

Supplementary Information

Comprehensive Performance Assessment

Public Service Agreement

Scrutiny Activity Achievements

Finance

Procurement

Consultation

Comprehensive Performance Assessment

A Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) aims to pull inspection results from various government agencies together to give an overall judgement on council services. CPAs are carried out by the Audit Commission – visit the [East Sussex pages](#) of their website for full details of our assessment.

Once assessments have been compiled, councils are rated excellent, good, fair, weak or poor, depending upon the scores that they have received.

This overall score is made up of two parts:

1. How the council is run – what is the council trying to achieve? How effectively does the council deliver its priorities? Are targets being reached? In light of what has been learnt, what does the council plan to do next?
2. How the council's core services perform – using currently available performance information, including best value inspection reports, performance indicators and government plans. Key services are then scored from 1 to 4.

Assessment

ESCC were given a 3 out of 4, with 4 being the highest, when assessed for the way it is run.

How do ESCC's main services perform?

Scores out of 4

	Service Performance	2002	2003
The Audit Commission have assessed core service performance in the service areas shown alongside. Each service is scored on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest. Education and social care are given a higher weighting in reaching the overall service score than other areas	Education	3	3
	Social Care - children	3	3
	Social care – adults	1	2
	Environment	2	2
	Libraries and leisure	2	2
	Use of Resources	4	4
	Overall service performance	3	3

ESCC most recent assessment

The current Comprehensive Performance Assessment for the county was published in December 2003. East Sussex was one of only two councils to have leapt two categories to become a 'good' council making it one of the most improved councils in the Country.

- In the last year the Council's performance in Adult Social Services has improved radically.
- Strong performance has been maintained in Children's Social Services, Education, Waste Management and the management of financial resources and people.

The Audit Commission has also recognised real progress in economic regeneration work, particularly in Hastings and in the introduction of new technology, such as Broadband.

Further information is available from;
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Public Service Agreement

Target 1: Education - Raise standards in English, maths, ICT and science in secondary education so that:

- by 2004 75% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above in English, maths and ICT (70% in science) nationally, and by 2007 85% (80% in science);
- by 2007, the number of schools where fewer than 60% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above is significantly reduced; and
- by 2007, 90% of pupils reach level 4 in English and maths by age 12.

Year 1 progress: The LEA targets, set and agreed with the DfES, were exceeded in English and met in both mathematics and science. The rate of improvement in East Sussex was greater than the national rate of improvement, especially in science. The one area where there was a marked discrepancy between the target set and the outcome achieved was ICT, which is a teacher assessed element. This discrepancy was due to a number of factors, including the limited evidence available to inform the setting of the target.

Target 2: Education - By 2004 reduce school truancies by 10% compared to 2002, sustain the new lower level, and improve overall attendance levels thereafter.

Year 1 progress: The strategies that have been employed by the Attendance Support Team are showing evidence of success. It is anticipated that the strategies implemented in identified schools will impact on the longer term levels of attendance and will become evident during the 2003/4 and 2004/5 academic years.

Target 3: Education - Enhance, from 91% to 94%, the attainment of at least 1 GCSE A* - G for young people aged 17 in Hastings and St Leonards.

Year 1 progress: There are 37 young people on the scheme with a target of 40. There will be no actual results for this target until the GCSE results in summer 2004 as the young people only joined the scheme at the start of this academic year i.e. September 2003. The target group are in school and making progress.

Target 4: Social Services/Community Safety – From a baseline of 390 in 1999/2000 increase the participation of problem drug users in drug treatment programmes by 55% by 2004 and by 100% by 2008. In addition, increase, year on year, the proportion of users successfully sustaining or completing treatment programmes from a baseline of 43 in 2001/02.

Year 1 progress: This target is well on track at the end of the first year with 683 people entering treatment and 74 successful completions.

Target 5: Social Services - Improve the quality of life and independence of older people so that they can live at home wherever possible, by increasing the number of those supported intensively to live at home to 30% of the total being supported by social services at home or in residential care by March 2006.

Year 1 progress: Performance indicators C28 and B11 are performing well although C32 is not achieving to the level projected. This is in part due to the way C32 is calculated although there is a possibility that the methodology for working out this PI will change in the future

Target 6: Social Services - Ensure all looked after children up to 11 years old, where permanence is the best interest decision, are cared for in family placements that can meet their assessed needs and provide permanence by increasing the proportion of 0-11 year olds in permanent family placements – adoption, foster or kinship care and relatives (residence orders) – from 140 in 2002 to 182.

Year 1 progress: In the first year 17 children of 42 additional placements identified in the PSA target proposal, have been approved and placed in permanence placements.

Target 7: Transport - Improve the condition of local roads by:

- Reducing, from 54% in 2002 to 32%, the % of network of non-principal classified roads for which at least one of the UKPMS Condition Index thresholds specified in DfT guidance for the baseline year have been equalled or exceeded (BVPI 97a); and
- reducing, from 30% in 2002 to 15%, the % of network of non-principal unclassified roads for which at least one of the UKPMS Condition Index thresholds specified in DfT guidance for the baseline year have been equalled or exceeded (BVPI 97b).

Year 1 progress: The 2003/04 figures indicate that the highway maintenance PSA has exceeded the first year targets except the condition of principal roads where the county experienced widespread shrinkage damage caused by the long dry summer. The Transport & Environment department submitted a bid of £5.6m to the Department for Transport in January 2004 to undertake repairs. Funds of £4.6m (82% of the bid) were subsequently forthcoming through the capital programme. However, it will not be possible to implement remedial measures before the 2004/05 CVI surveys are completed.

Target 8: Transport - Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads in East Sussex (excluding Brighton and Hove), as measured by STATS 19 from 421 in 2000 to 325.

Year 1 progress: The end of year figure for 2003 showed that there were 358 fatal and serious casualties in the twelve months to December, which is well below the target figure of 378 and is therefore a most encouraging result.

Target 9: Corporate - Improve delivery and value for money of local services by overall annual improvements in cost effectiveness of 2% or more.

Year 1 progress: The basket contains 26 indicators. The Year one target was achieved or exceeded for 18 of these indicators. When the various weightings given to these indicators are taken into account and the relevant calculations carried out the target for Year 1 was a 24.5% improvement compared to 2002/03.

Target 10: Community Safety - Reduce violent crime in a public place in East Sussex.

- Number of violent crimes within a public place in East Sussex (excluding Brighton and Hove) recorded annually by Sussex Police reduced from 4057 in 2002/03 to 3870;
- number of violent crimes in a public place in East Sussex of public entertainment premises open after 2300 hours, adjusted for occupant capacity, reduced from 4057 in 2002/03 to 3870;
- number of incidents recorded by the Sussex Ambulance Service in criteria based dispatch code 21 (CBD) 'assault/trauma' within a police defined hotspot area reduced from 559 in 2002/03 to 523; and
- number of incidents recorded by the Sussex Ambulance Service in criteria based dispatch code 21 (CBD) 'assault/trauma' within a police defined hotspot area divided by the maximum permitted occupancy of public entertainment premises open after 2300 hours, adjusted for occupant capacity, reduced from 559 in 2002/03 to 523.

Year 1 progress: At the end of the first twelve month period significant progress has been achieved in Hastings. Against a projected year on year 11% increase, a 4% decrease has been achieved. However all other CDRP areas have experienced an increase. Overall this equates to a concerning 14% increase for East Sussex compared to our target goal of a 4.7% reduction by the end of March 2006.

Target 11: Community Safety - Reduce the numbers of repeat victims of domestic violence in Hastings.

- Number of domestic violence incidents reported to the Police where there was a power of arrest in which a power of arrest was made relating to the incident (BVPI 153) increased from 1035 in 2002 to 1242 (already achieved at the end of year 1)
- Repeat incidents of Domestic Violence reported to the Police reduced from 502 in 2002 to 427.

Year 1 progress: In 2003/04 (financial year) there were a total of 2,191 reported incidents and 853 number of repeat incidences. Concerns had been raised by us with the ODPM PSA team regarding the disincentive to continue to increase reporting because of the effect it also had of increasing the numbers of repeat

incidences where we had an absolute number to achieve rather than a percentage relationship between the two indicators. This issue has now been acknowledged by the ODPM and they have amended the indicator to 70.9% of 2001/02 figures multiplied by the rate of increase in the number of reports. On our current reported incident figures this would allow us 751 repeat incidences

Target 12: Housing - Improving private rented housing in Hastings, Eastbourne and Rother by increasing the number of letting units/homes improved in houses in multiple occupation (HMO) through local authority action - by informal action and service of informal/statutory notices.

Year 1 progress: In the first year 2003-2004 we have improved 547 letting units. If this rate continues we will improve 1641 letting units by 2006 which will exceed our target by 61 units.

Target 13: Increasing visitor access and improving rural business competitiveness

- By 2006, increase the number of users per annum of the strategic footpaths and rights of way from a baseline of 166,336 people per annum in 2003/04 by 8%;
- rateable value, to be established by May 2004, added to rating lists in the specified years due to loss of agricultural exemption after 31 March 2003 on existing property (including property subdivided) will show a 15% improvement;
- increase, by 7.9%, the proportion of rural East Sussex SMEs, with significant e-commerce capability, from a baseline of 43.1% at level 3 or higher in 2003; and
- the number of employees of rural East Sussex SMEs accredited under the Quality Edge Programme increased from 100 employees per annum to 420.

Year 1 progress: The 'Paths to Prosperity' element of the Rural Regeneration PSA (indicator 1) is 5% ahead of the year 1 target. The economic regeneration part of the PSA (indicators 2-4) has been operational for 2 quarters only and will, therefore, be more able to report progress during 2004/05.

Further information is available from;

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Scrutiny Review Improvements

Best Value

1. Early Years

The review has led to support being given to children in schools moving from the Foundation Stage to Key Stage; the establishing of a continuing professional development programme for Year One teachers; the setting up of Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector (PVI) nurseries attached to schools and schools are now identifying governors with a specific Foundation Stage brief.

2. Attendance

The Best Value review has endorsed and supported significant strategies for raising attendance. Attendance Support Teams are now targeting specific secondary schools. Over the course of a term, they provide intensive support and management systems to schools. Attendance Panels are now used in all schools where attendance is low. The high profile of attendance has been maintained, emphasising the link between attendance and attainment. Better working arrangements with Police, Magistrates, Health Services and other agencies have been established and should lead to more pupils being in school for more days.

Scrutiny

1. User and Carer Involvement in Older Peoples services

This review checked the progress being made by the Social Services department in involving users and carers in three older peoples services – Rapid Response, Community Collaborative Rehabilitation Team and the Living at Home programme. It found that a Quality and Change Management Unit had been established with a new Head and with oversight of user and carer involvement in services at a senior level. An Older People's Strategy Group has been established and Shared Commissioners working with PCTs are in place. The Contracts and Monitoring Unit now uses feedback information from satisfaction and other surveys to address future services and the Single Assessment process is up and running. The review also made recommendations to improve the way in which assessment on exit from hospital is carried out.

Previous Reviews

Past scrutiny activities include:

- [Bentley Wildfowl & Motor Museum](#)
- [Electronic learning materials in libraries](#)
- [Recruitment, retention and training of school governors](#)
- [Rights of way](#)
- [Six-term school year consultation process – update](#)

Best Value

1. Transport

The overall aim of the review is to maximise the effective use of available resources in providing improved opportunities for the safe movement of goods and people through East Sussex in a manner which improves the quality of life for residents and improves performance against transport, travel and environment targets.

The review is particularly seeking to improve the way in which transport and travel programmes are selected and developed to ensure they maximise the impact on national and local targets whilst also improving travel across East Sussex from the point of view of residents, visitors and commercial operators.

2. Learning Disabilities

This best value review will look at the provision of services for adults with learning disabilities. It is seeking to identify improvements to how the service is delivered.

Scrutiny Activities

1. Performance against BVPIs

Scrutiny committees will be examining the County Council's performance against a number of national and local indicators of performance in order to develop ways of improving the services.

2. Trading Standards

The primary focus of the review will be on trading standards' ability to work successfully with traders and businesses in developing good practice to eliminate harm to the public. The review is examining the funding of the service and its statutory responsibilities. In particular the review will examine and make recommendations on the development of the approved trader scheme, a new initiative.

A secondary focus of the review will be to examine the further development of the Consumer Support Network (CSN) in East Sussex in the light of experiences elsewhere.

3. Direct Payments

The review will assess how far the systems in place increase opportunities for independence, social inclusion and enhanced self-esteem by providing effective alternatives to social care provided by the department. The review will also look at the financial and audit systems supporting service user choice.

4. Anti-bullying Strategy

The review will look at the development of the East Sussex Anti-Bullying strategy and assess its effectiveness in providing schools with a strategic lead, involving all sectors and agencies in developing a community response to tackle bullying. The review will also explore the impact of peer group pressure on bullying and being bullied and links to attainment.

Further information available from;

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or by visiting the ESCC website at;

<http://esccewebsite/yourcouncil/about/howthecouncilworks/bestvalue/default.htm>

Finance

For 2004/05 the Council received a grant increase of £12.1m. This was the lowest grant increase of any county council in the country and the Council received nothing from the additional money made available by the Chancellor to help limit council tax rises from spending pressures outside schools. Of the £12.1m increase we did receive, some £11.6m had to be passed on to schools to meet the schools passporting requirements. The remaining £0.5m did not meet even one tenth of the normal inflation pressures outside schools.

Despite the difficult settlement, the Council limited the rise in council tax to 5.2%. This is still more than many council tax payers would have wanted – particularly those on fixed incomes – but it was a notable result in all the circumstances. This was achieved by prudent medium term planning, maximising local income opportunities and forcing further savings where appropriate. Credit must go to all Members and relevant officers across the Council.

Overall, the County Council's net revenue budget for 2004/05 will be £463.3m. This is an increase in spending on the previous year, on a like for like basis, of £24.4m. This will allow the Council to fully meet schools passporting and protect, and invest further, in Social Services, Highways Maintenance, Libraries, Trading Standards and Community Safety.

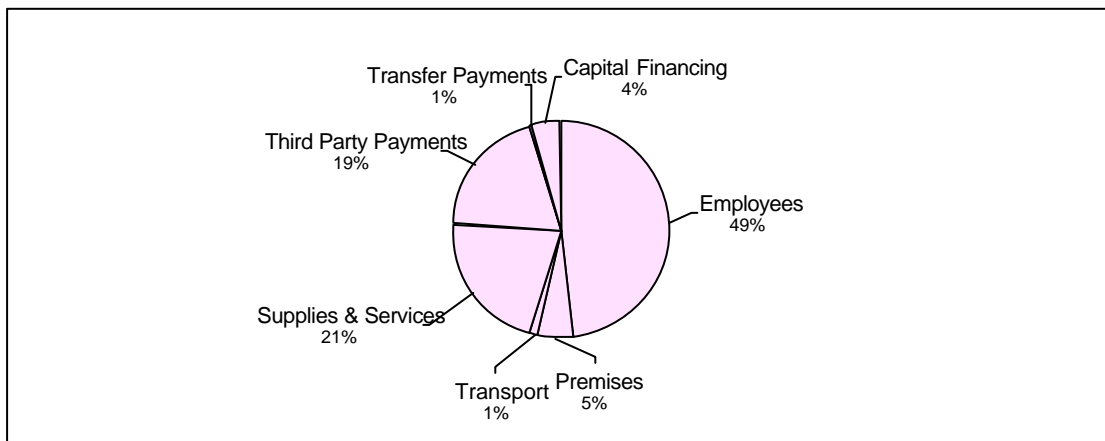
In terms of capital investment, the County Council plans to spend almost £55m in 2004/05 as part of its medium term capital programme. This includes: fully utilising the result of the Local Transport Settlement; providing for new school places; maintaining significant investment to help achieve Public Service Agreement targets vis-à-vis rights of way and the non-principal road network; a new Lewes Library; adequate provision for new back office systems and improving disabled access to our buildings.

The County Council budget includes these contributions and levies:

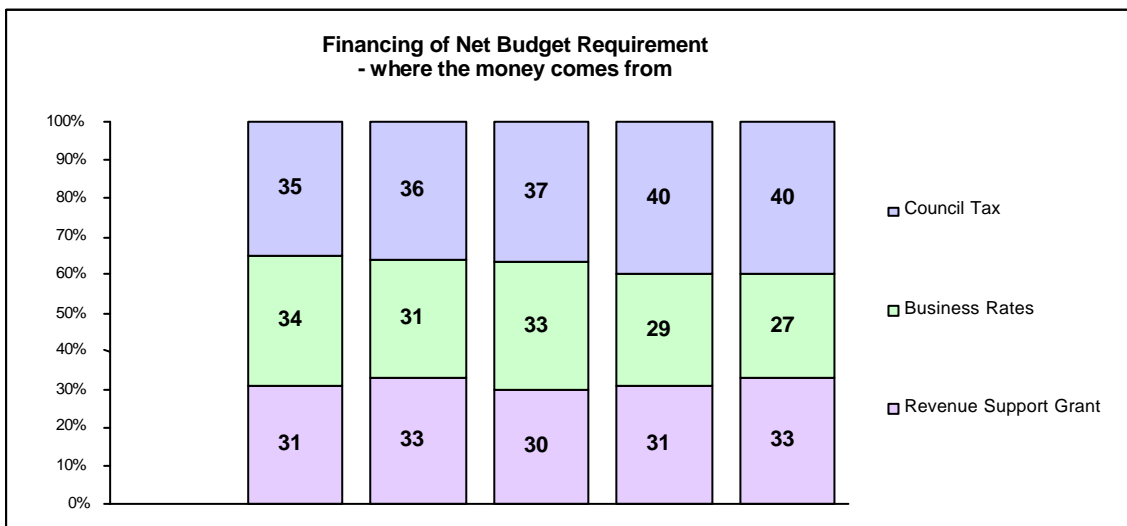
	2003/04 £000	2004/05 £000
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service	21,394	-
Sussex Magistrates Courts Committee	730	730
Environment Agency	4,220	190
Sussex Sea Fisheries	152	196
Total	26,496	1,116

From 1 April 2004 the Fire Authority, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, became a precepting authority and so does not levy upon the County Council.

Revenue spending by type of cost



NET EXPENDITURE FOR EACH DEPARTMENT	2003/04 Estimate £000	2004/05 Estimate £000
Chief Executive	5,641	6,382
Corporate Resources	9,210	12,706
Education and Libraries	225,265	237,540
Social Services	110,287	121,064
Transport and Environment excluding Waste	25,947	27,373
Waste Disposal	13,724	12,950
Totals	390,074	418,015
Treasury Management etc	25,312	26,559
Corporate Provision - Waste	6,000	8,535
Contributions to Reserves	10,075	7,192
Levies from other bodies (includes Fire in 2003/04)	26,496	1,116
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	457,957	461,417
Transfers to / (from) Balances	800	1,850
NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	458,757	463,267
Revenue Support Grant	144,108	154,805
Non-Domestic Rates	132,172	124,607
Council Tax	181,689	183,801
Adjustments for earlier years	788	54
	458,757	463,267
Opening	5,615	6,415
Added / (withdrawn) during year	800	1,850
Transfer to East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service	-	(278)
Closing	6,415	7,987
Council Tax in Band D	£930.43	£919.92



Further information is available from:

www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/finance/howwespentit/budgetsummary.htm

Procurement

ESCC is deploying the following procedures for strategically important projects which are recent, current, or planned and which will be affected by the transfer of staff:

- (a) the Gateway project review process which includes consideration of TUPE; and
- (b) a pre-qualification procedure prior to ITT/ITN which included significant sections on TUPE and a range of Staff issues, including Health & Safety and Equalities (incl. Race Relations).

The new code of practice will only apply to contracts advertised after 13th March 2003 (this being the date when the code came into effect). ESCC has had regard to the code, and Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector when drafting contracts where staff transfers have been involved prior to this date.

Further information is available from;

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Or by visiting the ESCC website;

<http://escwebsite/business/purchasingandcontracts/default.htm>

Consultation

“ A key objective for the County Council is to listen to, and communicate with, the people of East Sussex” - Councillor Peter Jones, Leader of the County Council.

Examples of consultations that took place during 2003/04 are:

Best Value Performance Indicator General User Satisfaction Survey

Over 1,100 residents were asked for their views on the performance of the Council. Three quarters of those questioned were satisfied with the way East Sussex County Council runs its services and the survey also showed strong support for the Council's priorities. Although the overall results are good, the Council will be addressing those areas where residents are less satisfied.

Bexhill and Hastings future travel options

This consultation asked for residents views on six options proposed for a new link road between Bexhill and Hastings. 84% were in favour of a new road linking Bexhill and Hastings and the majority of residents opted for the Orange route.

Budget Consultation

The Council held group discussions to give residents an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the challenges to the setting of Council Tax and to be briefed by the Council on the financial position. Residents were able to air their concerns and left feeling more knowledgeable about the pressures faced by the Council whilst setting the budget.

Council Priorities

This consultation was carried out to get a feel for the level of importance residents attach to the Council's key priority work areas for the coming year. There was overwhelming support for all priority area, with reducing crime and the fear of crime and improving services for older people rating highest.

East Sussex Strategic Partnership public leaflet focus group

Residents took part in focus groups to discuss their views on the design of a leaflet summarising the East Sussex Community Strategy. The comments made led to the leaflet being reworded and redesigned in accordance with the group's opinions.

Your County

Focus groups took place for residents to give their opinions on the new Council magazine. Residents were generally pleased with the magazine and any opinions they had were incorporated into the second edition of the magazine.

Waste Awareness Survey

A telephone survey to local residents to test recall of waste awareness campaigns has been conducted and provides up to date information about resident's knowledge, views and concerns of waste management issues.

Archives User Survey 2003

An annual national review to assess the views of visitors to East Sussex Record Office has been completed and aims to assess satisfaction levels with a range of services and to look at the wider implications and impact of their visits.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the ESCC website at;

<http://esccewebsite/yourcouncil/consultation/>

