

Learning and Skills Portfolio - Summary

Performance Summary

1. The Portfolio has a number of performance highlights to report this quarter:

- School children aged 4 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals, were able to enjoy activities and have nutritious meals through the summer holidays through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. The County Council worked with over 30 providers to deliver a wide range of fun and enriching events as well as providing healthy meals for the children. Overall, 1,990 individual children participated over the summer with places fully funded by the Department for Education.
- Full graded Ofsted inspections for schools resumed in September, with three schools being visited as at the 30th September. Currently, there are no published reports of these inspections available.

Our Council Performance Measures

Learning and Skills		2021/22 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Performance Analysis	Actions	Year End Forecast
			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21				
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%	65.4%	66.2%	72.2%	↗	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
25	Percentage of schools with OFSTED rating 'good' or 'outstanding' Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	88.5%	No Data Available	No Data Available	87.6%	Mar-20	The Education Secretary, on 29 March, confirmed his request that Ofsted step up its inspection programme over the summer term, with a view to returning to a full programme of inspections from September 2021.	Ofsted inspected schools and further education & skills (FES) providers in the summer term to provide reassurance about how well children and learners are catching up, but it only resumed a full programme of graded inspections from the start of the 2021/2022 academic year in September 2021. Although there have been a small number of inspections taking place during September 2021 the results of these have not been published, so the figures previously sent are still the latest.	A
26	Percentage of pupils and students accessing Ofsted 'good' or 'outstanding' schools Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	88.0%	No Data Available	No Data Available	86.6%	Mar-20	The Education Secretary, on 29 March, confirmed his request that Ofsted step up its inspection programme over the summer term, with a view to returning to a full programme of inspections from September 2021.	Ofsted inspected schools and further education & skills (FES) providers in the summer term to provide reassurance about how well children and learners are catching up, but it only resumed a full programme of graded inspections from the start of the 2021/2022 academic year in September 2021. Although there have been a small number of inspections taking place during September 2021 the results of these have not been published, so the figures previously sent are still the latest.	A
27	Percentage achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of Key Stage 2 Reporting Frequency: Annually	64.0%	55.0%	61.8%	62.7%	↗	Next results due November 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

28	Average attainment 8 score of students at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths Reporting Frequency: Annually	47.5	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Next results due November 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
			46.6	46.9	50.3			
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	2018/19	2019/20	No results collected for 2021 due to the pandemic	Not applicable.	A
			23.3%	23.4%	25.3%			
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%	Apr-21	May-21	Aug-21	Next update due November 2021. NEET - Our current status is that we are seeing a decrease of 1.05%, compared to last year's NEET figures. Comparatively, the current NEET figure of 2.3% is better than the national average (3.1%) and South East (2.7%) and our statistical neighbours (2.8%). Compared to our statistical neighbours we are 4th best in terms of lowest NEETs out of 11. NOT KNOWN - Our current status is that we are seeing a decrease, compared to last year's Not Known figure, of 1.08%. We are currently 0.4% better than England, but higher than the South East and much higher than our statistical neighbours. NEET and Not Known Combined - We have identified and implemented improvements for this year and although we are ranked 17th of 19 in the South East region for the NEET and Not known average, the improvement in 2021 is amongst best in the region. West Sussex are in the top quintile of best authorities regarding the improvement in NEET and Not Known combined figures compared to August 2020, with a significant improvement of 2.13% since last year. In the same period England has only improved by 1.8% and the South East by only 0.4%.	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.	A
			7.3%	7.3%	7.6%			

[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/ allocations to third parties (<i>Covid-19 position is reported in Appendix 2</i>)	£1.918m	Assumed funding from Covid-19 grant (<i>Covid-19 position is reported in Appendix 2</i>)	(£1.918m)	
Home to School Transport costs; predominantly Special Educational Needs	£2.249m	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	(£0.115m)	
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	(£0.139m)	
		Other minor variations	(£0.128m)	
Learning and Skills Portfolio - Total	£4.402m		(£2.501m)	£1.901m

Significant Financial Issues and Risks Arising

Key Financial Issues and Risks Arising		Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2020)	Q1		Q2		Action	Trajectory
L&S 1	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%)	↗	200 (10%)	↘		↗
			No of pupils with EHCP transported to a special school	1,240 (67.8%)	1,265 (64.6%)	↘	1,299 (65.0%)	↗		
			No of pupils with EHCP transported to independent placements	381 (20.8%)	468 (23.9%)	↗	500 (23.9%)	↗		
			Total no of pupils with EHCP transported	1,828 (100%)	1,957 (100%)	↔	1,999 (100%)	↔		
L&S 2	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%)	↘	1,340 (67%)	↘	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%)	↘	551 (27.6%)	↗		
			No of pupils with EHCP transported by parents	54 (2.9%)	101 (5.2%)	↗	108 (5.4%)	↗		
			Total no of pupils with EHCP transported	1,828 (100%)	1,957 (100%)	↔	1,999 (100%)	↔		
L&S 3	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	↗	652	↘		↗

L&S 4	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., 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.	No of single occupancy taxi routes	221	308 (15.7%)	↗	264 (13.2%)	↘	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 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&S 5	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	↗	£56.0k	↔		↗
			Current daily cost of SEND external escort provision across all provision	Average 2020/21 £10.6k	£11.3k	↗	£11.3k	↔		

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

Key Financial Issues and Risks Arising	Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2021)	Q1	Q2	Action	Trajectory	
L&S 6	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	No of pupils with EHCP in mainstream school	1,949 (31.9%)	1,997 (32.0%)	↗	1,845 (29.0%)	↘	West Sussex has significantly less learners with EHCPs in their mainstream secondary schools than the national picture. A small specialist outreach team has therefore been created as a two-year pilot to support the inclusion of these
		No of pupils with EHCP in special school / SSC	2,166 (35.4%)	2,183 (35.0%)	↘	2,288 (36.0%)	↗	
		No of pupils with EHCP in independent placements	615 (10.0%)	647 (10.4%)	↗	669 (10.5%)	↗	
		No of pupils with EHCP in	1,127 (18.4%)	1,102 (17.6%)	↘	1,309 (20.6%)	↗	

		year is in line with this, a greater proportion of these children are being placed in more costly placements within the independent sector.	post school placements						learners in their local mainstream school.	
			No of pupils with EHCP in other placement type	254 (4.2%)	314 (5.0%)	↗	246 (3.9%)	↘		
			Total no of pupils with EHCP	6,111 (100%)	6,243 (100%)	↔	6,357 (100%)	↔		
L&S 7	Placement mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	The 2021/22 budget has been set on the basis of 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 placements within the independent sector.	Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in mainstream school	159	48 (2.5%)	↗	-104 (-5.3%)	↘	The higher level of increased placements in the independent sector is largely due to lack of capacity in WSCC's settings. Our special schools are currently at 98% capacity, and it is planned that 84 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 special school / SSC	177	17 (0.8%)	↘	122 (5.6%)	↗		
			Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in independent placements	51	32 (5.2%)	↘	54 (8.8%)	↘		
			Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in post school placements	91	-25 (-2.2%)	↘	182 (16.1%)	↗		
			Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in other placement type	22	60 (23.6%)	↗	-8 (-3.1%)	↘		
			Total increase in no of pupils with EHCP	500	132 (2.2%)	↗	246 (4.0%)	↔		
L&S 8	Cost of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in a Mainstream School	The 2021/22 budget has been set on the basis of 90% of those pupils with an EHCP in a mainstream school receiving a top-up payment of £3,356 known as an Individually Assigned Resource, and 21% of those with an IAR also receiving an additional top-up payment (of £447 per weekly hour) known as a Personal Supplement. Those schools where the percentage of their	Percentage of pupils with an EHCP in mainstream school receiving an Individually Assigned Resource (IAR)	1,898 (86.6%)	1,683 (84.3%)	↘	1,748 (94.8%)	↗		↗
			Percentage of pupils with an EHCP in mainstream school receiving a Personal Supplement above their IAR	433 (22.6%)	378 (22.3%)	↘	467 (26.7%)	↗		↗

		pupils with an EHCP is over 3% are also entitled to an additional allocation.	Additional allocations paid out to mainstream schools above the 3% threshold	£166k	n/a		£425k	↗		↗
L&S 9	Cost of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in an Independent and Non-maintained Special School	The 2021/22 budget has been set on the basis of the average Independent and Non-maintained sector placement cost being £46k per week.	Average annual cost	£46,040	£48,016	↘	£48,444	↗		↗

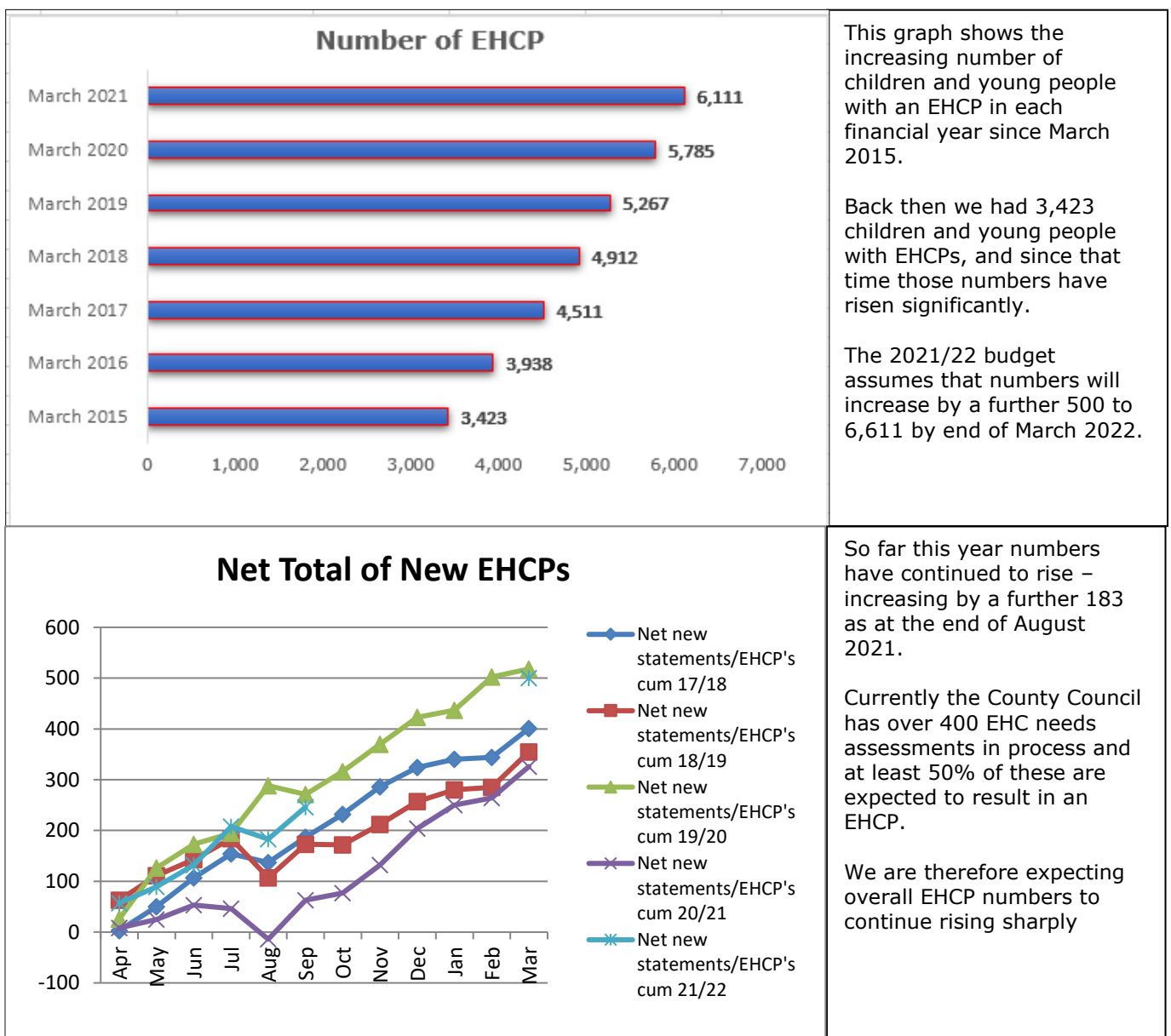
Financial Narrative on the Portfolio's Position

2. The Learning and Skills Portfolio is projecting a £1.901m overspend.

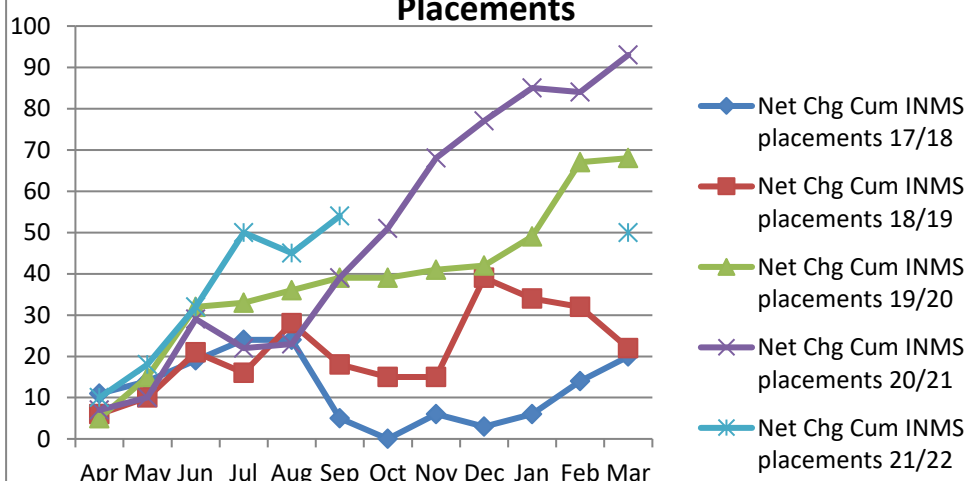
- Home to School Transport** - The service overspending is due to growing complexities, demand and costs which have continued to increase. An additional £0.8m has been added to the base budget for 2021/22, together with a saving of £0.5m to be achieved through increasing the internal fleet and greater 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; a proportion of this saving is expected to come through due to some keener pricing but overall confidence on the full amount being achieved is low.
- School trading income** has been significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic over the last 12 months, and therefore, the £0.025m saving from 2020/21 and £0.150m saving from 2021/22 are not expected to be achieved.
- An inflationary pressure on the **Crawley Schools PFI** budget has emerged in year 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 £0.583m.
- Pressure continues on the **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)** with a projected overspending of £4.363m currently predicted in 2021/22. This is after allowing for a £7.0m 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 £21.751m this year.

Cost Driver Information

- 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.
- 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.



Net Change in Independent and Non-Maintained Placements



Although total EHCP numbers have gone up by 3% so far this year, this pattern has not been seen across the board.

The number of pupils in Independent and Non-maintained Sector (INMS) settings, in particular has continued to rise at a much higher rate (7.3%)

Savings Delivery Update

5. 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:

Saving Activity	2020/21 Savings £000	September 2021		Narrative	2022/23
Improve School Trading Offer	150	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.	G
		100	G		

Saving Activity	2021/22 Savings £000	September 2021		Narrative	2022/23
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.	G
Home to school transport – greater taxi competition	200	200	A	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.	A
Improve school trading offer (year 2 savings)	150	150	R	School trading income has been hit by the pandemic over the last 12 months and has not increased to meet the new budget target.	A
Charge Inclusion and Disadvantaged Pupils Programme to School Effectiveness	127	127	B		B
Review of Agency Staffing	4	4	B		B

Savings Key:

R Significant Risk **A** At Risk **G** On Track **B** Delivered

Capital Programme

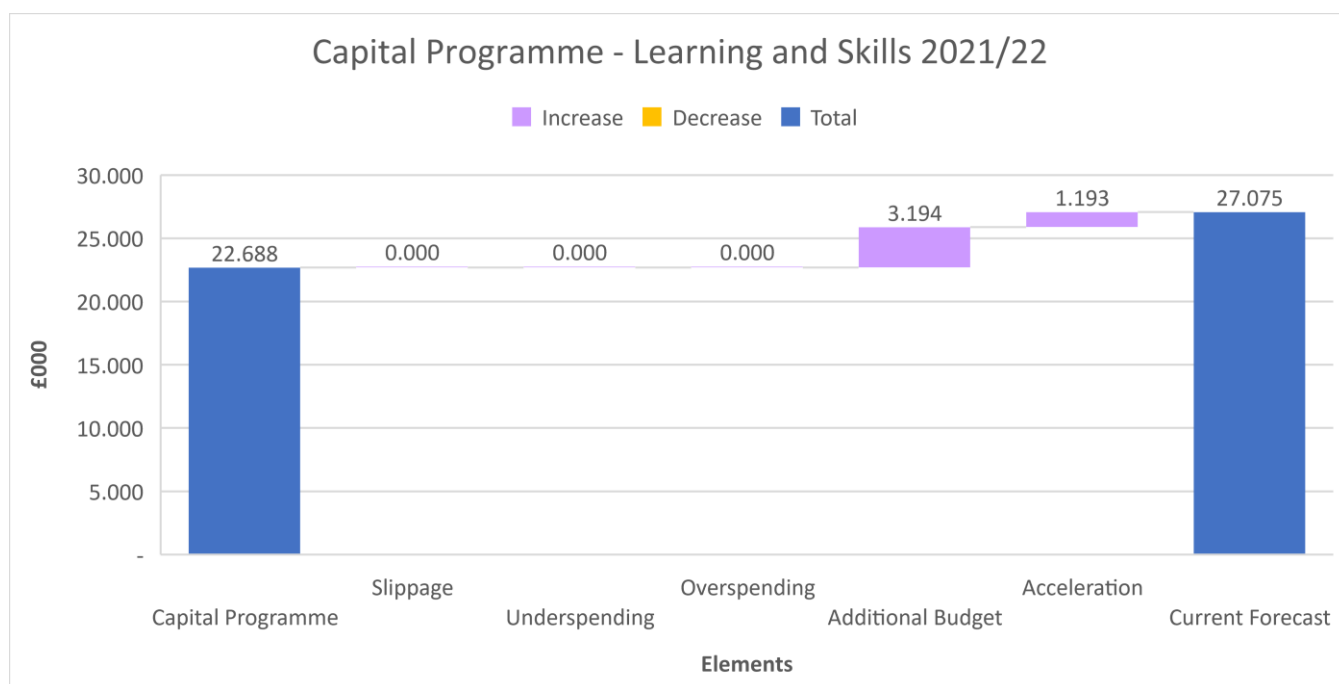
Performance Summary - Capital

6. There are 27 schemes within the portfolio; 17 of the schemes in delivery are rated green, indicating that the project is reporting to plan. Seven are rated at amber, indicating that there is an issue, but that it can be dealt with by the project manager or project delivery team. Three are rated as red, indicating that there are significant issues with the schemes, requiring corrective action. An update on the progress of the schemes not rated green are detailed in the table below:

Scheme	RAG Status at 30th September	Reason	RAG Status at 13th October	Updated Position
Edward Bryant Special Support Centre	AMBER	Landscape proposals to be updated following meeting with school. Revised feasibility proposals delayed. Risk of project not meeting completion date.	AMBER	Communication with Trust and School good and project progressing at good pace.
Maidenbower Infants - Special Support Centre	AMBER	Programme to be reviewed identify options to save time. Planning may not be required.	AMBER	Surveys are currently underway at the site.
Parklands Primary	RED	Further defects discovered following acoustic testing. Scope and impact to be assessed.	RED	Ongoing defect management.
QEII Silver Jubilee School	RED	Revised programme awaited from contractor.	RED	Contractor being actively chased to understand why there are delays.
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	AMBER	Programme timescales challenging and programme costs currently unconfirmed.	AMBER	Initial options and designs shared with school. Feasibility Study due to be issued this week.
S106 Slinfold - Design Stage	AMBER	Delays because of additional options being explored.	AMBER	Business Case to include options including allocation of further S106 funding.
St Margaret's Special Support Centre	AMBER	RIBA Stage 2 cost estimates over budget due to increased construction costs due to market factors.	AMBER	Updated Business Case under consideration.
West Park School Special Support Centre	AMBER	RIBA Stage 2 cost estimates over budget due to increased construction costs due to market factors.	AMBER	Updated Business Case under consideration
Woodlands Meed College	RED	Concerns regarding quality leading to delay and potential cost to revisit design.	GREEN	UPDATE 09/11/2021 - A Key Decision has been published to award a contract for the Woodlands Meed College New Build Project.

Finance Summary - Capital

7. The capital programme; as approved by County Council in February 2021, agreed a programme totalling £19.506m for 2021/22. £3.182m of expenditure, originally profiled to spend in 2020/21, was slipped into 2021/22, revising the capital programme to £22.688m.
8. Since this time, the profiled spend has increased overall by £4.387m, to give a current year end projection for 2021/22 of £27.075m. Of this increase, £1.193m relates to projects where funding has been accelerated from future years and £3.194m relates to additional funding; specifically, £2.149m of government grants, £0.745m of Section 106 allocations and £0.300m of school contributions.



9. Details of movements of the financial profiling within the capital programme are as follows:

- **Additional Budget: £3.194m**

- **School Capital Maintenance Grant - £2.149m.** Final grant notification from the government has been received awarding West Sussex a higher settlement than estimated in the original capital programme.
- **Steyping - S106 - £0.600m.** Approval has been granted for £1.572m S106 funds to be allocated to support Steyping Grammar Schools redevelopment. £0.600m is anticipated to be spent in 2021/22.
- **The Forest School - £0.300m.** The Forest School has contributed £0.300m for further works and therefore the budget has been increased in line with the contribution.

- **The Forest School All Weather Pitch - £0.100m.** Approval of £1.080m funding from Section 106 is allocated to enable the provision of an All-Weather Pitch, with £0.100m profiled to be spent in 2021/22.
- **Tanbridge House All Weather Pitch - £0.045m.** Approval of £0.457m funding from Section 106 is allocated to enable the replacement of the current All-Weather Pitch, with £0.045m profiled to be spent in 2021/22.

- **Acceleration: £1.193m**

- **Northern Arc, Burgess Hill - £0.969m.** Approval of £3.215m funding from Schools Basic Need Grant to enable the design for a new secondary school to be undertaken. £0.969m is profiled to be spent in 2021/22.
- **QE11 Special School - £0.224m.** Increased costs have materialised due to the original contractor withdrawing from the scheme, which led to the works going back through the tender process.

10. The latest Capital Programme Budget Monitor is reported in **Appendix 4**.

Risk

11. 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.