2,071, similar to the previous Quarter (2,065 in September 2022). Of these 2,071 care leavers, 1,010 (48.8%) were citizen care leavers and 1,061 (51.2%) were unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people. The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training has improved during the Quarter, from 62.4% in the 12 months to September 2022 to 63.1% in the 12 months to December 2022, just below the target of 65.0%.

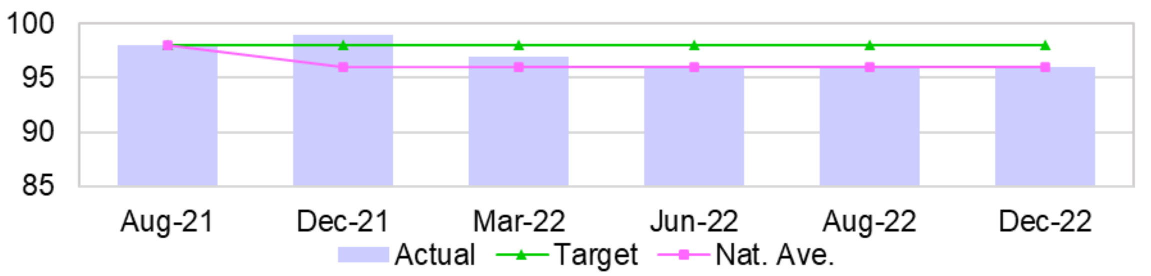
Key Performance Indicators

Percentage of all schools with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements		GREEN ⇨



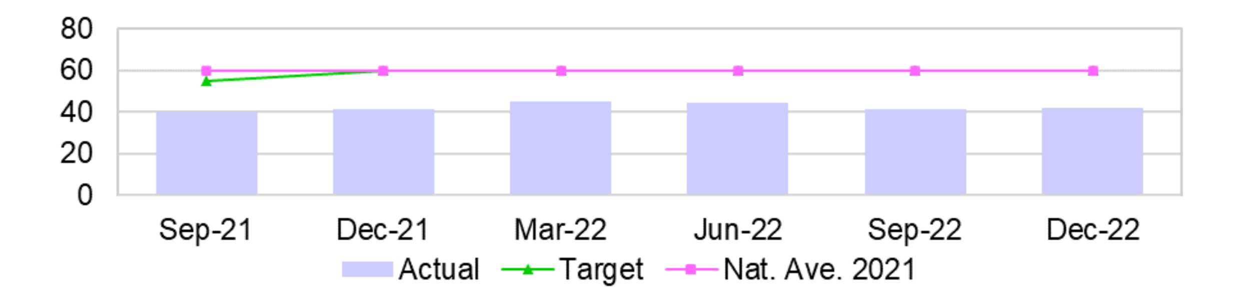
Current: 92%	Target: 90%	Previous: 91%

Percentage of Early Years settings with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements (childcare on non-domestic premises)		AMBER ⇩



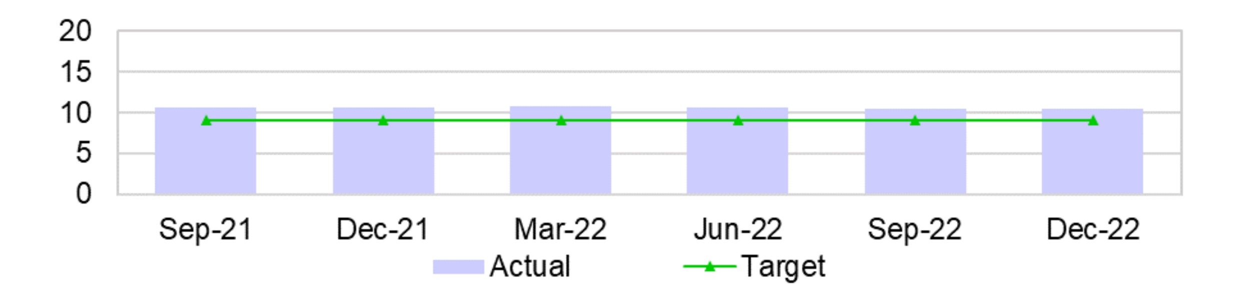
Current: 96%	Target: 98%	Previous: 96%

Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks – rolling 12 months	RED ⇨



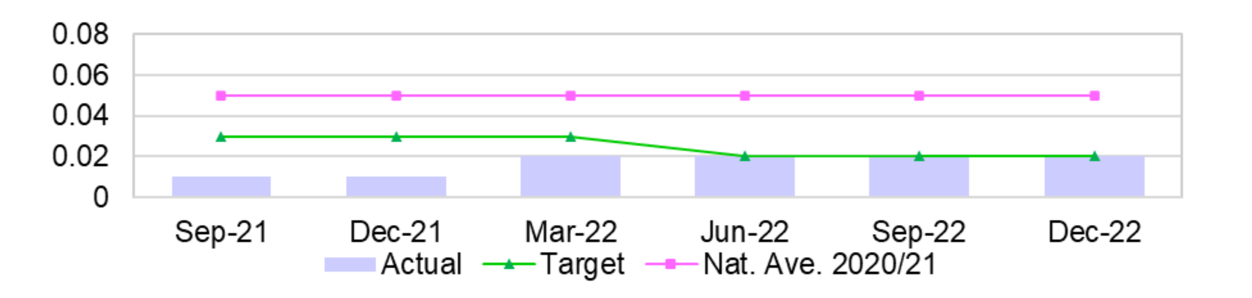
Current: 42%	Target: 60%	Previous: 41%

Percentage of pupils (with EHCP's) being placed in independent or out of county special schools	AMBER ⇨



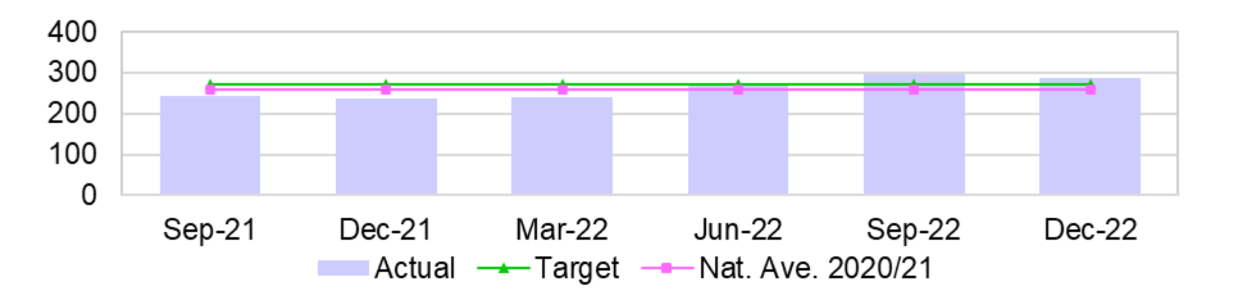
Current: 10.5%	Target: 9.0%	Previous: 10.4%

Percentage of pupils permanently excluded from school – rolling 12 months	GREEN ⇨



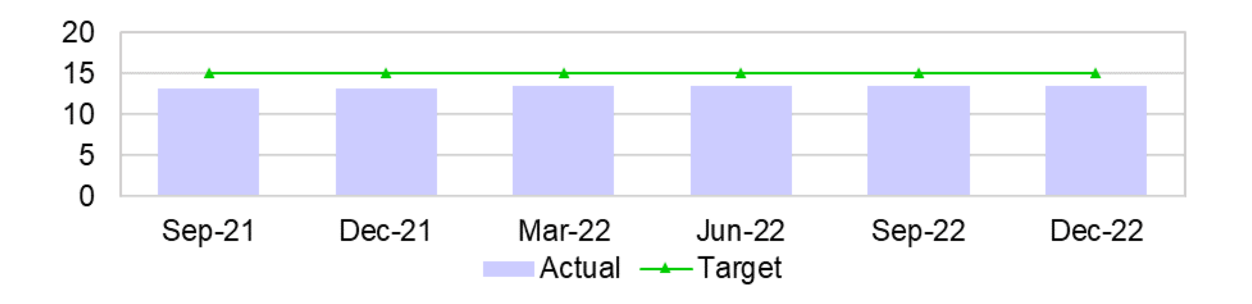
Current: 0.02 %	Target: 0.02%	Previous: 0.02%

Number of first-time entrants to youth justice system – rolling 12 months	AMBER ⇩



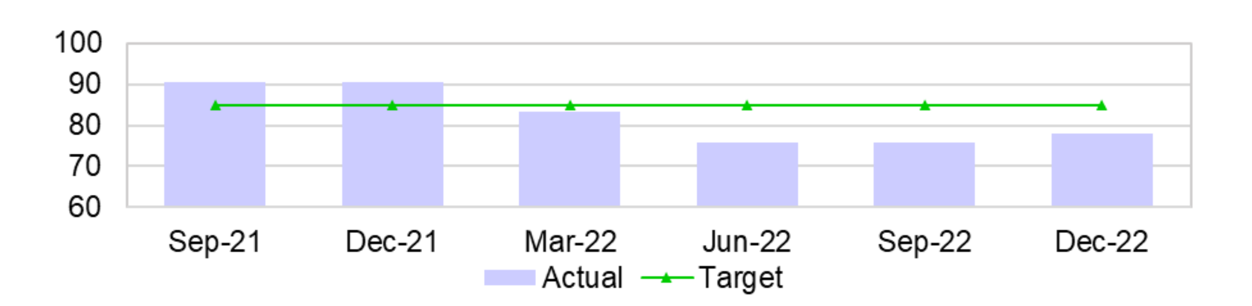
Current: 286	Target: 270	Previous: 296

Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months	GREEN



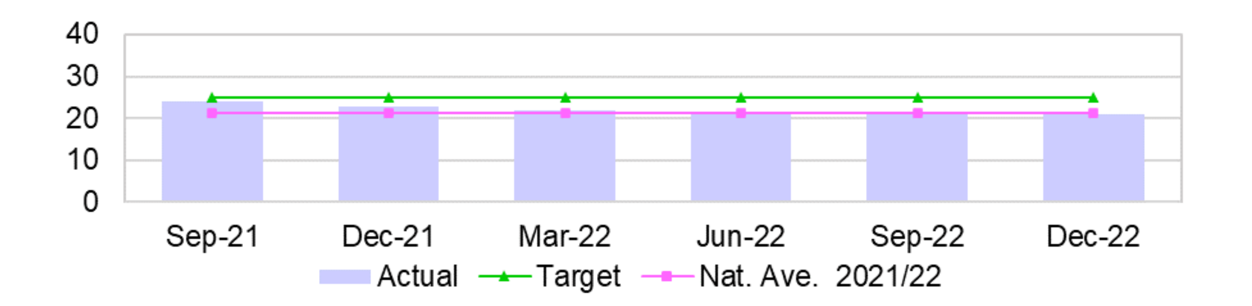
Current: 13.4%	Target: 15%	Previous: 13.5%

Percentage of case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers	AMBER



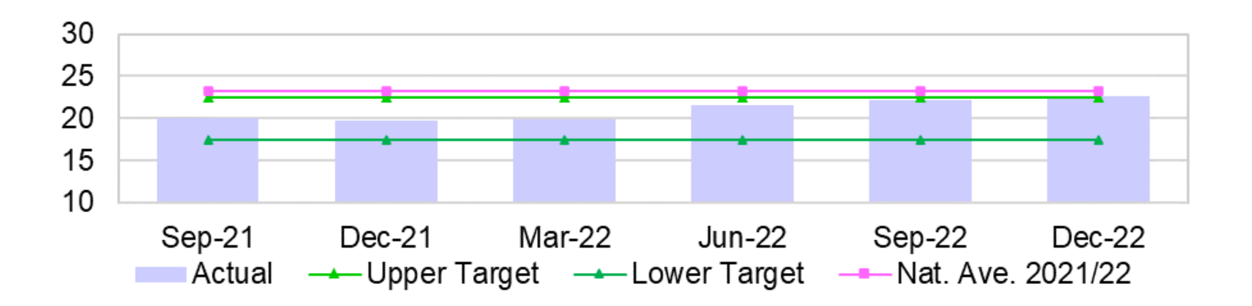
Current: 78.1%	Target: 85.0%	Previous: 75.8%

Percentage of children’s social care referrals that were repeat referrals within 12 months	GREEN



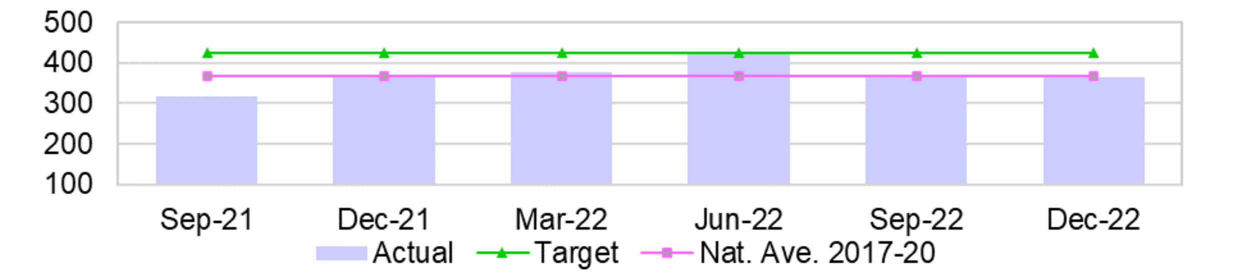
Current: 21.1%	Target: 25.0%	Previous: 20.9%

Percentage of child protection plans that were repeat plans	AMBER



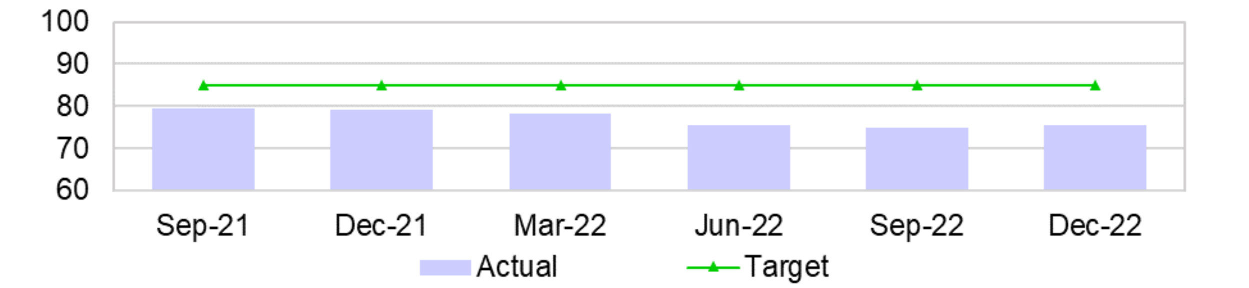
Current: 22.6%	Target: 17.5% - 22.5%	Previous: 22.1%

Average number of days between becoming a child in care and moving in with an adoptive family		GREEN



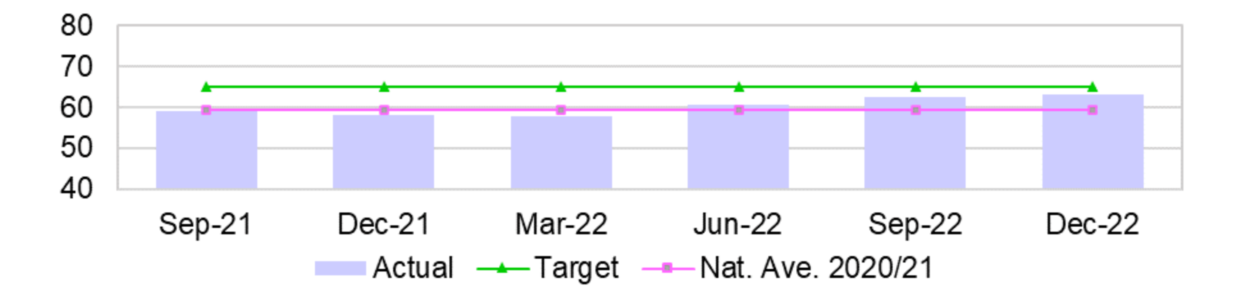
Current: 363.6	Target: 426	Previous: 370

Percentage foster care placements which are in-house or with relatives and friends (excluding UASC)		AMBER



Current: 75.5%	Target: 85.0%	Previous: 74.8%

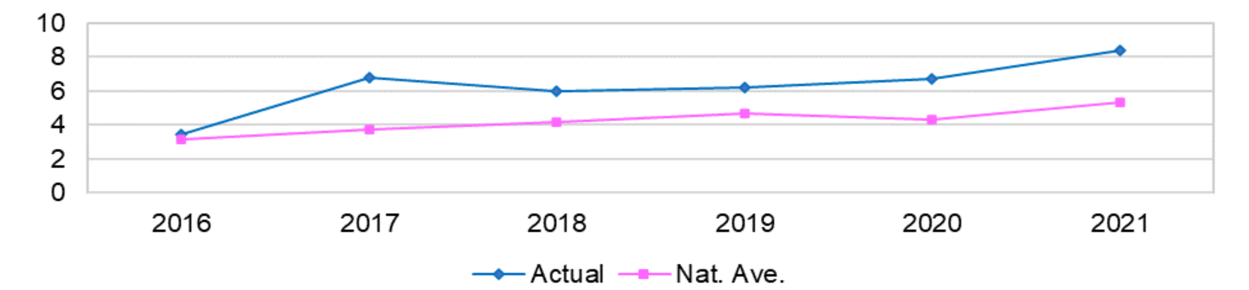
Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training (of those KCC is in touch with)		AMBER



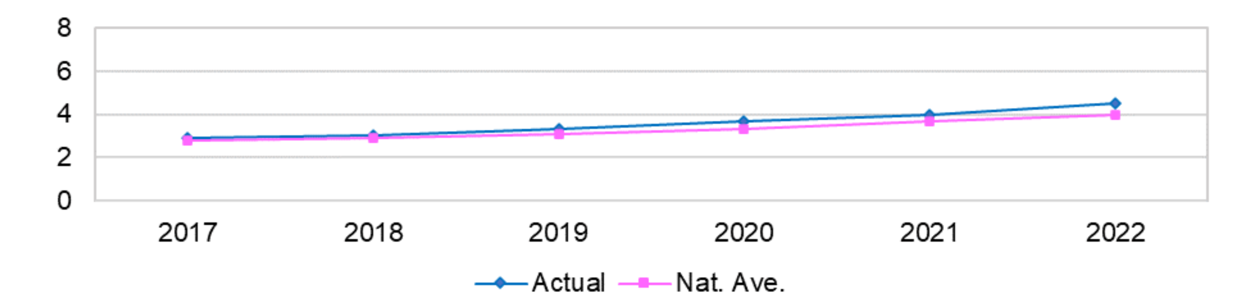
Current: 63.1%	Target: 65.0%	Previous: 62.4%

Activity indicators

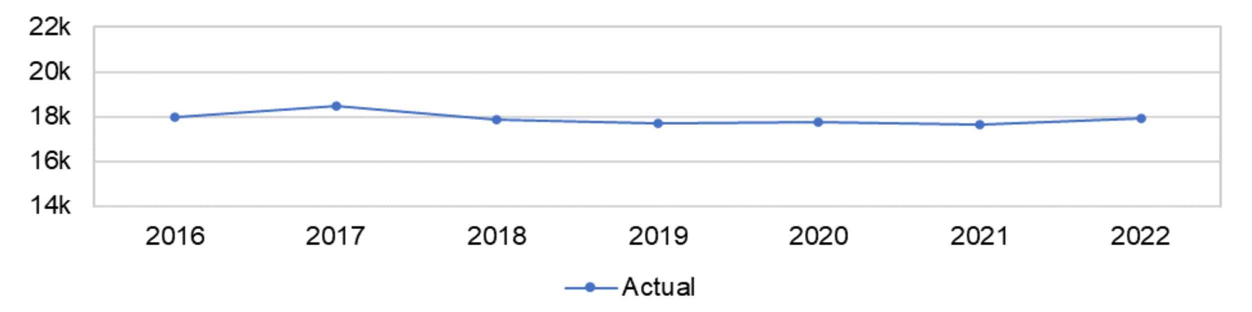
Number of initial requests for statutory assessment (for an EHC plan) per 1,000 population



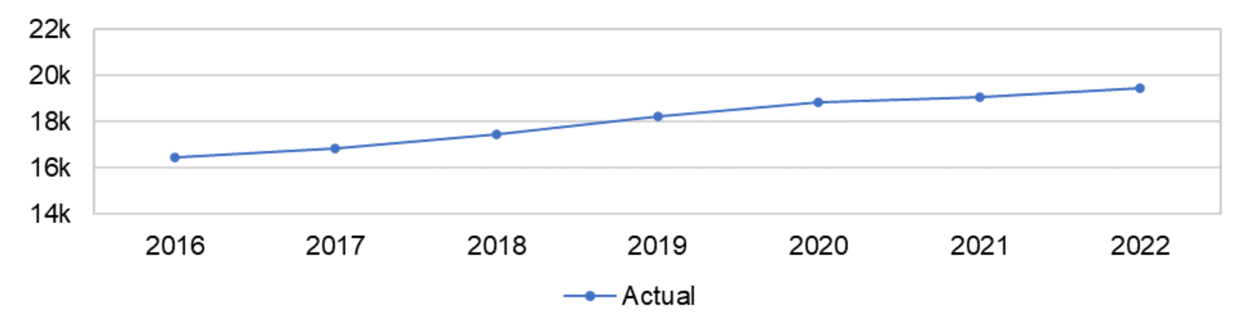
Percentage of pupils with an EHCP



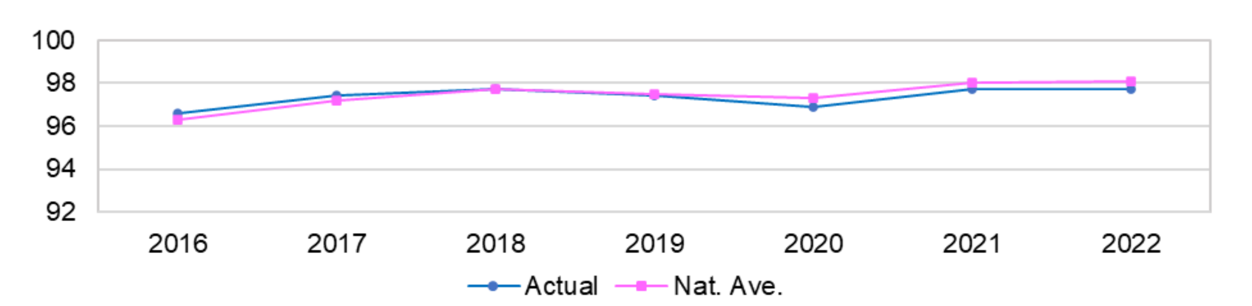
Number of pupils in Reception year (Kent state funded schools)



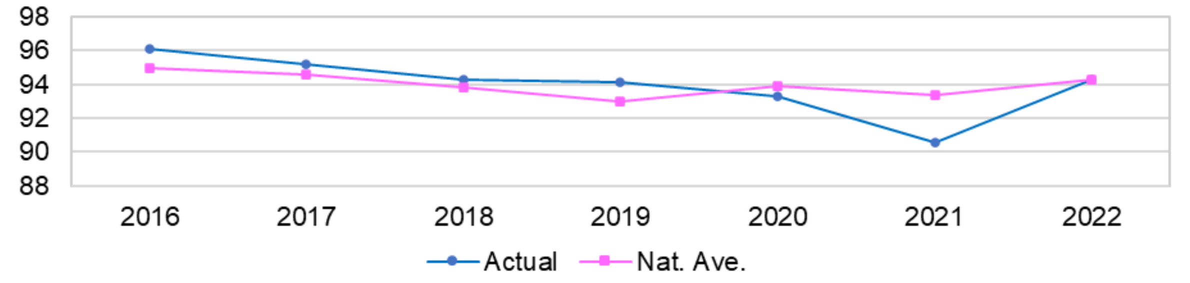
Number of pupils in Year 7 (Kent state funded schools)



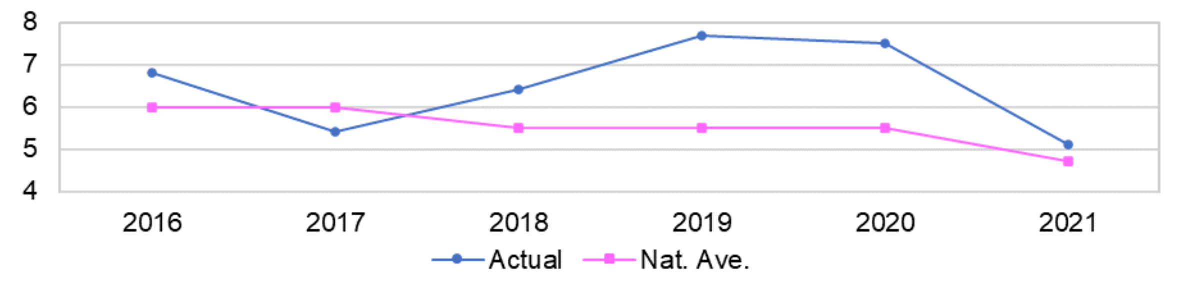
Percentage of Primary school applicants offered one of top three preferences



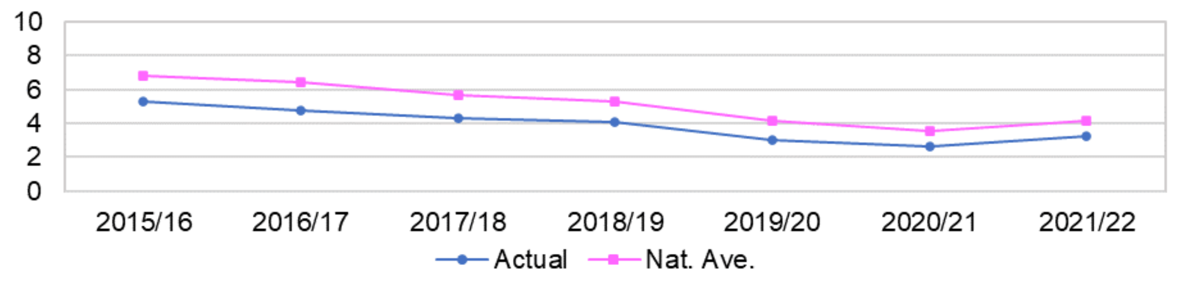
Percentage of Secondary school applicants offered one of top three preferences



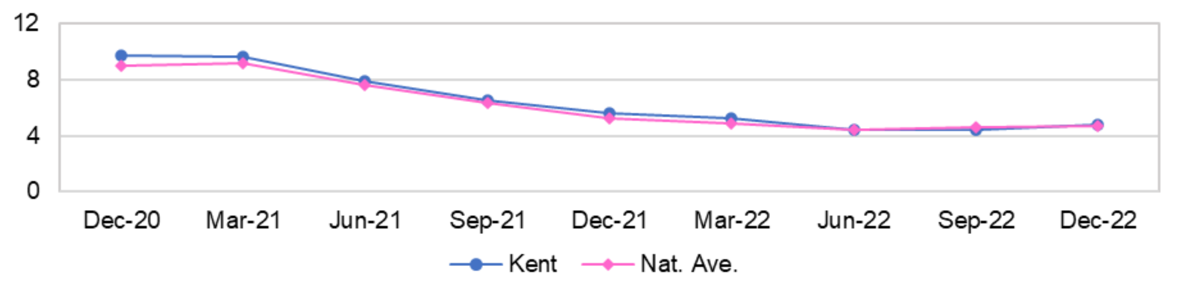
Percentage of 16-17 years olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) or whose activity is Not Known



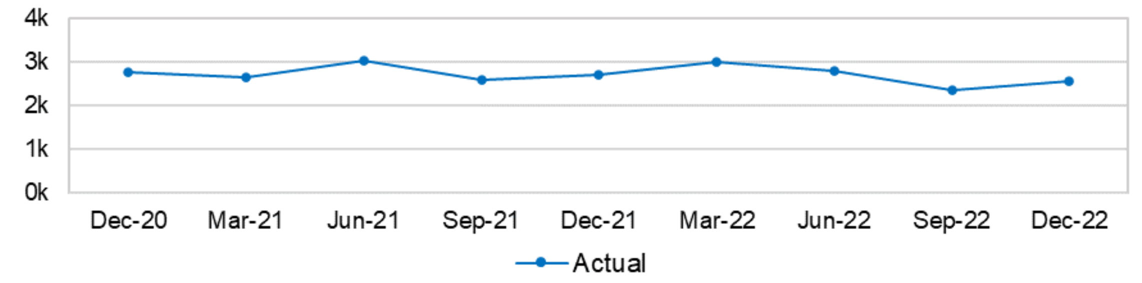
Percentage of 16-18 year olds who start an apprenticeship



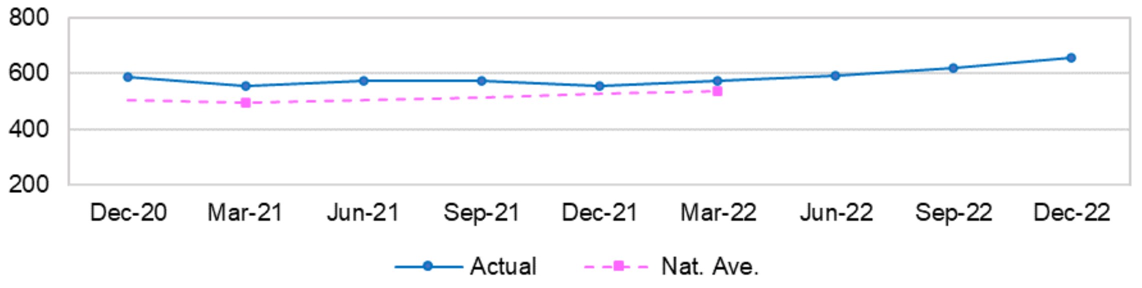
Percentage of 18-24 year olds claiming Universal Credit



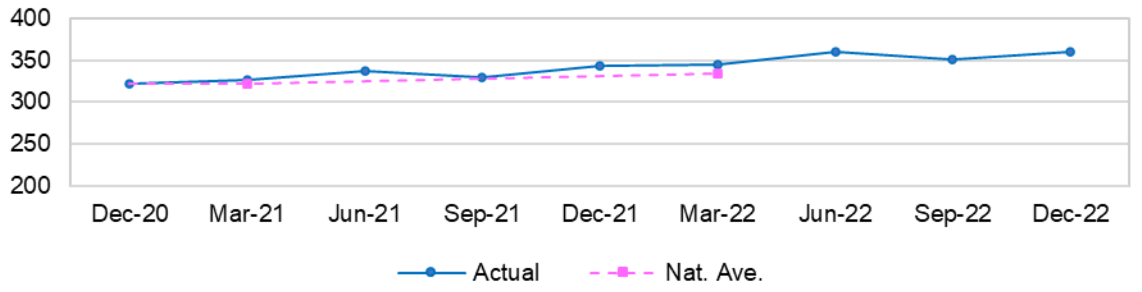
Number of open Early Help cases managed by Units



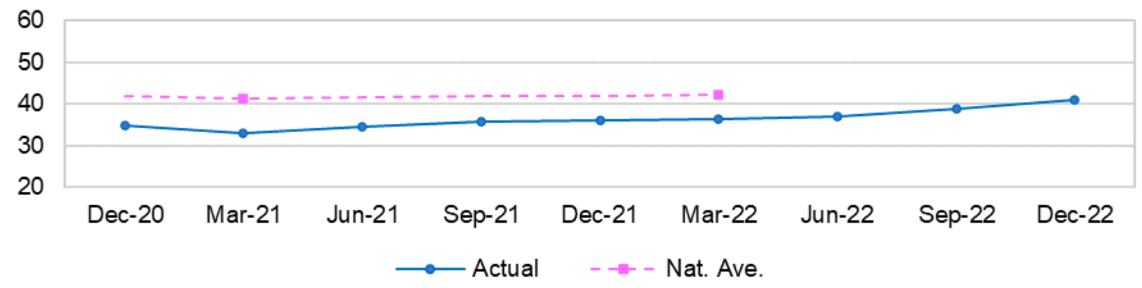
Rate of CSW referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18 – rolling 12 months



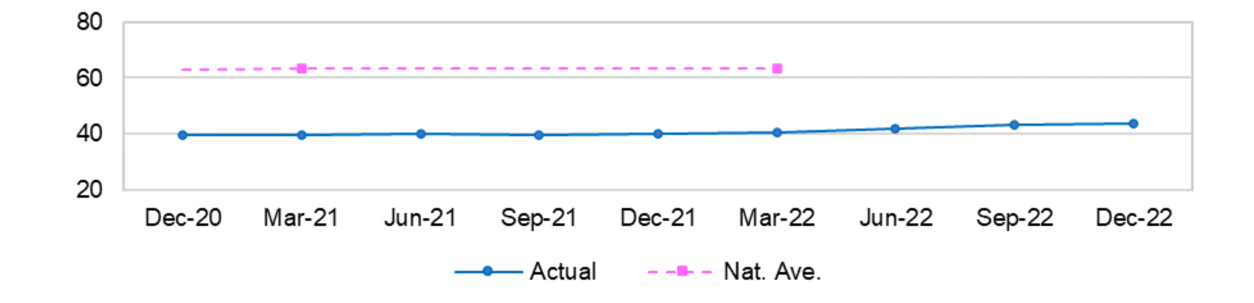
CSW caseload per 10,000 child population – snapshot at Quarter end



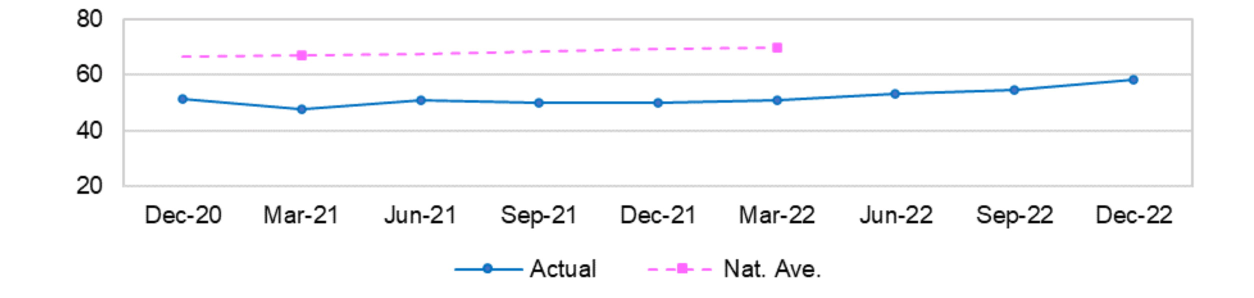
Rate of children with Child Protection Plans per 10,000 child population – snapshot at Quarter end



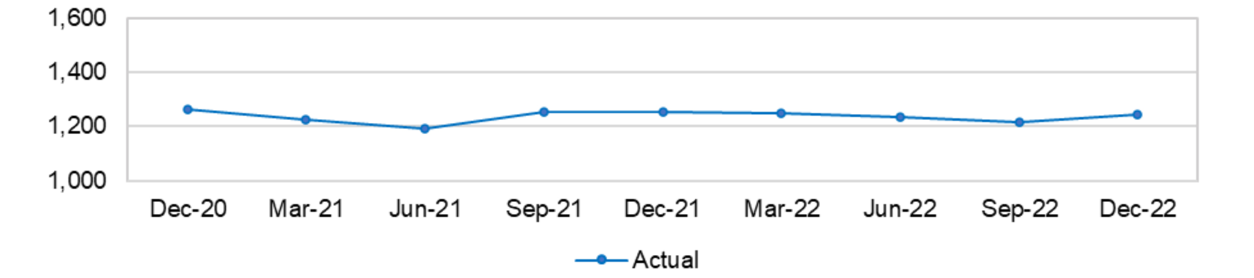
Rate of Children in Care (excluding UASC) per 10,000 child population – snapshot at Quarter end



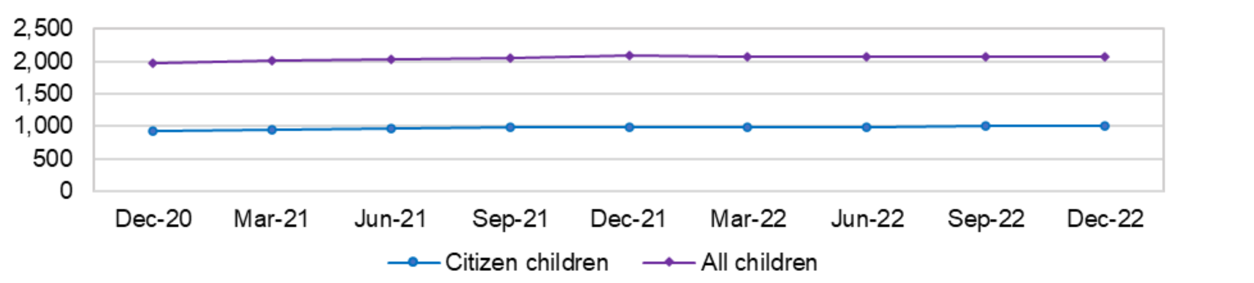
Rate of Children in Care (including UASC) per 10,000 child population – snapshot at Quarter end



Number of other local authority children in care placed into Kent – snapshot at Quarter end



Number of care leavers as at Quarter end



Adult Social Care & Health	
Cabinet Member	Clair Bell
Corporate Director	Richard Smith

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	⇧	⇨	⇩
	1	4	1		4	2

Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) saw a small decrease in the number of people making contact in Quarter 3, however this was still over 21,000 people and equated to over 41,000 contacts. Decreases in contacts in Quarter 3 is a seasonal trend with fewer contacts seen in December. Work continues designing and building new approaches and platforms for people to manage their own care needs and be able to self-serve for information where appropriate, helping to manage ongoing contact demands. The KPI on the percentage of people who re-contacted ASCH, having had a previous contact resolved with advice and information, continues to achieve the target of 9% (RAG rated Green).

There was a decrease of 6% in the number of new Care Needs Assessments (CNA) scheduled to be undertaken in Quarter 3, to just over 4,600; alongside this reduction, ASCH increased the number of completed CNAs in the quarter to over 5,000. These completions include both new CNAs as well as those which were incoming from previous quarters.

Of the incoming CNAs in Quarter 2, 70% were completed within 28 days, which is below the target of 90% and floor standard of 80% (RAG Rated Red). The time taken to complete a CNA is dependent on the person and their needs, however the majority of CNAs should be completed within 28 days (Care Act guidance states that they should be timely). ASCH continues to prioritise completing CNAs as part of its Performance Assurance Framework and saw a higher number completed than in any of the last 5 Quarters.

There were 955 Carers' Assessments completed in Quarter 3, which is a decrease on the previous Quarter. ASCH continue to encourage carers and the people they care for to be assessed. Partner agencies are asked to promote carer assessments where they identify people who are caring. Carers' assessments remain a delegated authority and can be completed by contracted organisations who often provide the required support as an outcome of their assessment.

Where eligible for support, people receive a Care and Support Plan (C&SP) which details how a person will be supported and the services they may receive. ASCH had 16,211 people with an active C&SP at the end of Quarter 3, which is a decrease on the previous quarter. Not everyone will go on to need a support package and ASCH has seen varying numbers of new support packages being arranged each quarter. The average weekly cost of the newly arranged packages has been on an upward trend, indicating a rise in the cost of care and/or increases in the complexity of needs, both of which are being investigated.

When people have a Care and Support Plan in place and are receiving support from ASCH, they receive an initial 8-week review and then an Annual Review 12 months later. ASCH increased the number of annual reviews completed in Quarter 3 by 2% leading to a 2% decrease in the number of people requiring an annual review on the last day of the quarter. This reflects the work prioritised as part of ASCH's Performance Assurance, where individualised targets were given to each operational area, with a focus on those most overdue. 3,200 annual reviews were completed in Quarter 3.

Where people need short-term enablement services, ASCH have the Kent Enablement at Home service (KEaH) which aims to keep people independent and in their home. In Quarter 3 there were over 1,570 people actively receiving this support.

Some people require residential or nursing care on a temporary basis (either while their longer-term needs or circumstances are assessed, or to provide respite); ASCH saw its first decrease in the numbers of people in short-term beds since before the pandemic, with 1,462 individuals in Quarter 3, a decrease of 4% on the last Quarter. Decreases were seen amongst most groups, but most notably for those with Carer respite, and Older People.

Long Term Support is provided either through services in the community (Homecare or Direct Payments for example) or residential/nursing care. A key priority for ASCH is to enable people to remain independent and in their own homes with clear personal choice over their support. Direct Payments are nationally recognised as an effective way of delivering these aims and for Quarter 3 this measure-continues to be RAG Rated Amber at 24% of those receiving community services from ASCH.

The numbers of people accessing support who have a mental health need continues to increase with 1,274 people being supported by ASCH in Quarter 3. Supporting Independence Services/Supported Living remains the most popular service provision, and there was another quarterly increase in the number of people with a mental health need receiving care and support in the home.

The KPI which reports on the percentage of people placed by ASCH in residential or nursing care with a Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating of Good or Outstanding decreased again to 78% in Quarter 3 (RAG Rated Amber). KCC continues to work closely with the CQC and providers to improve the levels of quality in the care home market. Locality Commissioners provide advice and support to ensure that effective action plans are in place that respond to identified concerns and/ or CQC findings, and monitor these action plans as required. At present, 16 care homes (6 older person care homes and 10 learning disability, physical disability and mental health care homes) have contract suspensions in place to prevent further placements whilst improvements are made. This is an increase of 2 care homes on the previous quarter.

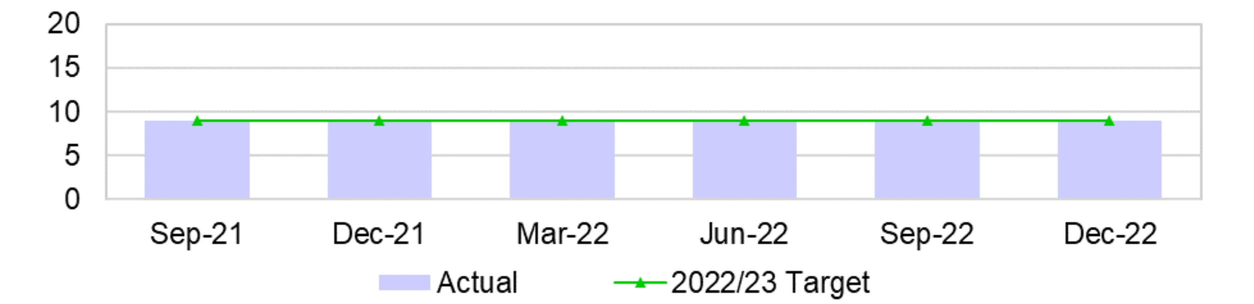
ASCH report two KPIs that are national Better Care Fund measures, as well as being important measures for Adult Social Care nationally. For people aged 65 and over, who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital having received enablement from KCC, this KPI continues to be below target at 81% based on latest data (Quarter 2) and so is RAG Rated Amber. This correlates with the Quarter 2 increases in those in short term residential or nursing beds and people remaining in them for longer than 6 weeks. The second measure, the rate per 100,000 of people aged 65 or over receiving long term support by admission to residential and nursing care homes decreased in Quarter 2 (latest data) with less people moving to these services (RAG Rated Amber).

The number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) applications received increased in Quarter 3, to over 2,390. This was expected as activity increases following lower levels of activity in Quarter 2 each year, with further increases expected in Quarter 4. The number of completed applications vary quarter on quarter and is influenced by the capacity of the team and the volumes of urgent applications. Quarter 3 saw increases in the number of applications started (at 2,060) and applications completed (at1,993).

ASCH had 1,144 Safeguarding Enquiries open on the last day of Quarter 3, which is a small decrease on the previous Quarter. In Quarter 3, the Safeguarding Teams worked on over 3,900 safeguarding concerns and over 2,500 safeguarding enquiries.

Key Performance Indicators

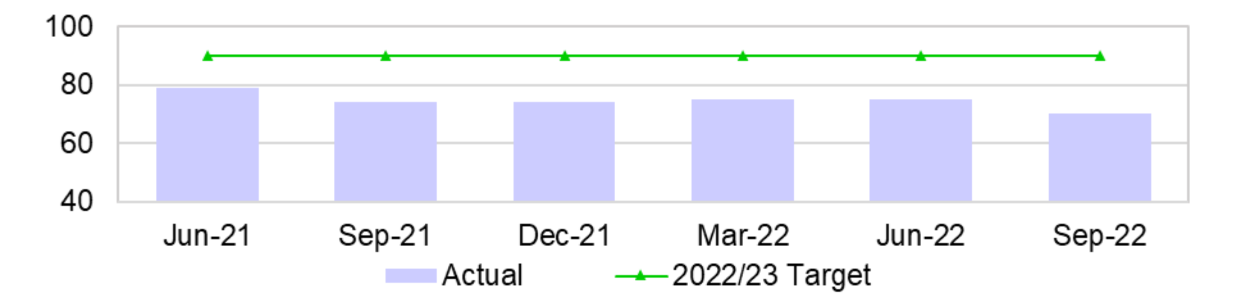
Percentage of people who have their contact resolved by ASCH but then make contact again within 3 months	GREEN ⇨



Current: 9%	Target: 9%	Previous: 9%

New Indicator in 2022/23 – target line for previous periods shown for comparison only.

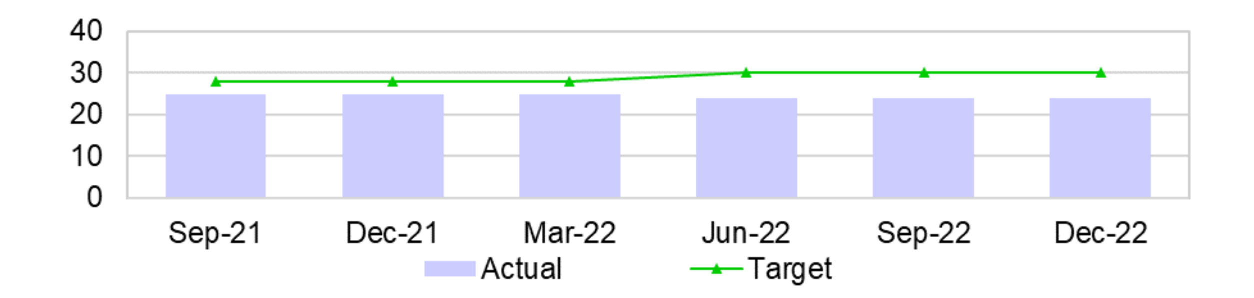
Proportion of new Care Needs Assessments delivered within 28 days	RED ⇨



Current: 70%	Target: 90%	Previous: 75%

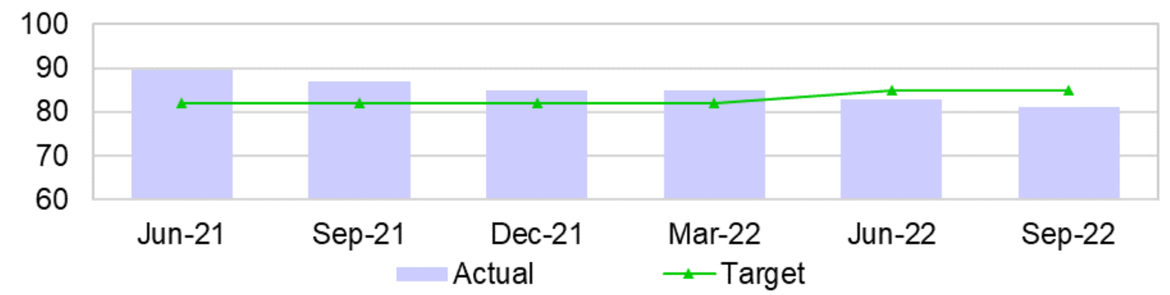
New Indicator – target line for previous periods shown for comparison only. KPI Reported one quarter in arrears.

Proportion of people receiving a long-term community service who receive Direct Payments	AMBER ⇨



Current: 24%	Target: 30%	Previous: 24%

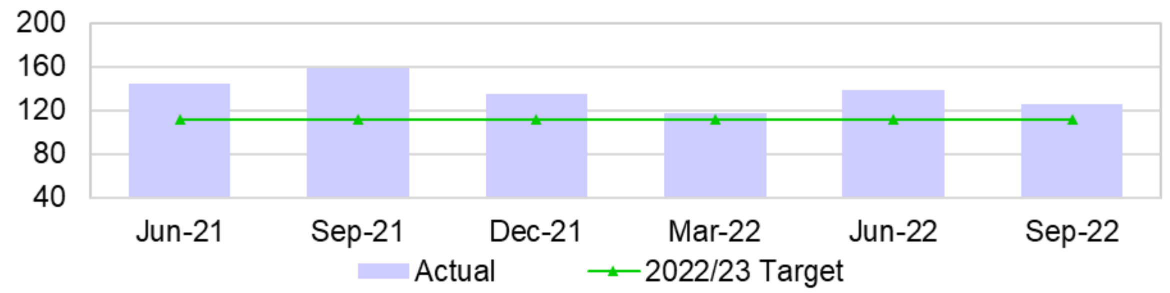
Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services	AMBER



Current: 81%	Target: 85%	Previous: 83%

Reported one quarter in arrears.

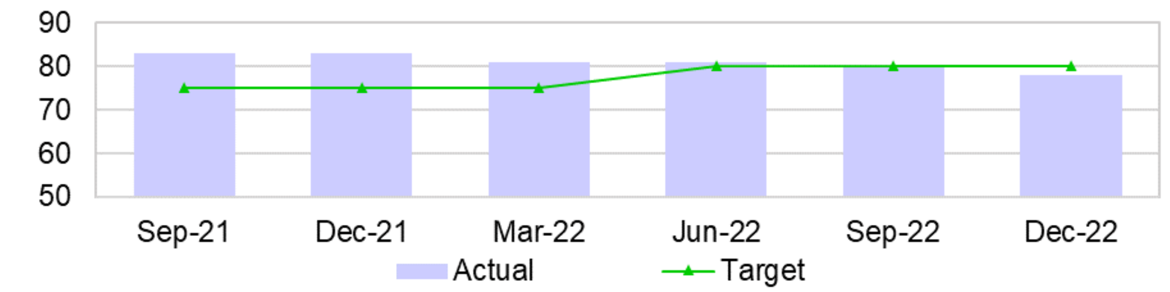
Long Term support needs of older people (65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 (Better Care Fund)	AMBER



Current: 125	Target: 111	Previous: 138

New Indicator – target line for previous periods shown for comparison only. KPI Reported one quarter in arrears.

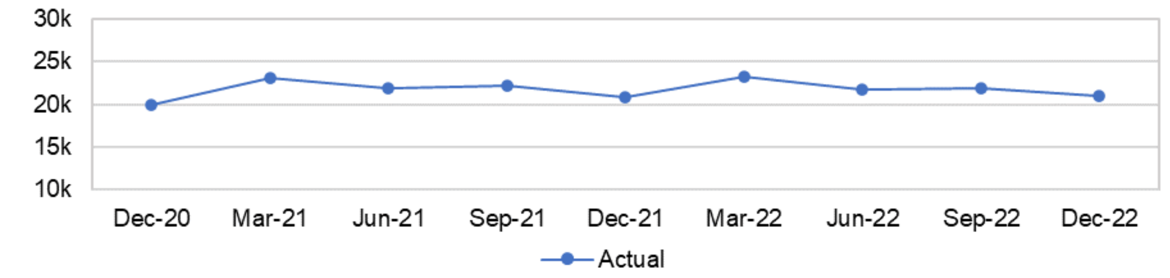
Percentage of KCC supported people in residential or nursing care where the CQC rating is Good or Outstanding	AMBER



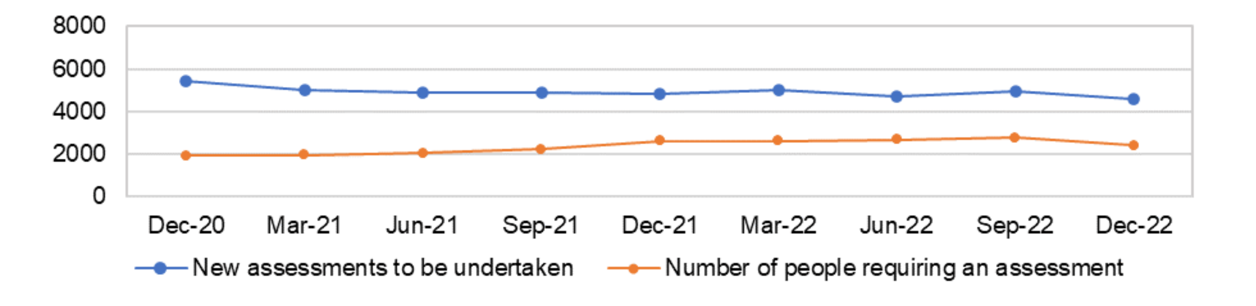
Current: 78%	Target: 80%	Previous: 80%

Activity indicators

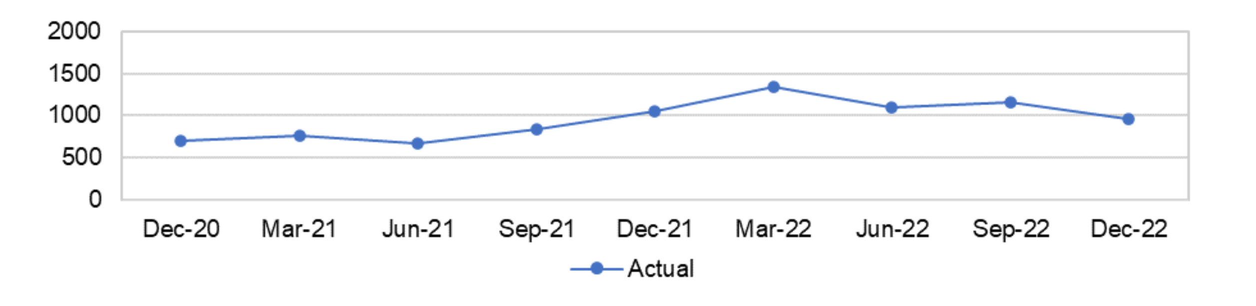
Number of people making contact with ASCH



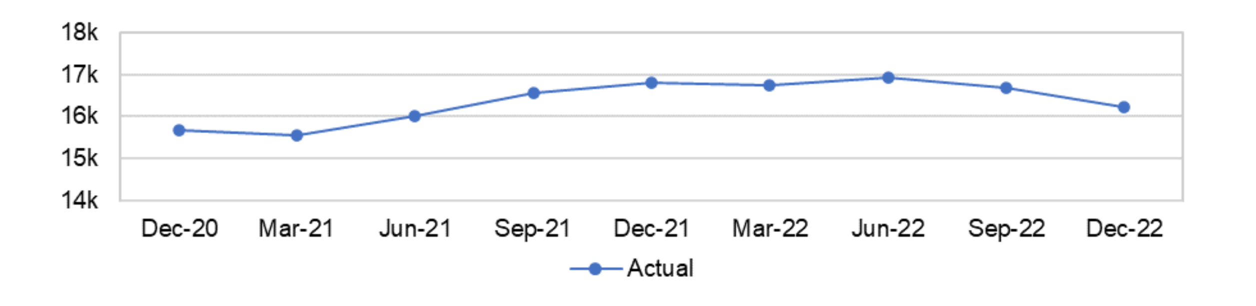
Number of new Care Needs Assessments to be undertaken and the number of people requiring a Care needs Assessment on the last day of the quarter



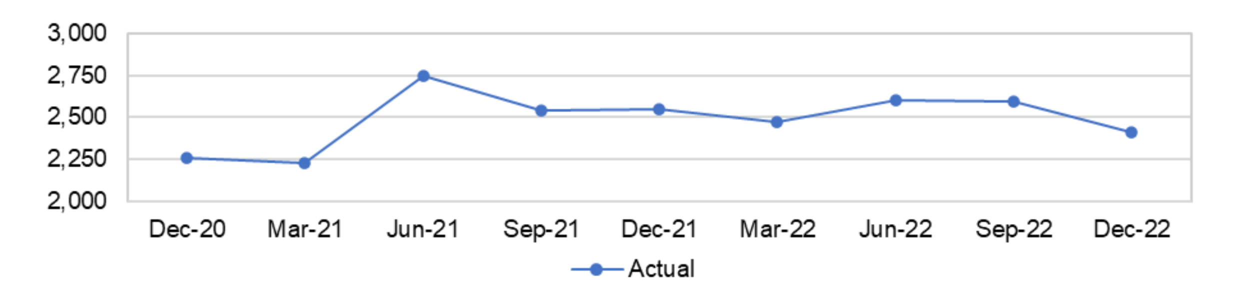
Number of new Carers assessments delivered



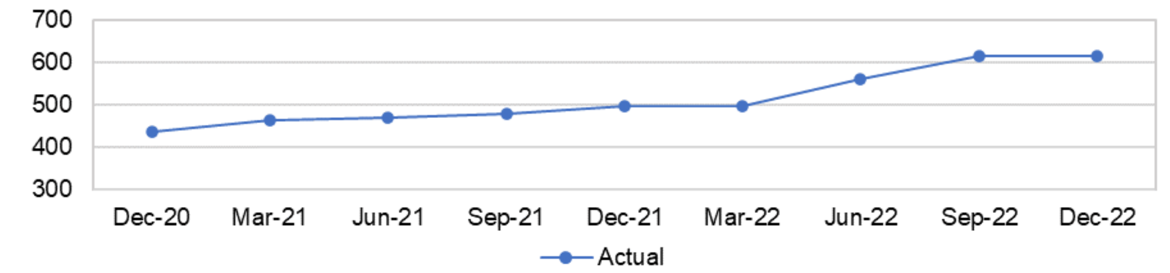
Number of people with an active Care & Support Plan at the end of the Quarter



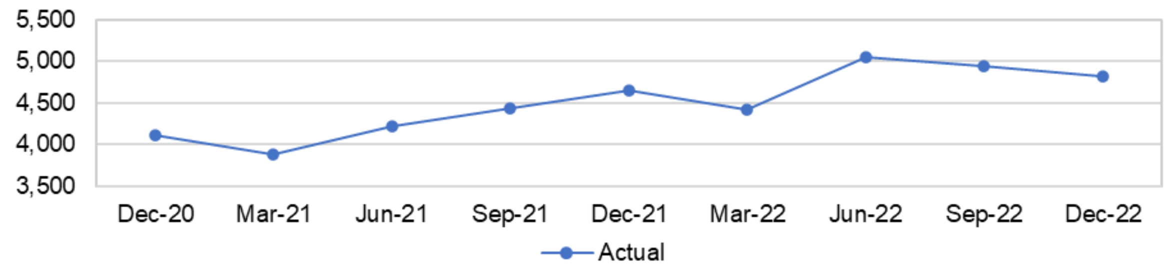
Number of new support packages being arranged for people in the Quarter



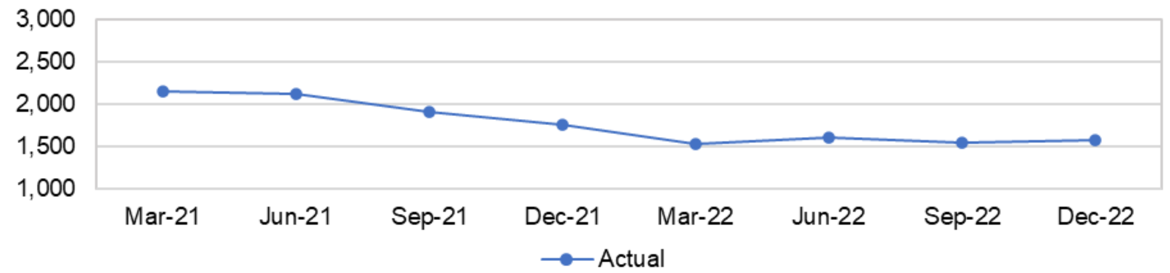
Average cost (£s per week) of new support packages arranged for people in the Quarter



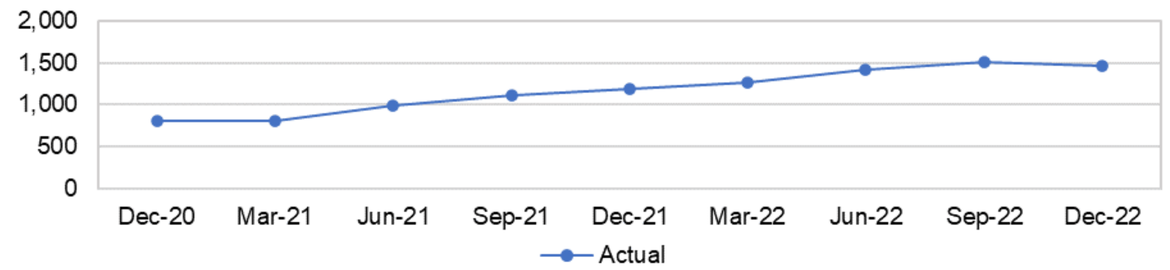
Number of people requiring an annual review to be completed on the last day of the Quarter



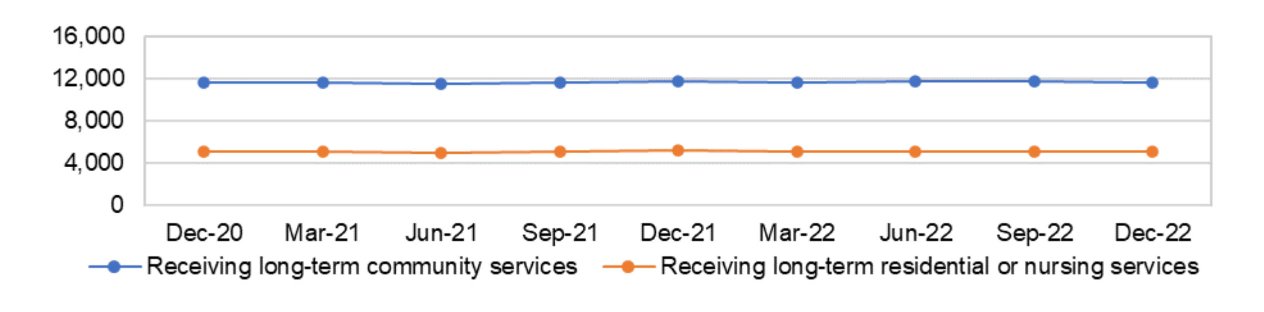
Number of people in Kent Enablement at Home (KeaH)



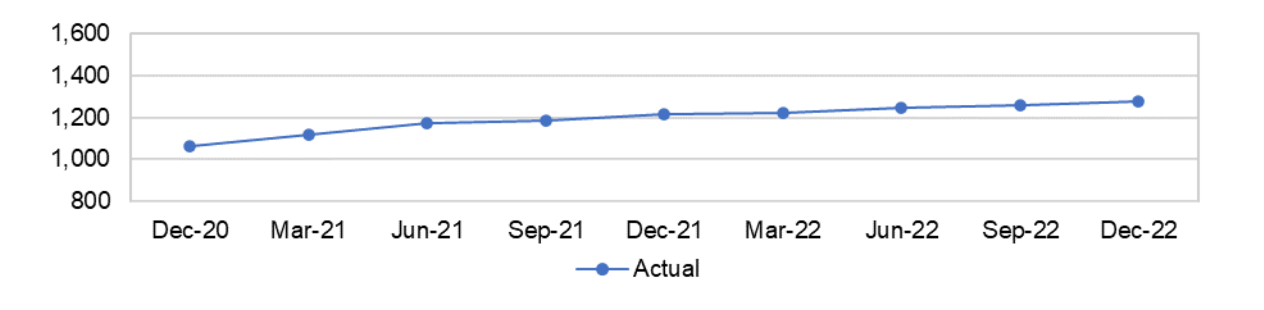
Number of people in Short Term Beds during the Quarter



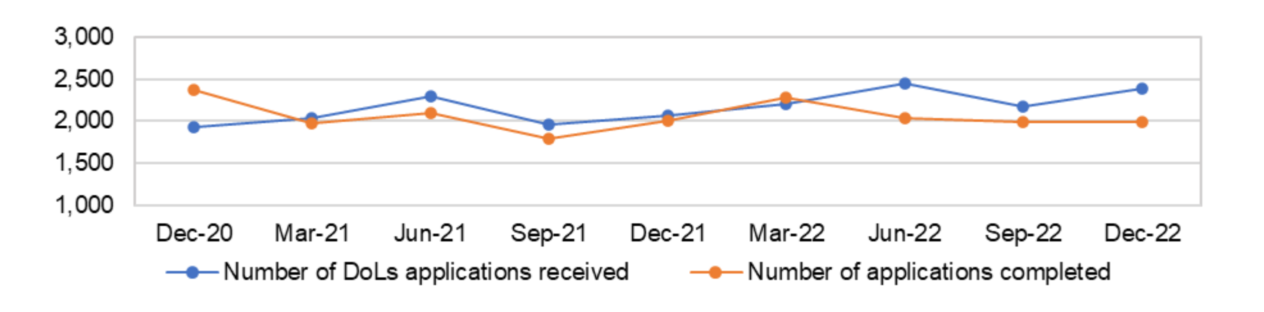
Number of people in Long Term Services



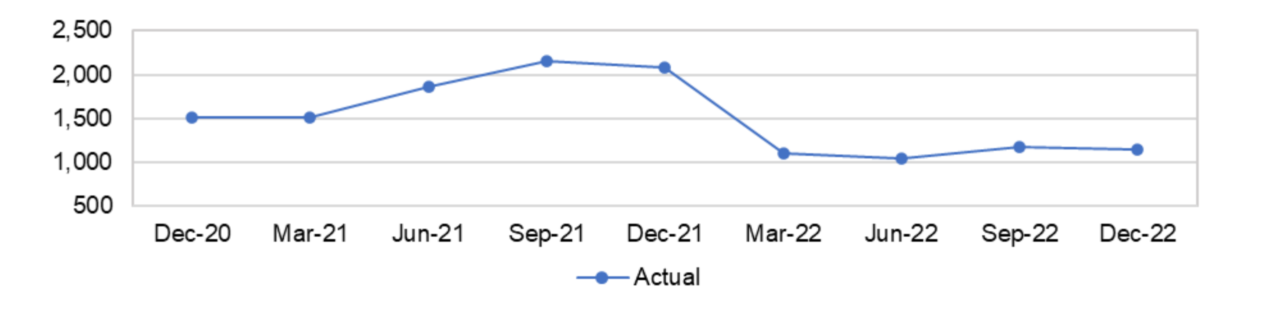
Number of People accessing ASCH Services who have a Mental Health Need



Number of DoLS applications received and completed



Number of safeguarding enquiries open on the last day of the Quarter



Public Health	
Cabinet Member	Clair Bell
Director	Anjan Ghosh

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	⇧	⇨	⇩
	4	1	0	1	3	1

The number of eligible people receiving an NHS Health Check (12-month rolling) is below the target of 23,844, however it remains on an upward trend, with 5,856 checks delivered in Quarter 3, a 4.4% increase compared to Quarter 2. Performance is below target due to the need to retrain primary care staff and lower GP provider participation levels since COVID-19 when there was pause to the programme in line with national guidance. The NHS Health Check programme continues to focus on building activity to pre-pandemic levels, with 19,645 1st invites issued in the latest Quarter. The KCC Public Health core team is currently reviewing the Kent NHS Health Check programme with the aim of enhancing the service.

In Quarter 3, the Health Visiting Service delivered 17,727 mandated universal contacts and remains on track to meet the annual target of 65,000 mandated universal contacts, despite challenging workforce circumstances, with national and local shortfalls in health visitors. Four of the five mandated contacts met or exceeded target with the proportion of new birth visits delivered within 10–14 days at 93%, slightly below the 95% target. From 2022/23, this KPI changed from delivery of the visit within 30 days of birth to the current 10-14 days. Overall, 99% of new birth visits were delivered within 30 days. There are several reasons why a new birth visit will take place outside of 10–14 days, including families who move into or out of the Kent area, babies who are an inpatient within a neonatal unit or cancellations. All families are offered a new birth visit, the majority of which take place in their home.

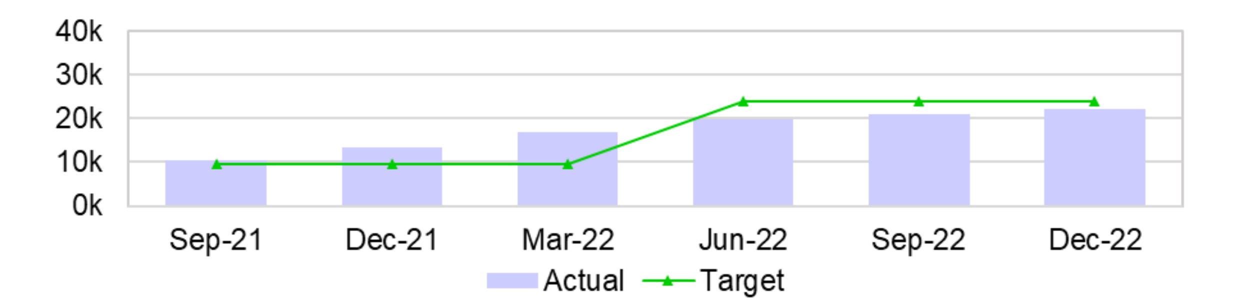
The Sexual Health Service continued to perform above the target for the percentage of first-time patients being offered a full sexual health screen, achieving 96% in Quarter 3. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust are currently trialing an open access walk-in clinic, with the aim of increasing service accessibility. A review is currently being undertaken and, if successful, this will be embedded across Kent. The service has also continued successful, proactive outreach work.

Community Drug and Alcohol Services continue to perform above target for the proportion of successful completions from drug and alcohol treatment in Quarter 3. The number accessing treatment is stable and the services are working to ensure they are accessible to all individuals, including underserved groups.

In Quarter 3, Live Well Kent (LWK) client satisfaction rates were 99%, meeting the 98% target. The service report that the increased cost-of-living is impacting on the mental health and wellbeing of clients. Around two-thirds of people accessing the service live in the most deprived areas of Kent. A LWK lead participated in a live Radio Kent drive-time debate for World Mental Health Day and promoted the LWK service to Kent residents.

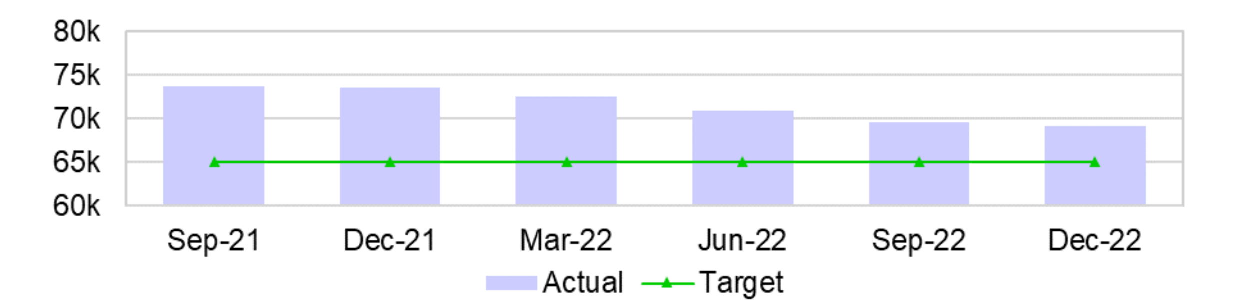
Performance Indicators

Number of eligible people receiving an NHS Health Check (Rolling 12 months)	AMBER ⇧



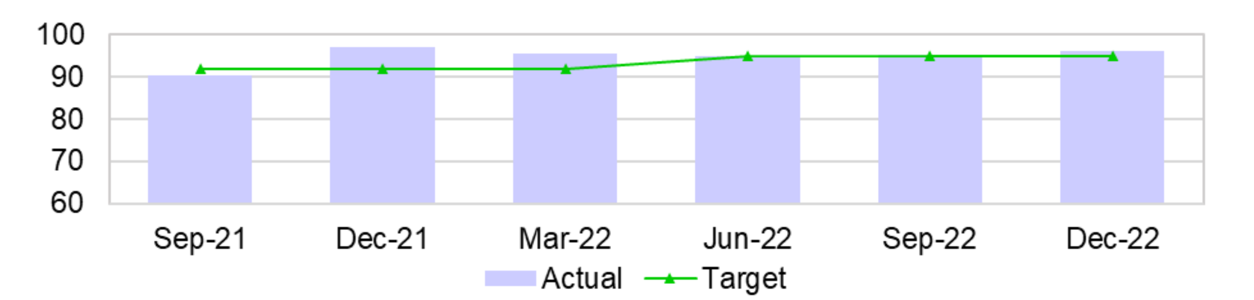
Current: 22,255	Target: 23,844	Previous: 20,946

Number of mandated universal checks delivered by the health visiting service – rolling 12 months	GREEN ⇩



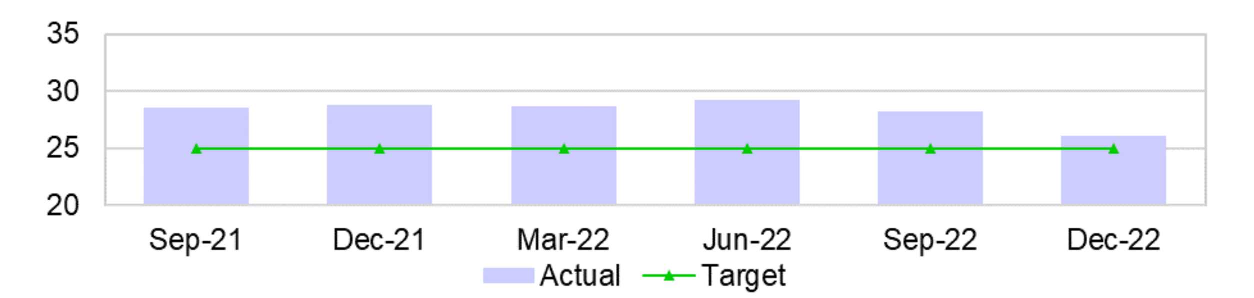
Current: 69,082	Target: 65,000	Previous: 69,657

Percentage of first-time patients (at any sexual health clinics or telephone triage) who are offered a full sexual health screen	GREEN ⇨

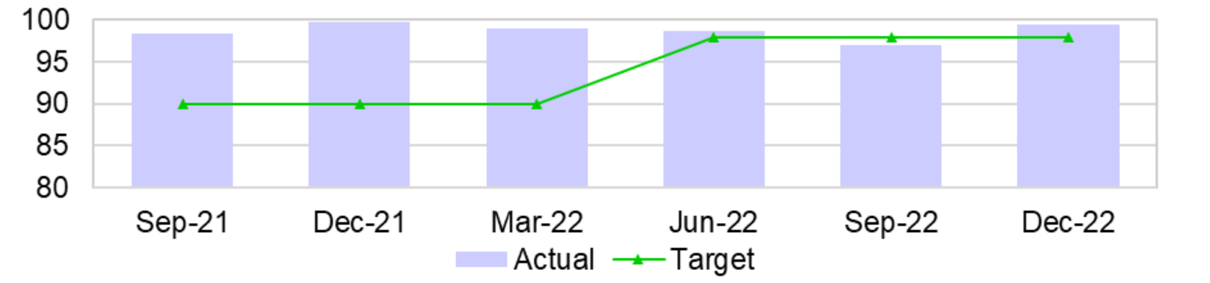


Current: 96%	Target: 95%	Previous: 95%

Successful completion of drug and alcohol treatment – rolling 12 months	GREEN ⇨

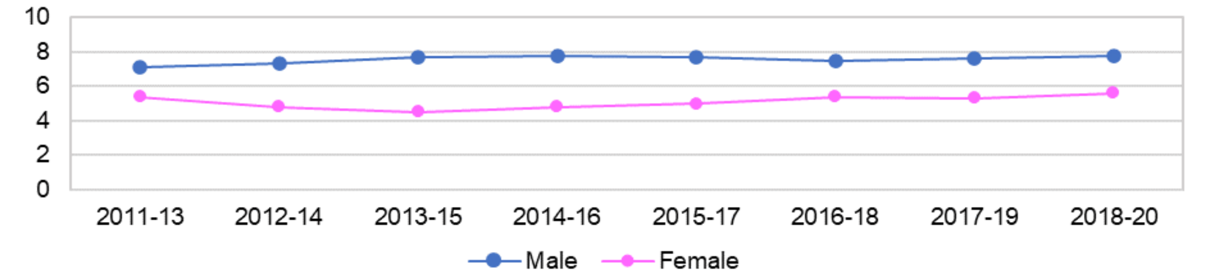


Current: 26%	Target: 25%	Previous: 28%

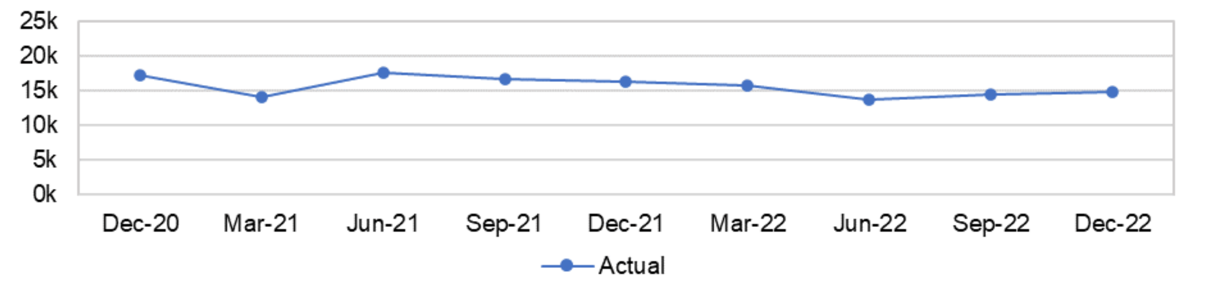
Percentage of Live Well clients who would recommend the service to family, friends, or someone in a similar situation		GREEN ⇨
		
Current: 99.5%	Target: 98.0%	Previous: 97.0%

Activity indicators

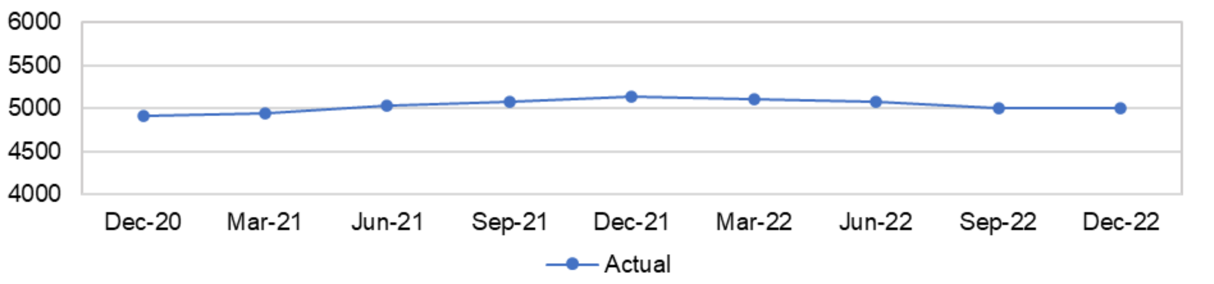
Life expectancy gap in years between least and most deprived areas



Number of attendances at KCC commissioned Sexual Health Clinics



Number of adults accessing structured Substance Misuse Treatment Services



Corporate Risk Register – Overview

A combination of the cost-of-living crisis, rising energy bills, inflation pressures and interest rates, all exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and global supply chain issues, mean that the council, its residents, service users and staff are facing significant challenges, which carry risk implications for the achievement of the Authority's objectives.

The table below shows the number of corporate risks in each risk level (based on the risk score) in November 2022, compared with February 2023.

	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
Current risk level November 2022	0	4	16
Current risk level February 2023	0	4	14

RISKS REMOVED

CRR0055 – Impacts of Social Care Reform
Impacts of social care reform has been temporarily withdrawn from the corporate risk register until further information is received from central Government regarding revised implementation approaches. However, the CQC Assurance Framework is still due to be implemented in 2023, which requires detailed planning and preparation, for which any associated risks should be fed into the Council's risk profile as appropriate.

CRR0010 – Suitable provision for unaccompanied asylum seeking children
This risk was de-escalated from the Corporate Risk Register to the Children, Young People and Education risk register, as the National Transfer Scheme continues, meaning that while Kent still looks after significant numbers of UASC (with particular challenges over the summer period), this is more manageable now. Intakes continue to be monitored and timelines kept under review.

RISK LEVEL REDUCED

CRR0039 – Information Governance
This risk level has been reduced to reflect the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) revised approach to public sector enforcement, which focuses on increased use of the ICO's wider powers, including warnings, reprimands and enforcement notices, with fines issued in only in the most serious of cases. This does not negate the need for the Authority to continue its rigorous efforts to mitigate information governance risks.

MITIGATING ACTIONS

The Corporate Risk Register mitigations are regularly reviewed for their continued relevance and urgency, and new mitigations introduced as required.

Updates have been provided for 25 actions to mitigate elements of Corporate Risks that were due for completion or review up to February 2023. These are summarised below.

Due Date for Review or Completion	Actions Completed/ Closed	Actions Partially complete	Actions subject to Regular Review
Up to and including February 2023	7	13	5

CRR0002: Safeguarding – protecting adults at risk
Complete 'Best we can be Board' oversees quality of practice, the first meeting was held in November 2022, and meets on a quarterly basis. Regular Review Preparations for introduction of new Liberty Protection Safeguards system under the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 continue, including working with Health partners while waiting for a 'go live' date from Government.

CRR0003: Securing resources to aid economic recovery and enabling infrastructure
Closed - superseded Kent and Medway Economic Partnership's local Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan – this action is superseded by the key workstream activity in the Kent & Medway Economic Strategy, including the development of the Kent and Medway Growth Hub and the work of the Employment Task Force. Regular Review The Kent Design Guide is a design standards and expectations resource for stakeholders in Kent & Medway's built environment and is being refreshed with publications due by December 2023.

CRR0004: Simultaneous Emergency Response, Recovery and Resilience
Partially Complete The Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) independent review has now presented its findings to the KRF steering group committee, including a series of recommendations and options for partners to consider in respect of the future function of the KRF, the resource needed to support it, and the funding model. This is being considered by each member of the KRF (18 organisations) before a decision is taken on the way forward in April. Partially complete Coordination of KCC preparations for potential power outages across the County ensuring continuity of front-line services – KCC officers are involved in planning, delivering and will be participating in the Government's 'Exercise Mighty Oak' in March – where the scenario is predicated upon a prolonged power outage, outcomes from which will be shared via the Cross Directorate Resilience Group in April.

CRR0009: Future financial and operating environment for Local Government
Complete A robust plan for 2023/24 was developed as part of the medium-term financial planning process that was approved at County Council in February 2023, although it has been recognised that there are significant risks associated with its successful delivery due to the extraordinarily challenging financial environment. Partially Complete A variety of actions have been developed to reduce the current year (2022/23) overspend and consequently reduce the pressures on the 2023/24 budget, with regular budget monitoring processes in place to assess progress. Complete Officer directorate budget sessions with the Chief Executive and Section 151 (Chief Finance) Officer have been developed to scrutinise latest budget positions for each directorate. Complete Quarterly budget meetings between Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Director for Finance with Cabinet Members and Corporate Directors as relevant.

CRR0014: Technological resilience and information security
Regular Review Implementation of migration of the remaining non business critical services to a data centre has been delayed due to lead times on essential equipment. Migration has been scheduled for May. This action is also being monitored for risk CRR0039.

CRR0015: Managing and working with the social care market
Regular Review Conversations around recommissioning of care and support in the home framework continue to progress. Current contract ends in April 2024.

CRR0039: Information Governance
Partially Complete A new internal data breach reporting process has been developed and is currently undergoing testing. Due for full implementation by April 2023. Partially Complete Implementation of actions from Home Information Governance and Records Management audit, including redrafting of policies, is underway but not yet complete. Internal Audit will be reviewing progress in summer 2023 and reporting findings to Governance & Audit Committee. Partially Complete Following publication of the data mapping Internal Audit report which confirmed that the majority of services have completed data mapping exercises. The small number of services that remain outstanding are expected to have been completed by June 2023.

CRR0042: Border fluidity, infrastructure and regulatory arrangements

<u>Complete</u>

KCC has continued to make a case for further funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and in February 2023 KCC's "Dover Access Improvements" £45m Levelling Up Fund bid to improve traffic flow to the EU through the Port of Dover, including additional border control points and a new exit route, has been successful.

CRR0045: Maintaining effective governance and decision making in a challenging financial and operating environment for local government

<u>Partially Complete</u>

Review of KCC Informal Governance arrangements and Operating Standards – Work has begun on the review of Operating Standards, with relevant stakeholders being invited to input. Progress will next be reviewed at end of Quarter 1, 2023/24.

CRR0052: Impact of Climate Change

<u>Partially Complete</u>

The Kent and Medway Adaptation Plan is under development, with a first draft anticipated to be presented to Cabinet Committee in May, with a period of consultation to follow to ensure that the plan is robust and fit for purpose before being formally adopted.

<u>Regular Review</u>

Estate rationalisation and building in additional measures to reduce emissions. A community services public consultation is underway that highlights the need to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and meet our net-zero ambitions as part of a wider set of proposals for how we use our buildings and deliver some of our community services.

CRR0053 Capital Programme Affordability (impacts on performance and statutory duties)

<u>Complete</u>

External funding bid for 'priority school build programme' (Department for Education) has been submitted, with two schools likely to be part of the school rebuild programme – subject to confirmation after further liaison with the DfE.

CRR0054: Supply chain and market challenges

<u>Partially Complete</u>

Spending the Council's Money policy is currently under review and its due to be approved via governance processes in March 2023.

CRR0056: SEND and High Needs Funding
Partially Complete It is proposed that KCC enters into the "Safety Valve" agreement with the Department for Education (DfE), enabling Kent County Council (KCC) to receive funding over a 5-year period to substantially fund the accumulated deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block (HNB). Partially Complete Implementation of SEND Inclusion workstream to better address the relationship between learner need, outcomes, provision and cost in addition to reviewing externally commissioned arrangements – a review is being conducted by the Council for Disabled Children that will help to inform the actions relating to this workstream. Partially Complete County Approach to Inclusive Education (CATIE) – an approach to reduce number of children requiring EHCPs and Special Schools by developing more inclusive mainstream schools across the County. A review of eligibility criteria for Kent-maintained Special Schools is in progress.

CRR0057: Home to School Transport
Partially Complete Communications Strategy – a public consultation on KCC's proposed new Home To School Transport Policy and Post 16 Transport Policy Statement has been launched, with findings to be discussed at Cabinet Committees in the summer of 2023.

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