

# Learning and Skills Portfolio - Summary

## Performance Summary

- The Portfolio has a number of performance highlights to report this quarter:
  - Although Ofsted suspended full inspections of schools during much of the academic year, 11 of our schools and academies received short inspection visits during the summer term. These visits were to assess schools previously found to be good and to ensure that those requiring improvement were still making progress towards being good. All of the reports published show that the schools have remained good or are taking effective action to become good. It is anticipated that full inspections will resume in September 2021.
  - The number of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) in West Sussex schools has been rising since 2018 and continues to do so. In the first quarter of this financial year, 1,271 new free school meal awards were made. Overall, there are currently 16,297 children receiving FSM in West Sussex schools.

## Our Council Performance Measures

Learning and Skills		2021/22 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Performance Analysis	Actions	Year End Forecast
21	The percentage of young people attaining Grade 4 and above for Maths and English GCSE by age of 16 years old  Reporting Frequency: Annually	67.0%	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21		The government has said that many exams and assessments cannot be held fairly this year as a result of the disruption students have faced due to the pandemic. Teachers will instead submit grades to the exam boards, based on their assessment of the student. These results will not be comparable to previous years. As in 2020, the DfE will not publish institution level data based on 2021 key stage 1 and 2 assessments, tests, GCSEs, AS levels, A levels, other regulated general qualifications, or vocational and technical qualifications.	This data will not be available for others, such as Ofsted or local authorities. Those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams and local authorities, should use data from previous years as a starting point for discussions around a school's or college's performance but should not use 2020 or 2021 results data for this purpose.	G
			65.4%	66.2%	72.2%	↗			
25	Percentage of schools with OFSTED rating 'good' or 'outstanding'  Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	88.5%			Mar-20		OFSTED inspections may resume in September 2021	Not applicable	A
			No Data Available	No Data Available	87.6%	→			
26	Percentage of pupils and students accessing Ofsted 'good' or 'outstanding' schools  Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	88.0%			Mar-20		OFSTED inspections may resume in September 2021	Not applicable	A
			No Data Available	No Data Available	86.6%	→			
27	Percentage achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of Key Stage 2  Reporting Frequency: Annually	64.0%	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		Next results due Nov 2021.  The government has said that many exams and assessments cannot be held fairly this year as a result of the disruption students have faced due to the pandemic. Teachers will instead submit grades to the exam boards, based on their assessment of the student. These results will not be comparable to previous years and will not be available for others, such as Ofsted or local authorities. As in 2020, the DfE will not publish institution level data based on 2021 key stage 1 and 2 assessments, tests, GCSEs, AS levels, A levels, other regulated general qualifications, or vocational and technical qualifications.	Those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams and local authorities, should use data from previous years as a starting point for discussions around a school's or college's performance but should not use 2020 or 2021 results data for this purpose.	A
			55.0%	61.8%	62.7%	↗			

28	Average attainment 8 score of students at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths Reporting Frequency: Annually	47.5	2018/19 46.6	2019/20 46.9	2020/21 50.3 ↗	Next results due Nov 2021.  The government has said that many exams and assessments cannot be held fairly this year as a result of the disruption students have faced due to the pandemic. Teachers will instead submit grades to the exam boards, based on their assessment of the student. These results will not be comparable to previous years. As in 2020, the DfE will not publish institution level data based on 2021 key stage 1 and 2 assessments, tests, GCSEs, AS levels, A levels, other regulated general qualifications, or vocational and technical qualifications.	This data will not be available for others, such as Ofsted or local authorities. Those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams and local authorities, should use data from previous years as a starting point for discussions around a school's or college's performance but should not use 2020 or 2021 results data for this purpose.	A
29	Percentage attainment gap of disadvantaged pupils compared with non-disadvantaged peers at the end of Key Stage 2 Reporting Frequency: Annually	24.0%	2017/18 23.3%	2018/19 23.4%	2019/20 25.3% ↘	No results collected for 2021 due to the pandemic	Not applicable	A
30	Combined percentage of 16-17-year olds that are Not in Education, Education and Training or whose activity is not known (3-month average Dec-Feb annually) Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	7.0%	Sep-20 20.8%	Dec-20 8.2%	Mar-21 7.1% ↗	Next results due March 2021.  For the 3-month period from December 2020 to February 2021, West Sussex improved the NEET and Not Known figure by 4.2% compared to the previous year. This has narrowed the gap to England from 6.52% to 2.18% and the gap to South East from 5.54% to 1.25%.	Our team of careers advisors continue to offer support in a far more targeted way to help young people struggling to fulfil their career potential. Many are gradually re-engaging with education and training, many building up their confidence and skills by starting on short term employability courses before moving on to more full time education, training or employment opportunities. There remains a number of young people with complex issues for whom we are working with our partners to ensure the right support is made available for them so that they can also progress.	G

[Website link to Our Council Performance Measures here.](#)

## Finance Summary

### Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations

Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Year end budget variation (£m)
Covid-19 pandemic forecast expenditure	£1.399m	Assumed funding from Covid-19 grant	(£1.399m)	
Home to School Transport costs; predominantly Special Educational Needs	£2.263m	Staffing vacancies within the School Effectiveness Service	(£0.201m)	
2020/21 and 2021/22 trading services income saving at significant risk	£0.175m	Staffing vacancies and projected underspending on equipment within school catering service	(£0.148m)	
Crawley PFI contract inflation increase of 2.9% (April RPI) against budgeted estimate of 1.1%	£0.060m	Staffing vacancies within Inclusion and School Crossing Patrol Service	(£0.071m)	
		Other minor variations	(£0.157m)	
<b>Learning and Skills Portfolio - Total</b>	<b>£3.897m</b>		<b>(£1.976m)</b>	<b>£1.921m</b>

## Significant Financial Issues and Risks Arising

Key Financial Issues and Risks Arising		Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2020)	Q1		Action	Trajectory
L&S1	Destination mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receiving transport	Approximately one third of our children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) also receive transportation to their school.	No of pupils with EHCP transported to a mainstream school / SSC	207 (11.3%)	224 (11.4%) Increase of 8.2%	↗		↗
			No of pupils with EHCP transported to a special school	1,240 (67.8%)	1,265 (64.6%) Increase of 2.0%	↘		
			No of pupils with EHCP transported to independent placements	381 (20.8%)	468 (23.9%) Increase of 22.8%	↗		
			Total no of pupils with EHCP transported	1,828 (100%)	1,957 (100%) Increase of 7.1%	↔		
L&S2	Transport type mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receiving transport	Approximately one quarter of our children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who receive transport are transported on the County Council fleet. However, the majority are transported in an external taxi or minibus. This is an expensive option, however, and as a result a parental mileage rate has been introduced to encourage parents to transport their own child to and from school instead.	No of pupils with EHCP transported in an external taxi/minibus	1,331 (72.8%)	1,394 (71.2%) Increase of 4.7%	↘	Increased use of the County Council fleet is already a savings target in the current financial year. Phase 1 savings of £0.120m have been delivered because of action taken in 2020-21. The phase 2 savings of £0.180m are due to be delivered when the new academic year starts.	↗
			No of pupils with EHCP transported on County Council fleet	443 (24.2%)	462 (23.6%) Increase of 4.3%	↘		
			No of pupils with EHCP transported by parents	54 (2.9%)	101 (5.2%) Increase of 87%	↗		
			Total no of pupils with EHCP transported	1,828 (100%)	1,957 (100%) Increase of 7.1%	↔		
L&S3	Total number of routes required to transport pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	The number of externally contracted routes being undertaken has been on the increase over the last couple of years.	No. of transport routes	562	681 Increase of 21.2%	↗		↗
L&S4	Percentage of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receiving transport requiring a solo taxi	The biggest area of increased spend over the last couple of years has been in relation to solo taxis. Pupils receive solo taxi transport from home to school because of age, SEND or other circumstances e.g.,	No of single occupancy taxi routes	221	308 (15.7%) Increase of 39.4%	↗	A review of taxi provision for SEND pupils was undertaken in 2019/20. This review appeared to help moderate the overall pressure at the time but since then numbers have continued to rise. The	↗

		behaviour. Analysis shows around 35% of the pupils travelling alone in a solo taxi is due to needs, whilst the remaining 65% are due to geography/only child at the school.					Special Educational Needs Assessment Team (SENAT) have also reviewed the solo taxi approval process, and these now all go through scrutiny panel with transport representative invited to the meeting.	
L&S5	Daily transport cost of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receiving external transport	The daily cost of SEND external taxi and escort provision has been increasing annually by approximately 10% over the last couple of years. This is mostly due to increased demand (numbers of pupils with an EHCP requiring transport), but also due to additional inflation pressures such as minimum living wage.	Current daily cost of SEND external taxi provision across all provision	Average 2020/21 £52.1k	£56.0k <i>Increase of 7.5%</i>	↗		↗
			Current daily cost of SEND external escort provision across all provision	Average 2020/21 £10.6k	£11.3k <i>Increase of 6.6%</i>	↗		

## Significant Financial Issues and Risks Arising- *Dedicated Schools Grant*

Key Financial Issues and Risks Arising		Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2021)	Q1	Action	Trajectory
L&S6	Placement mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	Our High Needs expenditure is largely driven by the number of pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP). The 2021/22 budget has been set based on a further 500 pupils this year. Although overall growth so far this year is in line with this, a greater proportion of these children are being placed in more costly placements within the independent sector.	No of pupils with EHCP in mainstream school	1,949 (31.9%)	1,997 (32.0%)	↗	↗
			No of pupils with EHCP in special school / SSC	2,166 (35.4%)	2,183 (35.0%)	↘	
			No of pupils with EHCP in independent placements	615 (10.0%)	647 (10.4%)	↗	
			No of pupils with EHCP in other placement type	1,381 (22.6%)	1,416 (22.6%)	↔	
			Total no of pupils with EHCP	6,111 (100%)	6,243 (100%)	↔	
L&S7	Placement mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	The 2021/22 budget has been set based on a further 500 pupils with an EHCP this year. Although overall growth so far this year is in line with this, a greater proportion of these children are being placed in more costly	Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in mainstream school	1,949	48 (2.5%)	↗	↗
			Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in special school / SSC	2,166	17 (0.8%)	↗	

		placements within the independent sector.	Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in independent placements	615	32 (5.2%)	↗	additional places will be made available from September 2021. However, in the medium term, it is expected that the number of independent sector placements will continue to rise at a faster rate.	↗
			Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in other placement type	1,381	35 (2.5%)	↗		
			Total no of pupils with EHCP	6,111	132 (2.2%)	↗		

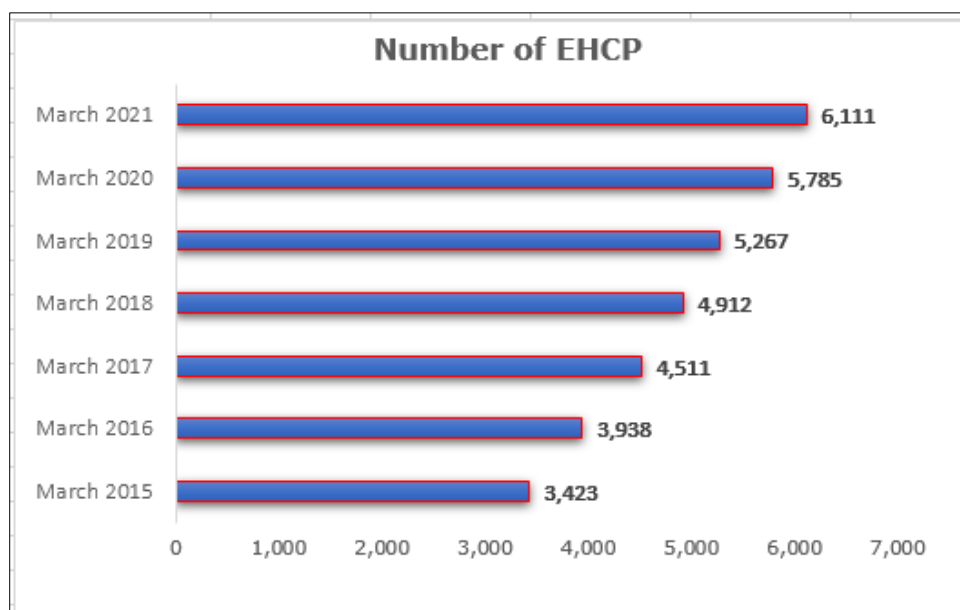
## Financial Narrative on the Portfolio's Position

1. The Learning and Skills Portfolio is projecting a £1.921m overspend.

- Home to School Transport - The service overspending is due to growing complexities, demand and costs which have continued to increase. An additional £0.8m has been added to the base budget for 2021/22, together with a saving of £0.5m to be achieved through increasing the internal fleet and greater taxi competition. The former internal fleet saving (£0.3m) is on track and will be mostly delivered when the new academic year starts but the latter saving (£0.2m) is currently reported at significant risk whilst work is undertaken to understand if there is any evidence of the taxi competition saving being achieved.
- School trading income has been significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic over the last 12 months, and therefore, the 2021/22 £0.150m saving is at significant risk and is not expected to be achieved.
- An inflationary pressure on the Crawley Schools PFI budget has emerged due to the recent increase in the rate of inflation following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. The contract is indexed in line with the Retail Price Index each April; the marked increase to 2.9% this April has led to an overspending of £0.060m against the budget.
- Staffing vacancies within the School Effectiveness, Inclusion Service and School Crossing Patrol and other underspending opportunities have assisted to reduce the overall overspending position by £0.577m.
- Pressure continues on the Dedicated Schools Grant with a projected overspending of £1.373m currently predicted in 2021/22. This is after allowing for a £7m transfer from DSG reserves which was agreed by Schools Forum when the 2021/22 budget was set. The DSG deficit is therefore set to increase from £10.388m to £18.761m this year.

## Cost Driver Information

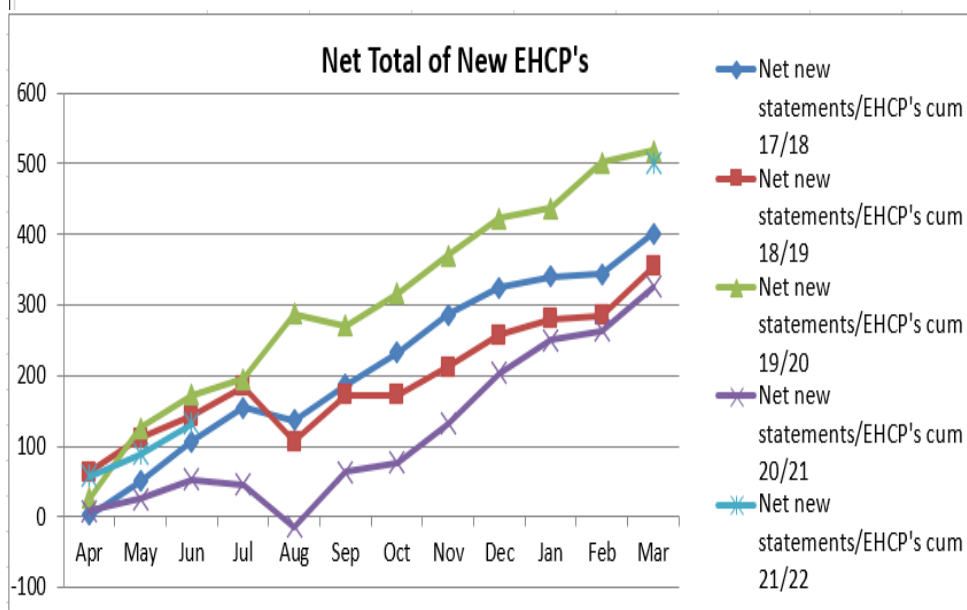
2. The Education and Health Care Plan assesses the needs of a child in the context of the Education budget, it is a major cost driver in relation to the Local Authority funded Home to School Transport budget and the DSG funded High Needs block.
3. One of the main reasons for the increasing level of EHCPs has been the extension of support to young people up to the age of 25. Statements previously lapsed at age 19, however since 2015 when the system was reformed, West Sussex, along with all other local authorities, has been supporting a new cohort of young people aged 19-25 for which they have received no additional funding. Fortunately, the educational needs of the majority of these additional pupils are met from within the funding that the colleges receive directly from government.



This graph shows the increasing number of children and young people with an EHCP in each financial year since March 2015.

Back then we had 3,423 children and young people with EHCPs, and since that time those numbers have risen significantly.

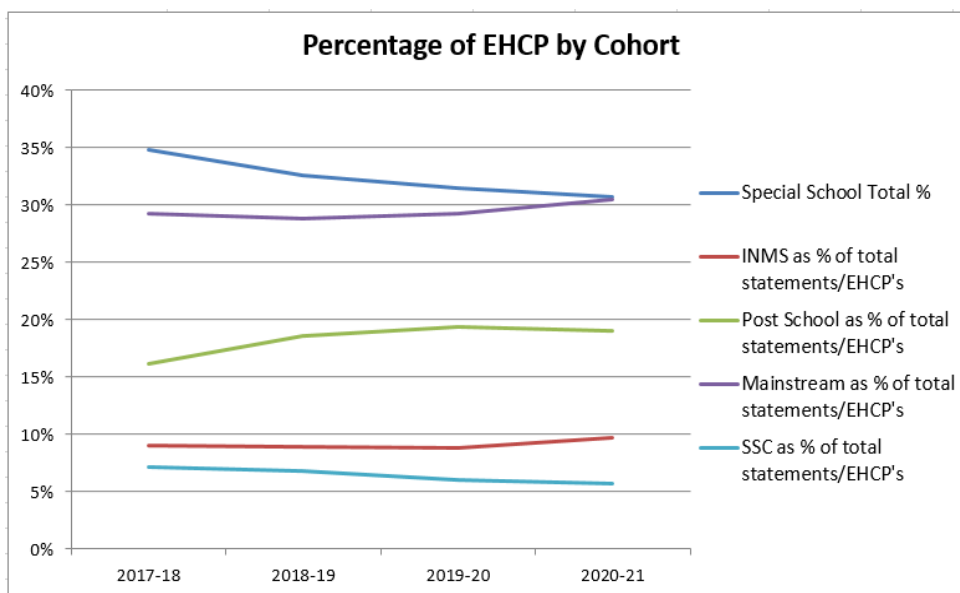
The 2021/22 budget assumes that numbers will increase by a further 500 to 6,611 by end of March 2022.



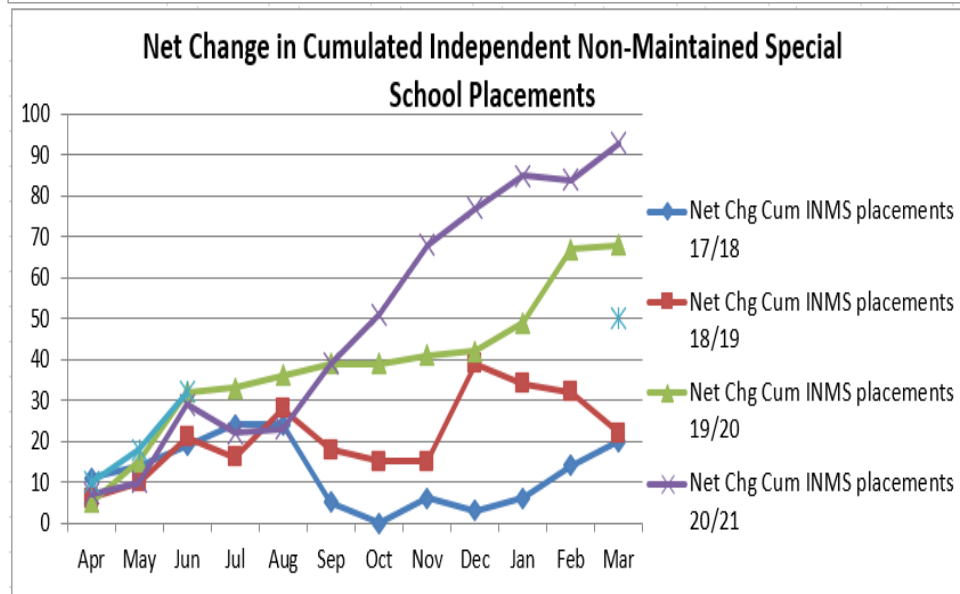
So far this year numbers have continued to rise – increasing by a further 132 as at the end of June 2021.

Currently the County Council has approx. 200 EHC needs assessments in process and additional resources have been recruited in order to deal with these.

We are therefore expecting overall EHCP numbers to continue rising sharply.



Although numbers have only increased by 2.16% so far this year, this pattern has not been seen across the board and the number of pupils in Independent and Non-maintained Sector (INMS) settings, in particular has continued to rise at a much higher rate (5.20%)



As can be seen from this graph, there appears to be no fixed pattern in the monthly change in INMS placement numbers, and therefore this makes it extremely difficult to forecast what level of spend is likely to be incurred in any given financial year.

The 2021/22 budget assumes that independent placement numbers will increase by a further 50 this financial year.

## Savings Delivery Update

- The portfolio has a number of 2021/22 savings included within the budget and one saving outstanding from the 2020/21 financial year. Details of these savings are included in the table below:

Activity	2020/21 Savings £000	June 2021		Narrative
Improve School Trading Offer	25	25	R	School trading income has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore income has not been generated to meet the new budget target.
	100	100	G	School trading income has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic although early indications are that income levels may increase this year.



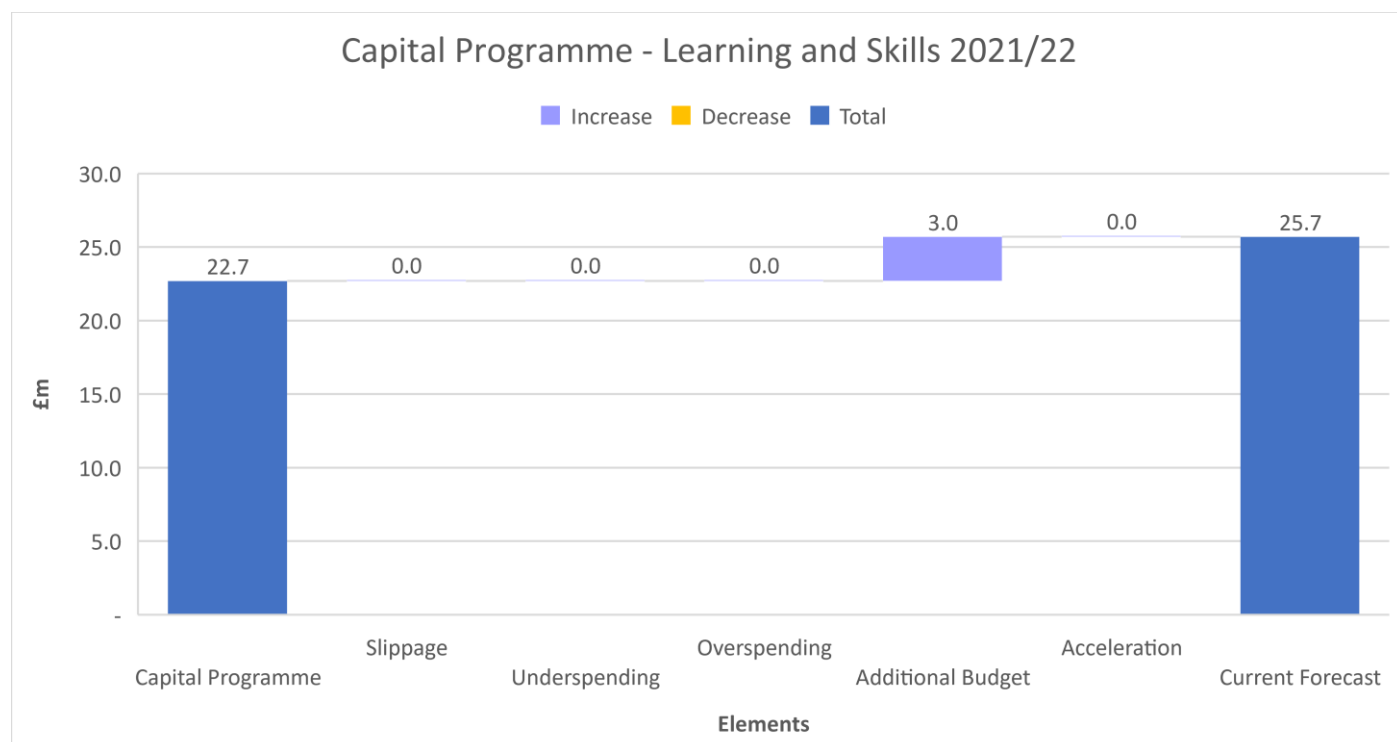
Activity	2021/22 Savings £000	June 2021		Narrative
Home to school transport – increased internal fleet	300	300	G	Phase 1 savings of £0.120m have been delivered because of action taken in 2020-21. The phase 2 savings of £0.180m are due to be delivered when the new academic year starts.
Home to school transport – greater taxi competition	200	200	R	A proportion of this saving is expected to come through due to some keener pricing but overall confidence on the full £0.2m is low.
Improve school trading offer (year 2 savings)	150	150	R	School trading income has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore income has not been generated to meet the new budget target.
Charge Inclusion and Disadvantaged Pupils Programme to School Effectiveness	127	127	B	
Review of Agency Staffing	4	4	B	

#### Savings Key:

R Significant Risk
 A At Risk
 G On Track
 B Delivered

## Capital Programme

- The capital programme; as approved by County Council in February 2021, agreed a programme totalling £19.5m for 2021/22. £3.2m of expenditure, originally profiled to spend in 2020/21, was slipped into 2021/22, revising the capital programme to £22.7m. Since this time, profiled spend has increased overall by £3.0m, to give a current full year actual spend for 2020/21 of £25.7m.





6. The largest projects included in the capital programme expenditure plan are:

- Schools Basic Need Programme.
- Schools Capital Maintenance.
- Woodlands Mead Project.
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Programme.

7. There are 30 projects within the portfolio; 10 of the schemes in delivery are rated green, indicating that the project is reporting to plan. 11 are rated at amber, indicating that there is an issue having an effect on the projects, but that it can be dealt with by the project manager or project delivery team. Seven are rated as red, indicating that there are significant issues with the projects, requiring corrective action. In addition, two projects have now been completed. An update on the progress of the schemes not rated green are detailed in the table below:

Scheme	RAG Status at 30th June	Reason	RAG Status at 10th August	Updated Position
Edward Bryant Special Support Centre	AMBER	Delay and potential cost due to Academy Trust request for significant increase in scope. Service working with Trust to understand and resolve issues.	AMBER	Increase in scope agreed due to need to accommodate 4–11-year-old age group across two teaching spaces. Programme to be confirmed.
Felpham Community College - Special Support Centre	RED	Design stage delays following changes proposed by the school to mitigate the impacted of the tree in proximity to the building.	AMBER	Design agreed. Programme to be confirmed.
Forest School Co-Education	AMBER	Planning approval for paving works required. Delivery programme with no flexibility for delay.	GREEN	Planning approved, works onsite and currently on programme.
Ifield Community College PFI - Special Support Centre	RED	Cost and delivery programme subject to confirmation from PFI contractor.	RED	Confirmation remains required.
Maidenbower Infants - Special Support Centre	AMBER	Delays following uncertainty regarding future requirements for Children and Family Centre. Programme remains to be agreed.	AMBER	Programme remains to be agreed.
Nyewood CoE School	AMBER	Project complete but costs exceed budget following gas main diversion and drainage works.	AMBER	Final budget being prepared, Change Request to be produced, if required.
Oak Grove College	AMBER	Delivery progressing prior to planning consent due to time constraints on programme.	GREEN	Planning approved. Works onsite. Programme very tight.
Palatine SEN Primary School	AMBER	Delay due to re-design of surface water drainage scheme and impact on trees and landscaping proposals.	AMBER	Planning submitted later than programme, completion expected before September for Summer Term 2022 occupation.

Scheme	RAG Status at 30th June	Reason	RAG Status at 10th August	Updated Position
Parklands Primary	RED	Further defects discovered following acoustic testing. Scope and impact to be assessed.	RED	Ongoing defect management.
QEII Silver Jubilee School	RED	Successful tender subsequently withdrawn. Works to be re-tendered.	AMBER	Re-tender resulting in additional budget, approved by Change Request.
S106 Infrastructure Budget Programme	AMBER	Estimated programme costs exceed available S106 funding. Programme to be prioritised to deliver within budget.	AMBER	Prioritisation being managed within the programme.
S106 Lindfield Primary - Design Stage	RED	Significant change in scope approved - new project report required.	GREEN	New scope and programme agreed.
S106 Slinfold Modulars - Design Stage	RED	Feasibility cost estimate exceeds available S106 funds. Options to be considered.	AMBER	Business Case to include options including allocation of further S106 funding.
S106 St Andrews CE High School Co-Ed Design Stage	WHITE	Project to be delivered directly by the Diocese with WSCC funding contribution. Completion report to be produced.	COMPLETE	Project complete.
Southwater Infants and Juniors	WHITE	Practical completion achieved. End of Project Report due.	COMPLETE	Project complete.
St Margaret's Special Support Centre	AMBER	Delay due to relocation of the associated outside play space, not in the original design.	GREEN	Overall programme remains on track for September 2023.
Thorney Island Hall Enlargement	AMBER	Increased costs due to a number of variations to contract. Construction remains within budget.	GREEN	Variations agreed.
West Park School Special Support Centre	AMBER	Delay due to discovery of inaccuracies in historical site drawings.	GREEN	Overall programme remains on track for September 2023.
Woodgate Primary School (Pease Pottage)	AMBER	Longer than usual lead-in times means some items of FF&E may arrive late. Temporary use of existing equipment proposed.	GREEN	Occupation from September.
Woodlands Meed College	RED	Concerns regarding quality leading to delay and potential cost to revisit design.	RED	Development agreement subject to end-user approval. Programme at risk subject to approval.

## Risk

- There are no corporate risks assigned to this portfolio. Risks allocated to other portfolios are specified within the respective appendices of this report. Further detail on all risks can be found in **Appendix 5** - Corporate Risk Register.

Risk No.	Risk Description	Previous Quarter Score	Current Score