

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting: CABINET

Date and Time: WEDNESDAY, 4 APRIL 2018, AT 10.00 AM*

Place: COUNCIL CHAMBER, APPLETREE COURT,
LYNDHURST

Telephone enquiries to: Lyndhurst (023) 8028 5000
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

*Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Cabinet's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
 - (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item.
- Speeches may not exceed three minutes. Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above.

Bob Jackson
Chief Executive

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This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format

AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2018 as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

4. PROJECT INTEGRA ACTION PLAN (Pages 1 - 14)

As one of the partner organisations in Project Integra, to consider the Action Plan to cover the period 2018-2021 and to recommend it to the Council for approval.

5. SAFER NEW FOREST PARTNERSHIP PLAN (Pages 15 - 28)

To consider the Action Plan for the Safer New Forest Partnership for the forthcoming year and to recommend it to the Council for approval.

6. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (Pages 29 - 36)

To consider the provisional outturn figures for 2017/18 and to note the establishment of a Business Rates Equalisation Fund.

To:

Councillors

Mrs D E Andrews
J E Binns
Mrs J L Cleary
M R Harris

Councillors

E J Heron (Vice-Chairman)
J D Heron
Mrs A J Hoare
B Rickman (Chairman)

PROJECT INTEGRA - ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Project Integra is the adopted brand name for the Waste Management Partnership for Hampshire delivering waste management infrastructure and allied collection services to 750,000 households across Hampshire. The Project Integra Partners are Hampshire County Council, the District Councils, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Veolia. This report seeks the Council's endorsement for approval for the adoption of the Action Plan 2018-2021 for the Project Integra partnership.
- 1.2 The partnership has struggled to keep up with other partnerships in the country who have higher recycling rates but in fairness the partnership is still successful and is one of the best examples of joint working in relation to waste by virtue of the high level of diversion from landfill now being achieved, which is one of the highest of any County grouping.
- 1.3 A fundamental review of the "Hampshire Waste Partnership" has commenced and will be one of the key actions in the 2018-2021 Action Plan, which will focus on improved performance, a larger range of materials to recycle as well as reducing the overall cost of managing waste in Hampshire

2. PROJECT INTEGRA DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

- 2.1 The Action Plan (Appendix A) is a three-year plan, and is the mechanism by which the Board receives its mandate to work on behalf of the partnership. It also sets out the costs of running the Board and associated joint activities of the partnership.
- 2.2 Section 3 of the Action Plan highlights the key developments at a national level in the waste management sector. Of particular interest is the announcement by Defra of a new "Waste and Resources Strategy", which is due for consultation later in 2018.
- 2.3 Section 4.1 of the Action Plan identifies 10 key areas of work which will be undertaken within the 3 years of the plan from 2018 to 2021. Authorities may approve the Draft Action Plan unreservedly or may approve it subject to a reservation in respect of any particular matter that it has concerns with. Where approval is given subject to such reservation, the Partner Authority's voting Member is not entitled to vote on the matter in question when it is subsequently considered by the Board, and any resolution of the Board on the matter in question does not bind that Partner Authority.
- 2.4 The appendices of the action plan also identify the contributions that New Forest District Council will pay towards the Project Integra Executive and the Materials Recovery Facility (MAF) for 2018/19. The overall figure for these 2 elements is £15,225. The budgeted income in 2018/19 for the sale of recyclable materials is budgeted at £418,000 for dry mixed recycling and £66,000 for glass. There will always be a fluctuation in the market price for all the various material streams but within the Project Integra Partnership we continue to seek out sustainable and

profitable markets for all materials.

- 2.5 The performance against the 2015/18 action plan and the proposed actions identified in the 2015/18 plan were discussed at January's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel, where Chris Noble, the outgoing Head of Project Integra, presented his annual report to the Panel.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council pay towards the Project Integra Executive and the MAF. The overall figure for these 2 elements in 2018/19 is £15,225, with the income in 2018/19 for the sale of recyclable materials is budgeted at £418,000 for dry mixed recycling and £66,000 for glass.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Project Integra and its actions via the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and the Project Integra Action Plan have significant benefits for the environment. This action plan seeks to achieve high levels of recycling and a more sustainable and cost-effective approach to waste management in Hampshire.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. COMMENTS OF ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

- 7.1 The Panel agreed to recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services that Cabinet approve the Project Integra Action Plan 2018-2021.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' COMMENTS

- 8.1 Environment and Regulatory Affairs Portfolio Holder: I support the Project Integra Action Plan 2018-2021. We need to work together to create a more sustainable way of dealing with our waste.
- 8.2 Community Affairs Portfolio Holder: We as a Council endeavour to achieve high levels of recycling and this action plan places us in a good position to work with our local communities for the future.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Project Integra Action Plan, setting out the priorities for the next 3 years as well as the financial implications, is identified in appendix A of this report.

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 That Cabinet recommend to the Council that the Project Integra Action Plan 2018-2021, as attached at Appendix A to this report be approved.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Attached



Draft Project Integra Action Plan

2018-2021

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Project Integra is a partnership of local authorities with responsibility for waste management in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. The long term waste disposal contractor Veolia Environmental Services (VES) is a non-voting member of the Partnership.
- 1.2 The Project Integra Strategic Board is constituted as a Joint Committee of the 14 local authorities, and is the decision making body for the partnership.
- 1.3 In line with changes to the constitution made in 2015, the PI Action Plan is a three year plan. The 2015-18 plan has come to an end, and this plan will cover the period 2018-21. The Action Plan sits underneath the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, and sets out the medium to long-term actions for the partnership. Amendments to this plan can be made during this period, and progress will be regularly reported to the PI Strategic Board

2 PI aims and objectives

- 2.1 The refreshed (2012) Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) had the following overarching vision:

“In period to 2023 Hampshire will manage the effectiveness of its sustainable material resources system to maximise efficient re-use and recycling of material resources and minimise the need for disposal in accordance with the national waste hierarchy.”

- 2.2 The PISB also agreed, in 2012, the operational focus for its activities through a number of work streams as follows: *“Working to reduce costs across the whole system”* through:

1. Communication and behaviour change.
2. Waste prevention including reuse.
3. Recycling and performance improvements - for instance through reducing contamination, increasing capture of materials, improving income for materials, changing management arrangements.
4. Reducing landfill.
5. Joint working arrangements and activities.
6. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of services through collaboration with neighbouring authorities including “SE7” (group of 7 South-East local authorities).

3 National Developments in Waste and Resources

3.1 *Brexit and EU Legislation*

- 3.1.1 The UK’s decision to leave the European Union will have a significant impact on the future make-up of waste related legislation.
- 3.1.2 Under the EU Waste Framework Directive, all Member States have a target to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020. In recent years, the UK recycling rate has plateaued. The most recent UK-wide figures indicate a rate of 44.3% in 2015. It is unlikely that the UK would meet this target. Whilst the target is applicable to the UK as a whole, it has never been cascaded down to local authority level.
- 3.1.3 In July 2014, the European Commission published a proposal to amend six waste-related Directives, as well as an action plan aiming to:
 - help turn Europe into a circular economy
 - boost recycling

- secure access to raw materials
- create jobs and economic growth.

3.1.1 Since 2014, this “Circular Economy Package¹” has been subject to development and refinement, and negotiations between the different elements within the EU. It is likely that the package will lead to new recycling targets for Member States, and these could be in the region of 60-70% by 2030. The package could also introduce requirements for separate collections of food waste.

3.1.2 It is not clear whether the UK would be required to transpose the new legislation into UK law, as this will depend on the timing of Brexit. Depending on the UK’s future relationship with the EU, at least some elements of the Package could be relevant to the UK after 2019.

3.2 *Consistency Framework*

3.2.1 In October 2016, WRAP unveiled “A Framework for Greater Consistency in Household recycling in England.”² They had been commissioned by Defra to look into the potential benefits of greater consistency across the recycling journey – from packaging, to local authorities, to council, to reprocessors.

3.2.2 The framework’s vision was that “By 2025, packaging is designed to be recyclable (where practical and environmentally beneficial) and labelled clearly to indicate whether it can be recycled or not. It is a vision where every household in England can recycle a common set of dry recyclable materials and food waste, collected in one of three different ways.” This vision focussed on three key priorities:

- ❖ All households to be able to recycle the same core set of materials
- ❖ Fewer collection and sorting systems
- ❖ A common container colour system

3.2.3 Through various workstreams and working with partners, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) are working on moving towards the vision. Some of the work carried out so far includes:

- ❖ Further rollout of On Pack Recycling Labels on more consumer product lines
- ❖ Standardised contract documentation for WCAs (Waste Collection Authorities)
- ❖ Support to LAs, in particular in county areas where consistency is currently limited
- ❖ A packaging working group, which is working with industry to address some common problems, such as black plastic, PVC, and packaging contamination (e.g. springs in plastic spray bottles)
- ❖ A consultation on bin colours – PI responded to this

3.3 *Drinks Containers*

3.3.1 The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) carried out an inquiry³ in 2017 into plastic bottle and coffee cup recycling. The two key recommendations to Government were:

- Introduction of a 25p levy on disposable coffee cups
- Introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers (plastic, cans, cartons)

3.3.2 Running parallel to the EAC inquiry was a Defra Call for Evidence (CfE), looking at DRSs. Under such a DRS, consumers would receive a small deposit back, if they returned their used drinks containers to an appropriate collection point (most likely to be local supermarkets). A DRS could increase recycling rates and reduce litter. However, there is a lack of evidence of

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

² <http://www.wrap.org.uk/collections-and-reprocessing/consistency>

³ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/inquiry/>

how such a scheme could affect LA recycling schemes, and in PI's response to the CfE, it was suggested that Government would need to look at this more closely before introducing such a scheme.

3.3.4 In the aftermath of significant national media coverage of ocean pollution and recent issues with the Chinese recycling market, it is likely that the issue of plastic recycling in particular will be a focus for Defra in the short term at least.

3.4 *National Strategies and Reports*

3.4.1 During 2017 and early 2018, the Government released several strategies relevant to the waste and resources strategy. These are summarised in the table below:

Strategy document	Released	Key points
Industrial Strategy ⁴	Jan '17	No mention of circular economy, but does promotion of well-functioning markets for secondary materials
Clean Growth Strategy ⁵	Oct '17	Sister document to industrial strategy. Includes aim for zero food waste to landfill by 2030, and suggests support for separate food waste collections. Consideration on improving the incentives on offer through producer responsibility schemes
25 Year Environment Plan ⁶	Jan '18	Three key aims relating to waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the production stage, we will encourage producers to take more responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products and rationalise the number of different types of plastic in use • At the end of use stage, we will make it easier for people to recycle by: • At the end of life/waste management stage, we will improve the rate of recycling

Also within the 25 Year Environment Plan, Defra commits to publishing a new Resources and Waste strategy in 2018: "It will set out our approach to reducing waste, promoting markets for secondary materials, incentivising producers to design better products and how we can better manage materials at the end of life by targeting environmental impacts." It is believed that a draft strategy will be consulted upon in autumn 2018.

3.5 *Waste trends*

3.5.1 At the time of writing, the latest statistical update from Defra covers the calendar year 2016. The official England waste from households recycling rate for 2016 was 44.9%. This rate includes for the first time the percentage of metal recovered and recycled from waste which has been through incineration. For 2016 this raises the waste from households recycling rate by around 0.7 percentage points. Residual waste treated increased by 1.3 per cent to 12.5 million tonnes in 2016 from 12.4 million tonnes in 2015. In broad terms, England's recycling rate has plateaued in recent years.

3.6 *Courtauld Commitment on food waste*

3.6.1 WRAP have been working with retailers and manufacturers since 2005 via a series of "Courtauld Commitments," aiming to reduce the weight and carbon impact of household food

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/the-uks-industrial-strategy>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

waste, grocery product and packaging waste, both in the home and the UK grocery sector. The latest commitment is known as “Courtauld 2025⁷.” PI is a signatory to this agreement, and has therefore committed to reduce food waste and engages in cross-sector programmes to achieve improvements across the supply chain.

4 PI Action Plan 2018-21

4.1 In order to meet the aims of the JMWMS and the challenges described, the action plan will consist of the following actions.

Action 1	Communications and Behaviour Change
Detail	<p>Increasing capture of and reducing contamination of materials collected for recycling by PI will have a significant impact upon whole system costs. There is no current county-wide communication programme. However, the following is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on local communications by each partner authority. • When appropriate work together on communications where an approach will have a known impact or clear business case, and pursue external funding to this end, including partnerships with other sectors. • Sharing of best practice in communications among PI partners e.g. via Recycling officer group. • Development of an agreed set of FAQs, to ensure that messages across Hampshire are consistent. • PI Executive will continue social media programme • HCC to share results of Behavioural Insights work, and scale up activity depending on results
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing material capture rates • Reducing partnership wide and WCA-specific contamination rates • Reducing Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) residue rate
How will this be measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring capture, contamination and residue rates via the Materials Analysis Facility • Benchmarking of data with other LAs and MRFs
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All PI partners • Led by Head of Project Integra
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At partner level • External funding where available • Business cases presented where appropriate
Timescale	2018-21

⁷ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/courtauld-commitment-2025>

Action 2	Impact of New Developments
Detail	An estimated 64,000 households are expected in Hampshire by 2023. This will put significant strain on both waste collection and disposal infrastructure. The impacts require further investigation, to allow authorities to plan for future service provision. A PI Working Group has developed Terms of Reference to guide the work.
What would success look like?	Deliver a final report, to include recommendations for waste officers, planners and senior decision makers.
How will this be measured?	Successful delivery of final report and a model Supplementary Planning Document on waste and recycling.
Responsibility	PI Working Group
Resources	PI officers in the working group are investigating different subject areas and reporting back to the group on a regular basis.
Timescale	Final report by September 2018

Action 3	Waste Prevention Plan (WPP)
Detail	Implementation of separate PI WPP 2017-19, approved by PISB in June 2017 (further detail available within that plan). Key activity to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report on progress (June) • Bulky waste – improving diversion of bulky waste, via a mix of system changes and partnership working. • Organics – programme of activity around food waste reduction and home composting • Waste collection policies – reviewing and developing new waste collection policies that may reduce waste – collection frequencies, size and number of waste containers etc.
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit annual increases in residual waste to 0.5% per annum. • Reduce organic and bulky waste
How will this be measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste tonnage data • Materials Analysis Facility (MAF) analysis
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of PI – monitoring of progress against WPP • Responsibilities around specific actions detailed in the approved WPP - all Project Integra authorities have a role
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI WP working group where appropriate • Resources allocated via HCC WP workstream
Timescale	Approved plan of activity up to June 2019

Action 4	Hampshire Waste Partnership Project
Detail	<p>The Hampshire Waste Partnership Project will shape the medium to long term future for recycling services in the future. There are two strongly linked workstreams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a final business case for changes to input specification and configuration of MRF infrastructure – and implement recommendations as appropriate • Identify best way of reducing whole system costs via relationships between PI partners, and the tools to do so (constitution, MoU, JMWMS etc.)
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased recycling rates • Reduced whole system costs
How will this be measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste data and MAF analysis • Monitoring of cost benefits
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently led by HIOWLA with PI support
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At individual partner level as required • PI Strategy and Collaboration Group is supporting development of the project
Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case by summer 2018 • Implementation timetable TBC based on outcome of business case

Action 5	Joint Working outside of PI
Detail	<p>Ensure engagement with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste partnerships (esp. in the south east region) • Other networks including National Association of Waste Disposal Officers • Central Govt, to influence future policy development – particularly important in 2018 with increased focus on plastics and Defra's development of a new waste and resources strategy
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased opportunities for performance improvement and reduced costs, and influence of future waste policy
How will this be measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commentary provided by head of PI in annual action plan update
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by Head of Project Integra
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer time and resources as required
Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018-21

Action 6	Health and Safety
Detail	<p>Through the PI group Common Approach to Safety and Health (CASH) ensure best practice shared and projects delivered by task and finish groups, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reversing safely - engage with national working groups and develop resource pack for partners
Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in lost-time incidents in Hampshire
How will this be measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of H&S statistics • Produce annual report for PISB on the progress made by the group • Influence national H&S debate through multi-agency H&S forums
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Project Integra, Chair of CASH
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual partner officer time.
Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report at June PISB.

Action 7	Glass Processing Contract
Detail	<p>PI authorities have a joint contract for processing of glass collected at kerbside or via bringsites and HWRCs. Current contract ends in July 2018. The following is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete procurement process for processing of glass collected via kerbside, bring sites and HWRCs • Mobilise new contract, and monitor performance through first two years • Evaluate performance and make recommendation at end of initial two-year contract period
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure a value for money outlet for PI glass from 2018 and beyond. Achieve income levels at or above the national average.
How will this be measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of average values of collected glass. Other KPI monitoring via the new contract.
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Head of Project Integra in partnership with HCC as managing authority for the contract, and a PI working group.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As detailed in the glass processing partnering agreement
Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018-2021

Action 8	Training
Detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with existing joint training programme for front-line drivers (Certificates of Professional Competence) provided to EBC, FBC, NFDC • Renew CPC training post-2019 • Identify other training opportunities
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve better value for money and significant savings for Project Integra partners. • Produce annual report on progress.
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Head of Project Integra
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Integra Budget
Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018-21

Action 9	Waste Composition Analysis
Detail	<p>At the October 2017 PISB, it was agreed that a county-wide waste composition analysis would be undertaken during 2018. This analysis will require planning and a procurement process, as well as analysis and a final report to inform various workstreams.</p>
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of full waste composition analysis including final report
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Project Integra, HCC WP Manager, and a PI working group
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £100k budget made up of contributions from all PI partners
Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018

Action 10	Hampshire Flytipping Strategy
Detail	In February 2017 the PISB agreed that the Hampshire Flytipping Strategy ⁸ would be supported by PI via the governance systems already in place. Flytipping was an area of growing concern with the county. The strategy has the following vision: <i>“A future for Hampshire where we work together to ensure that all parties take responsibility for their waste, so as to bring about a significant reduction in the unacceptable social, economic and environmental harm caused by flytipping.”</i>
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flytipping strategy itself contain three key aims and numerous objectives • The overall goal is a reduction in flytipping in Hampshire
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flytipping Partnership and Project Officer (HCC) • Support from private and public partners and stakeholders
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flytipping Partnership and Project Officer funded by HCC and jointly hosted by Trading Standards and Waste and Resource Management • Partner input to working groups and the overall strategy as required
Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer post is funded initially to July 2019 • Flytipping Strategy has no end date but will be reviewed as and when appropriate.

5 Resources

5.1 The forecast for the PI Executive and Materials Analysis Facility for the next three years is given in Table 1 below:

	18/19	19/20	20/21
Expenditure			
Staff costs	£79,767	£83,786	£88,005
Communications & Research SLA	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000
Other costs	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
Net Expenditure	£105,767	£109,786	£114,005

Note that these are estimates only, and that more accurate forecasts will be given annually in the annual report on Action Plan progress. Authority contributions are based on:

- Executive - total number of households with elements for collection (80%) and disposal (20%);
- Materials Analysis Facility – one third WCAs (evenly split), one third WDAs (split no. households), one third VES.

The contributions for each authority are set out in Table 2.

5.2 Proposals to utilise the current underspend held on the PI account will be agreed by the PI Strategic Board as and when required.

5.3 Individual partner authorities will need to give consideration to how they will support

⁸ <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/waste-prevention/fly-tipping-strategy.pdf>

the actions in this plan, through staff or other resources, to ensure the partnership achieves its objectives.

Table 2

Authority Contributions

	2018-19			2019-20			2020-21		
	PI Executive	MAF	Total	PI Executive	MAF	Total	PI Executive	MAF	Total
Basingstoke	7,671	6,785	14,456	7,962	7,021	14,983	8,267	7,302	15,569
East Hampshire	5,338	6,785	12,123	5,540	7,021	12,561	5,753	7,302	13,055
Eastleigh	5,649	6,785	12,434	5,863	7,021	12,884	6,088	7,302	13,390
Fareham	5,103	6,785	11,888	5,297	7,021	12,318	5,500	7,302	12,802
Gosport	3,840	6,785	10,625	3,986	7,021	11,007	4,139	7,302	11,441
Hart	3,984	6,785	10,769	4,135	7,021	11,156	4,294	7,302	11,596
Havant	5,653	6,785	12,438	5,867	7,021	12,888	6,092	7,302	13,394
New Forest	8,440	6,785	15,225	8,760	7,021	15,781	9,096	7,302	16,398
Portsmouth	11,736	16,988	28,724	12,181	17,545	29,726	12,649	18,212	30,861
Rushmoor	4,094	6,785	10,879	4,249	7,021	11,270	4,412	7,302	11,714
Southampton	13,699	18,797	32,496	14,218	19,516	33,734	14,763	20,363	35,126
Test Valley	5,463	6,785	12,248	5,670	7,021	12,691	5,888	7,302	13,190
Winchester	5,312	6,785	12,097	5,513	7,021	12,534	5,725	7,302	13,027
Hampshire	15,137	65,987	81,124	15,710	68,257	83,967	16,312	70,957	87,269
Veolia	4,648	88,202	92,851	4,834	91,276	96,111	5,028	94,927	99,955
Total	105,767	264,607	370,374	109,785	273,829	383,614	114,006	284,782	398,788

SAFER NEW FOREST PARTNERSHIP PLAN – 2018/19

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that certain prescribed agencies in each district must form a statutory community safety partnership - 'the partnership'. This Council is one of these agencies. The remit of the partnership is to provide strategic direction on the statutory responsibilities of the relevant partner agencies in the area of Community Safety.

1.2 The prescribed agencies are:

- The District Council
- The County Council
- The Police
- The Probation Service (represented locally by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company)
- The Fire and Rescue Service
- The Clinical Commissioning Group

The New Forest Community Safety Partnership is known as 'Safer New Forest'. In addition to the above agencies, meetings are also attended by representatives of Children's Services, Community First, the Forestry Commission, the New Forest National Park Authority and the Youth Offending Team.

1.3 Primarily the partnership is required to prepare an annual Strategic Assessment of prescribed information (relating to crime and disorder) and to prepare an annual Partnership Plan based on the evidence obtained from the strategic assessment to support the reduction of reoffending, crime and disorder and combating substance misuse in the area.

2. ACTION PLAN

2.1 The Safer New Forest Partnership Plan 2018/19 (**Appendix 1**) contains the four priorities that the partnership has identified for the forthcoming year. The priorities are:

1. Children at risk
2. Modern slavery and human trafficking
3. Drug related harm
4. Develop consistent recognition and access to support for victims of domestic abuse

2.2 The Partnership Plan sets out a detailed action plan to support the identified priorities, as well as demonstrating how the partnership will meet its obligations to engage with the community.

- 2.3 This Council as part of the domestic abuse forum, is one of the lead partners for the actions related to reducing domestic abuse.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 For the financial year 2018/19 provision has been made for the Council to contribute the sum of £11,240 to support the actions of the partnership and delivery of the Partnership Plan.

4. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The delivery of the Partnership Plan will hopefully result in the reduction of reoffending, crime and disorder and substance misuse in the District.

5. PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS

- 5.1 I am supportive of this year's Partnership Plan and hope the delivery of the action plan will improve the lives of those affected by crime and disorder in the District.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That it be a recommendation to the Council that the Safer New Forest Partnership Plan 2018/2019 be approved.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

Attached.

Safer New Forest Partnership Plan 2018/19

The New Forest is one of the safest places in the UK to live in, work in and visit. The Safer New Forest Partnership is working to make it even safer.



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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The Safer New Forest Partnership ('the Partnership') is required by law to make an annual Partnership Plan to set out a strategy for the reduction of re-offending and crime and disorder and combating substance misuse for the New Forest area.
- 1.2** This strategy will be implemented through an action plan (Appendix 1) devised by the Partnership to address key crime and disorder priorities for the area.
- 1.3** The Partnership Plan draws upon evidence contained within and is informed by the Safer New Forest Strategic Assessment 2017, which was approved in January 2017. That document provides a detailed analysis of crime in the New Forest area. The priorities included in this Plan have been identified following an examination of the Strategic Assessment.
- 1.4** The Partnership Plan (and associated action plan) will run from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 and will be reviewed regularly by the Partnership during this time.

2 PRIORITIES

- 2.1** The Partnership has identified the following priorities:
- 2.2**
 - 1. Children at risk
 - 2. Modern slavery and human trafficking
 - 3. Drug related harm
 - 4. Develop consistent recognition and access to support for victims of domestic abuse
- 2.3** For each priority a lead Partner(s) has been agreed by the Partnership. The lead partner has identified, in consultation with the Partnership, the actions which will be taken throughout the year to address the relevant priority, how the success of those actions will be measured and what resources will be required. This is set out in the Partnership's action plan.
- 2.4** Each lead partner will be responsible for developing more detailed targets and a strategy for the delivery of the actions throughout the year.
- 2.5** The progress that each lead partner is making on the action plan will be monitored by the Partnership throughout the year.
- 2.6** This Partnership Plan (including the action plan) is a living document and may be amended over the course of the year to reflect the ongoing work addressing the priorities.

3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1 The Partnership is required to make arrangements for engagement with the local community.
- 3.2 The Partnership considers that the views of people and organisations living and working in the New Forest area are a vital source of information to assist with the delivery of its Partnership Plan. In particular, the Partnership has sought, and will continue to seek, to obtain views on the levels and patterns of re-offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area and on the priorities for the Partnership in the future. In addition, the Partnership is always open to hearing of any ways local people feel they might be able to assist with reducing re-offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area.
- 3.3 In order to achieve improved community engagement, the Partnership has established formal links with the New Forest District Association of Local Councils. The Association currently meets four times per year and representatives of the Partnership have been invited to address two of those meetings each year to ascertain the views of local representatives on crime and disorder concerns and priorities in their areas. Representatives of the local councils were invited to attend the September meeting of the Partnership to bring forward information and concerns. In addition to providing valuable input into decision-making on priorities for the coming year, the Partnership found the opportunity to engage with local community leaders extremely useful in the wider context of crime and fear of crime.
- 3.4 The Partnership also has a website which can be accessed by members of the public. <http://www.safer.newforest.gov.uk/15868> .
- 3.5 Members of the public who wish to provide comments on the Partnership Plan generally, wish the Partnership to consider their views on patterns and levels of reoffending, crime and disorder and substance misuse in the New Forest area, or consider that they may be able to assist with the delivery of this Partnership Plan, may contact the Partnership in the following ways:

By emailing: safernewforest@nfdc.gov.uk

By telephoning: 02380 285438

Or writing to: Safer New Forest, New Forest District Council, Appletree Court, Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7PA.

4 PUBLISHING

- 4.1 Both the Safer New Forest Strategic Assessment 2017 and this Safer New Forest Partnership Plan 2018/2019 will be published on the Safer New Forest website.

5 2017/2018 PRIORTIES

- 5.1 In 2017, the Partnership identified the priorities for the 2017/2018 Partnership Plan as follows:

- 5.2
1. Tackle the cause and effects of anti-social behaviour
 2. Tackle the causal effects of offending behaviour and reoffending with a focus on violent crime
 3. Continue to support the partnership and community in preventing arson related incidents
 4. Support victims of domestic abuse
 5. Promote road safety with an emphasis on killed and serious injury
 6. Reducing rural crime

- 5.3 The above listed priorities, although they do not form part of the Strategic Partnership Plan for 2018/2019 they will continue to be “business as usual” and are still being supported and maintained by their lead workers and agencies. The objectives of these will continue to be driven and supported by the partnership and lead members will update the Safer New Forest Strategy and Delivery Group of any emerging developments.

- 5.4 The chart below demonstrates the operational forums to support this year’s priorities. Each forum will oversee an individual priority of the 2018/19 plan. With the participation and assistance of core partners from statutory and non-statutory providers who will develop and implement the priorities to achieve their objectives. The lead officer will provide regular updates to the partnership through participation and attendance at the Safer New Forest Strategy and Delivery Group each quarter.



Safer New Forest Partnership Plan 2018/2019 – Action Plan

	Priority area	Lead Forum	Action		Measurement of Action	Resource Allocation
1	Children at Risk	Supporting Families/ Children & Young People Group	1.1	Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group members to ensure employees within their respective agencies utilise the virtual college network as funded by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children’s Board (HSCB) with a particular focus on: Identifying, responding to and referring children at risk of harm to appropriate services. i.e. child sexual exploitation.	Training records evidencing that training is up to date and an increase in reporting and access to support services.	Resource material available through the HSCB funded virtual college.
			1.2	To raise awareness of increased risk of harm and exploitation of young people through the medium of digital and online technology.	Access support services. Reporting and recording through reported offences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting New Forest Families and Children & Young People Group • Commissioning of the Star project for targeted delivery at youth group facilities

	Priority area	Lead Forum	Action	Measurement of Action	Resource Allocation
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Teachers Network • Safe4Me school programme educational material • The participation of partners from New Forest Association of Local Councils • It's Your Choice targeted Youth Support service • Early Help Hub • Willow Team
			<p>1.3 Supporting New Forest Families & Children and Young People Group to drive opportunities in identifying and minimising harm to young people who are at risk of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • criminal behaviour/exploitation • sexual exploitation • substance misuse/abuse 	<p>Identification resulting in increased access to Supporting New Forest Families Programme & Early Help Hub Nominations with a focus on eligibility criteria consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • criminal behaviour/exploitation • sexual exploitation • substance misuse/abuse • Improved use of 	<p>Supporting New Forest Families and Children and Young People Group.</p> <p>Access to funds for targeted work through the: Safer New Forest Strategic & Delivery Group Supporting New forest Families fund.</p>

	Priority area	Lead Forum	Action	Measurement of Action	Resource Allocation
				documented safety planning when formulating supporting family plans.	
			<p>1.4 Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group and Supporting New Forest Families Programme to develop and facilitate a district wide conference.</p> <p>The focus of which is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide practitioner based workshops raising awareness and understanding of all forms of risk and harm to children. • Create a greater understanding of the needs within the community and resources available. 	<p>Attendance and participation by staff of Safer New Forest Strategy and Delivery Group</p> <p>Participation of colleagues from education, Third sector and drug and alcohol services</p> <p>Improved networking and access to support services post conference.</p> <p>Increase in understanding and earlier awareness of children/young people at risk.</p>	Funding available through the Supporting New forest Families and the Safer new forest Strategy and Delivery Group.
2	Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking	Modern Slavery Partnership with representation from Hampshire	2.1 Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group members to raise public and professional awareness and understanding of Modern Slavery &	<p>Through positive engagement with support services.</p> <p>Confidence in identifying and</p>	The lead partner will represent the Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group at the Hampshire County Council Modern Slavery

	Priority area	Lead Forum	Action	Measurement of Action	Resource Allocation
		Fire & Rescue Steve Ash, New Forest Group Commander	Human Trafficking through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent training across agencies • Awareness of signposting and referral mechanisms • Joint public communications and publications across all services. 	signposting to support services through local and national referral mechanisms. The New Forest to be a hostile environment to facilitators of Modern Slavery through increased awareness, identification and improved reporting.	Partnership to enable communication, awareness and training.
			2.2 Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group Partnership to be represented and a participant of the Hampshire Modern Slavery Partnership.	Active participation and representation. Greater understanding of local and national emerging trends to support the local delivery.	Steve Ash, Group Commander Hampshire Fire and Rescue.
3	Drug & Alcohol Related Harm	Community Tactical Planning Meeting (CTPM) chaired by Rob Mitchell, Chief Inspector Hampshire Constabulary	3.1 Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group to raise awareness of drug and alcohol harm through the Schools network increasing access to support services.	Active participation of all New Forest educational establishments. Increase access to support services and identification of unmet needs. Reduction in children at risk of harm through substance misuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Teachers Network • Safe4Me school programme educational material • It's Your Choice targeted Youth Support service

	Priority area	Lead Forum		Action	Measurement of Action	Resource Allocation
			3.2	Create pathway for partners to share intelligence with the aim of reducing drug related harm through the development of the Community Tactical Planning Meeting (CTPM).	<p>Participation of partner within the CTPM.</p> <p>Improved intelligence and risk reduction through effective partnership.</p> <p>Actionable activities targeted towards the disruption drug supply within local communities.</p> <p>Identification and support to those at risk of drug and alcohol related harm</p>	Chief Insp Rob Mitchell with the participation of strategic partners
4	Develop consistent recognition and access to support for victims of domestic abuse	Domestic Abuse Forum	4.1	<p>Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group and Supporting New Forest Families Programme to develop and facilitate a district wide conference for public facing agencies. The aim is to support and enhance individual agencies strategies in understanding and responding to risk and harm.</p> <p>The focus of which is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide practitioner based workshops raising awareness and 	<p>Increase in accessing support services through sign posting and raising awareness.</p> <p>Increase in earlier awareness through recognition and understanding of pathways to accessing support.</p> <p>Increase in nominations to supportive and protective forums i.e. Early Help Hub,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse Forum. • Access to funds for targeted work through the: Safer New Forest Strategic & Delivery Group and Supporting New Forest Families fund. • Break 4 Change

	Priority area	Lead Forum	Action	Measurement of Action	Resource Allocation
			<p>understanding of all forms of risk and harm to children through Domestic Abuse, Substance misuse and Child Sexual Exploitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a greater understanding of the needs of the community, resources available and improved partnership working ensuring access to support services for people at risk. • Develop awareness, understanding and recognition of Adolescent to Parent Violence & Abuse (APVA) • Raise awareness and identify problem profiles for scope and opportunities to encourage reporting • Identify suitable front line staff to receive Break 4 Change training to cascade across the district area. 	<p>Supporting Families and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)</p> <p>Increase in protective services/measures inclusive of safety planning.</p> <p>Reduction of risk through safety planning.</p>	

	Priority area	Lead Forum	Action	Measurement of Action	Resource Allocation
			<p>4.2 Develop and implement a bespoke New Forest Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme through the Domestic Abuse Forum partnership.</p> <p>The aim of which is to have an accessible programme for participation and intervention before criminal justice intervention.</p>	<p>Measurement of identified risk pre and post course participation</p> <p>Reduction in Police & Criminal justice intervention</p> <p>Reduction in risk through safety planning and participation with support services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse Forum Partnership • Externalised funds through the Supporting New Forest Families Programme and Safer New Forest Strategy and Delivery Group.

CABINET– 4 APRIL 2018

PORTFOLIO: FINANCE, CORPORATE
SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENT / ALL

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (2017/18 provisional outturn)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides a provisional outturn on the 2017/18 budget following on from the previous monitoring report to Cabinet in November.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An important element of the Council's financial strategy includes a continuous review of activities and services in order to identify opportunities for savings in expenditure alongside opportunities to generate income. This has been successful in addressing the significant reductions in government funding whilst at the same time maintaining key service levels. Budget monitoring reports form an important part of this process and support the ongoing development of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- 2.2 It is important that this report is reviewed in the context of the MTFP as it includes savings and incomes generated as a result of the Council's need to deliver a balanced budget going forward.

3. GENERAL FUND 2017/18 OUTTURN PROJECTION

- 3.1 A General Fund budget of £16.587m for 2017/18 was agreed by Council in February 2017. Net positive variations reported to Cabinet in August and November amounted to **£449k** and a reduced updated budget total for 2017/18 of **£16.138m**.
- 3.2 This report identifies new positive budget variations of **£1.430m** (of which £337k returned to reserves) and new budget requirements of **£301k**. In addition, the report identifies budgets rephased to later years of **£438k** with the amount returned to reserves. **The latest General Fund estimated outturn for 2017/18 is now £15.346m**. Table 1 provides an overview of the variations and full details are provided in sections 3.5 to 3.7:

Table 1	Para.	Savings £'000	New Req. £'000	Rephasing £'000	Total £'000
Original Budget April 2017/18					16,587
Variations agreed in August	3.1	-499	567	1,146	1,214
Transfer from Reserves in August	3.1		-150	-1,146	-1,296
Variations agreed in November	3.1	-392	25	-416	-783
Transfer from Reserves in November	3.1			416	416
Updated Budget November 2017/18		-891	442	0	16,138
Portfolio Items	3.5/3.6	-1,303	301	-140	-1,142
Asset Maintenance / Replacement	3.7	-127		-235	-362
Business Development / Third Party	3.8			-63	-63
Total Budget Variations This Period		-1,430	301	-438	-1,567
Transfer to Reserves This Period		337		438	775
Provisional Outturn 31 March 2018		-1,984	743	0	15,346

- 3.3 When the final yearend position is established, a review of the variations will be undertaken to determine which are on-going and not yet reflected in the 2018/19 budget or forward looking MTFP.
- 3.4 The level of incomplete projects and so rephasings required from 2017/18 (outlined in more detail in 3.7) will necessitate a review of the total revised 2018/19 programme to ensure that the updated 2018/19 budget, including the rephased projects, reflects a deliverable programme. The outcome of this exercise will be included on the first Financial Monitoring report of 2018/19 (August '18 Cabinet).
- 3.5 The following table confirms the Portfolio variations between expenditure and income. The significant individual variations are then listed in section 3.6:

Table 2	Expenditure Savings £'000	Additional Income £'000	New Requirements £'000	Income Shortfalls £'000
Finance, Corporate Services and Improvement	-126	-380	20	
Environment & Regulation	-375	-15	10	
Leisure & Wellbeing	-44			
Housing Services	-50			
Planning & Infrastructure	-76	-60	98	143
Local Economy, Property & Innovation	-137	-40		
Community Affairs				30
	-808	-495	128	173
		-1,303		301

3.6 SIGNIFICANT PORTFOLIO ITEMS

Savings Total; £1.303m (of which £337k returned to reserves*)

- £350k – Further investments into diversified pooled funds have improved the overall yield on the Council's interest earnings, as has the base rate increase that occurred in November (F,CS&I).
- £200k* – Expenditure incurred on the successful roll out of the Kerbside glass recycling scheme was lower than anticipated, so the one-off funding received will be credited to reserves, with a view to being utilised in the new developing Waste Strategy (ENV & REG).
- £137k* – Lower than anticipated expenditure has been incurred in 2017/18 from the Community Housing Fund, so the budget will be returned to the earmarked reserve (LE,P&I).
- £80k – As a result of fee increases implemented from 1 January, additional parking clock income has been received (£60k). Expenditure within the parking account is also expected to be lower than the budget (£20k) (P&I).
- £75k – Expenditure on Streetscene has been lower than the budget across various areas, including staffing, hired and contracted services and fuel (ENV & REG).

New Requirements Total; £301k

- £80k – A large planning application originally expected in 2017/18 will now be received in 2018/19 (P&I).
- £75k – One off costs have been incurred as a result of a restructure of the Building Control service. Income is also down against the budgeted target (P&I).

Rephasings; £140k

- £140k – The recharge of material onto Milford-on-Sea beach typically takes place in October and March each year. More time has been required this year to arrange the order, which means the supply and associated works will take place early April. The budget is being rephased to accommodate this one-off revised timescale (ENV & REG).

3.7 ASSET MAINTENANCE / REPLACEMENT

Savings; £127k

- £127k – The overall total is £133k, of which £6k relates to the Housing Revenue Account. The impact on the General Fund is therefore a reduction in costs of £127k;

	GF	HRA
• Offices & Depots	£63k	£6k
• Health & Leisure	£64k	

Rephasings; £235k

- £235k – incomplete projects in need of rephasing to future years total £235k;

• Offices & Depots	£23k
• P&T (Parking)	£43k

- Health & Leisure £144k
- Environment £25k

3.8 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT/THIRD PARTY GRANTS

Rephasings; £63k

- £63k - Community Grants of £63k need rephasing into 2018/19.

4. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account)

4.1 The Capital Programme agreed in February 2017 amounted to £21.266m. Net Budget reductions reported in August amounted to **£156k** and this, together with net rephasings into 2017/18 of **£1.892m** resulted in a revised capital budget of **£23.002m**.

4.2 This is now increased to a revised capital budget of **£24.418m** to reflect net budget adjustments of **£2.549m** and net rephasings of schemes to future years of **£1.133m**, as outlined in tables 3 and 4 below:

Table 3	Savings £'000	New Req. £'000	Rephasing £'000	Total £'000
Original Budget April 2017/18				21,266
Previously Reported				
Public Sector Housing	-150		74	-76
Other Services (General Fund)	-214	208	1,818	1,812
Updated Budget November 2017	-364	208	1,892	23,002
New Variations				
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	-570	1,350	-599	181
Other Services (General Fund)	-452	2,221	-534	1,195
Total New Variations	-1,022	3,571	-1,133	1,416
Provisional Outturn 31 March 2018	-1,386	3,779	759	24,418

Table 4	Savings £'000	New Req. £'000	Rephasing £'000
Section 106 Developments	-350		-750
Older Persons Schemes Allocations	-130		
Env Enhancements	-90		
Stocklands New Build			-400
Major Repairs		800	
Disabled Facilities Adaptations		550	
Development at Compton/Sarum Site			551
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	-570	1,350	-599
Disabled Facilities Adaptations	-232		
Social Housing Grant	-100		
Open Space Schemes	-60		-30
Private Sector Renewal	-40		
V&P; Replacement Programme	-20		-231
Investment Property Acquisition		2,203	
Transport Schemes		18	8
Hurst Spit			-246
Procurement of Cemeteries Land			-20
Milford on Sea Environmental Enhancements			-15
Other Services (General Fund)	-452	2,221	-534

5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

5.1 A break-even HRA budget for 2017/18 was agreed in February 2017. The following table summarises the revised position, taking into account the previously reported and new variations (detailed in paragraphs 5.2 – 5.4):

Table 5	Original Budget £'000	Previously Reported Variations £'000	New Variations (Para. 5.2 - 5.4) £'000
Income	-27,919	-90	19
Revenue Maintenance	4,961		-800
Supervision & Management	5,122	-63	-6
Rents, Rates, Taxes & Other Charges	11		
Provision for Bad Debt	150		
Capital Financing Costs	8,584		
Contribution to Capital	9,091		-369
	27,919	-153	-1,156

5.2 The majority of the £800k variation as included in the table above relates to the transferal of the Disabled Facilities Adaptations budget into the Capital programme (£550k), coupled with a lesser forecast spend on adaptations of £150k.

- 5.3 Although the overall Public Sector Capital programme has increased as outlined in section 4, the Better Care Fund will be utilised to finance the Disabled Facilities Adaptations. The HRA contribution towards the capital programme will therefore reduce by £369k to reflect the net project savings and rephasings.
- 5.4 In accordance with current policy any underspend in the Housing Revenue Account at the year-end, after ensuring the optimum use of capital and revenue resources available, will be transferred to the Acquisitions and Development Reserve, retaining the current Housing Revenue Account general reserve balance at c£1m.

6. BUSINESS RATES EQUALISATION RESERVE

- 6.1 The scale of Business Rates retained by the Council under the Business Rate Retention Scheme, and the amount by which this value can fluctuate year on year, gives rise to potentially significant financial implications to the Council's General Fund and medium term budget forecasting process. For context, the Council's original budget for 2017/18 for Business Rates was £4.189m. The equivalent budget for 2018/19 has been set at £5.028m.
- 6.2 The establishment of a Business Rates Equalisation Reserve is commonplace amongst many other councils. Transferring large variations as against original budget forecasts to/from an equalisation reserve gives added certainty to the budgeted Business Rate income figures as per the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning. The Medium Term Financial Plan allows for forecast rates retention, but cannot readily estimate collection fund performance beyond the single on-coming financial year. The fund can easily swing from a large deficit in one year, to a surplus in the next (as was the case 17/18 to 18/19).
- 6.3 Late changes made to the Business Rate Retention Scheme mean that the Council is going to be in a position to set up the equalisation reserve in 2018/19. This means that any significant fluctuations as against the current forecast budgeted figures as per the Council's latest Medium Term Financial Plan can be avoided at this early stage, adding increased certainty to the current known gravity of the overall financial challenge ahead.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER / EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Crime & Disorder, Equality & Diversity or Environmental implications arising directly from this report.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 8.1 As a forward-looking Council we not only continue to meet the economic challenges whilst maintaining and, in some cases, enhancing the services that our residents value but also planning to address the changing landscape that is local government.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) notes the latest budget forecasts of the General Fund (para 3.2), Capital (para 4.2) and HRA (para 5.1) for 2017/18.
- b) notes the establishment of the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

Financial Monitoring Report 02-08-17
Financial Monitoring Report 02-11-17
Medium Term Financial Plan 07-02-18

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