

# Audit and Governance Committee

**Dorset County Council**



Date of Meeting	19 January 2018
Officers	<u>Lead Cabinet Member</u> Rebecca Knox – Leader <u>Local Members</u> All Members <u>Lead Director</u> Debbie Ward, Chief Executive
<b>Subject of Report</b>	<b>Progress on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings</b>
Executive Summary	This report records:-  (a) Cabinet decisions arising from recommendations from Audit and Governance Committee meetings; and (b) Outstanding actions identified at the meeting held on 20 September 2017. (c) Updates in relation to items discussed at previous meetings.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: N/A
	Use of Evidence: Information used to compile this report is drawn together from the Committee's recommendations made to the Cabinet, and arising from matters raised at previous meetings. Evidence of other decisions made by the Cabinet which have differed from recommendations will also be included in the report.
	Budget: No VAT or other cost implications have been identified arising directly from this programme.

## Progress on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings

	<p>Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications: None</p>
Recommendation	<p>That Members consider the matters set out in this report.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>To support the Council's corporate aim to provide innovative and value for money services.</p>
Appendices	<p>Appendix 1 – Outstanding Actions Appendix 2 – Progress Updates</p>
Background Papers	<p>None</p>
Report Originator and Contact	<p>Name: Denise Hunt, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: (01305) 224878 Email: <a href="mailto:d.hunt@dorsetcc.gov.uk">d.hunt@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a></p>

Progress on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings

Appendix 1

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Note Number and subject reference</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Completed (incl comments)</b>
20 September 17	56 - Scoping Document – Scrutiny Review of the costs of care of Looked After Children in foster or residential placements)	Further refinements to the scoping document required in liaison with Cllr Richard Biggs.	Patrick Myers Assistant Director – Design and Development	Meeting to be arranged now that several associated factors have been settled, primarily the Modernising Fostering Programme and the Sufficiency Strategy for Placements which all have a bearing on the scope.
	59 - Treasury Management and Prudential Code Review 2016-17	A session on the Treasury Management Strategy to be convened with an invitation to all members to attend.	David Wilkes Senior Finance Manager - Treasury & Investments	Arrangements made for Capita to attend on Friday 19 January 2018 1.30 – 3.00pm and an invitation extended to all Councillors to attend.
	61 - SEN Transport	That an update is provided on progress with the SEN travel budget.	Patrick Myers Assistant Director – Design & Development	High Impact Report Card provided and circulated that gives an overview of the demand and costs of service. The report card is below for further reference.

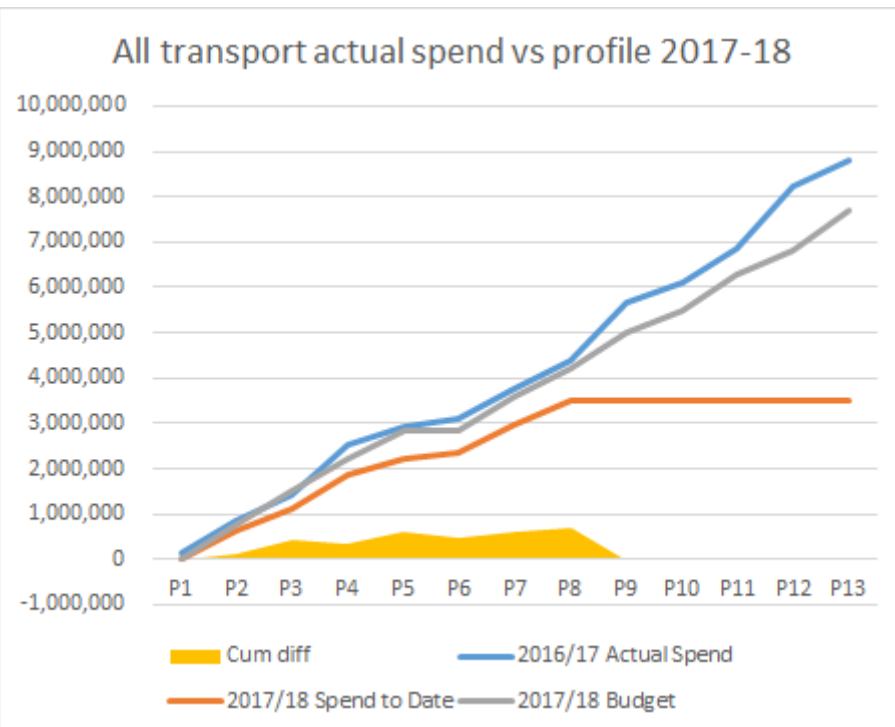
## Progress on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings

### Description/Context

The LA has a statutory duty to provide travel assistance or free transport to children with SEND if eligible between home and school due to their need or the distance involved. Currently the SEN Travel Team within Children's determines eligibility and individual requirements while the Dorset Travel Team coordinates the contracting and operation of the majority of the transport.

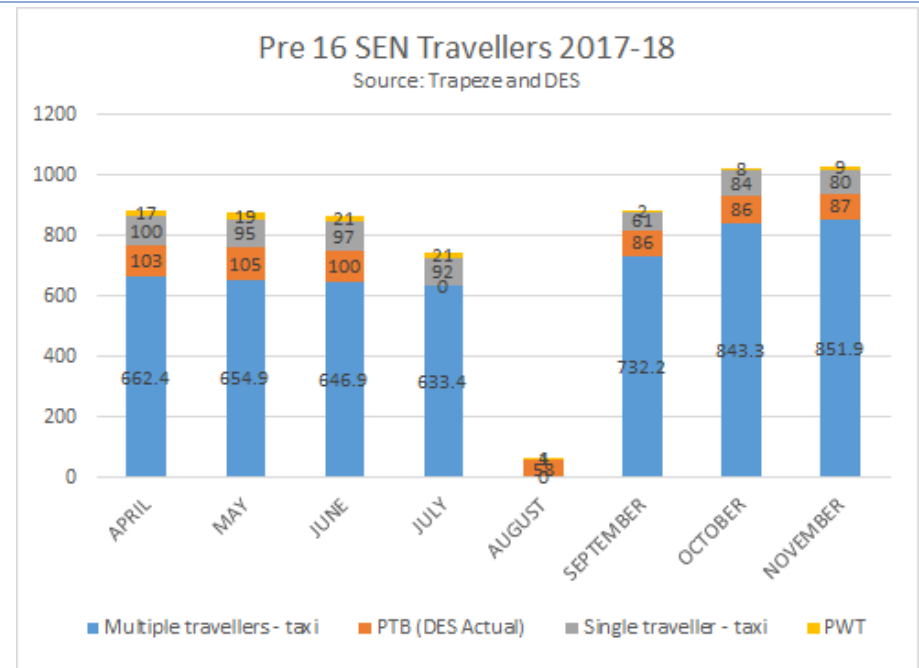
The amount spent on SEN travel has increased on the 2015/16 figures and expenditure was over budget in 2016/17 by £2.3m. The number of children being transported at the start of the year was recorded as 755\*. By the end of the year this has increased to 941, a 25% increase. However, during this period, costs have only increased by £340k (4%). The growth in children being transported is linked to the increase in the number of children with an EHCP (12%) and this is fuelling the transport demand. Although the control actions taken are likely to contain growth, reduction of expenditure to meet budget will require further radical action.

### What do we know about this issue?



### Causes and Forces affecting this issue

- Increasing number of children and young people with EHCPs
- Distance of children from home to SEND provision
- Need for a Passenger Assistant
- Lack of suitable mainstream transport
- Availability and sufficiency of suitable SEND provision locally
- Unit cost of transport commissioned by Dorset Travel
- Willingness of parents/young person to accept Personal Travel Budgets
- Robustness of the annual review of the EHCP



## Progress on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings

### **Commentary on the graphs:**

**In November, approximately 1035 with SEND were transported (excluding AP and Post 16). Some have needs that require them for safety reasons to be accompanied by a Passenger Assistant. Whilst the number of children receiving travel assistance has increased, overall costs are increasing slower than the increase in demand, demonstrating a lower average cost per child. The actuals to date are lower than the profiled budget to date, suggesting that the forecast overspend may not be as high as initially predicted. However, no Passenger Assistant recharge has happened this financial year (estimated £438k per quarter), plus there is an historic transmission delay within this area, due to the delay between undertaking the work, and the operator submitting their invoice. A PA recharge is expected in December. Travellers reduced in July as expected as it is the end of the school term, although they have increased again now the school year has started.**

### **Progress Update - Ironman Event**

There were only 3 written complaints following the 2017 Weymouth Ironman event that included not wanting the event to be held in Dorset, not wanting the race course to traverse the Piddle Valley and traffic management signage slightly off the race course being left up for too long.

An event de-brief meeting was held on 9 October 2017. Overall it was agreed that the 2017 event had been a big leap forward in terms of success from the previous year. Items that were discussed to make further improvements to the event included slight amendments to traffic management (mainly having a sweep vehicle to pick up signs that were not on the route), more engagement with parish councils, farmers, businesses and other event organisers to work together as positively as possible. The use of the Dorset Highways operatives as traffic marshals at strategic junctions on the cycle route was seen as major game changer during the 2017 event that would be utilised further for future events.

Piddle Valley Parish Council (Piddle Valley) wanted the cycle route to be changed each year, however, as there were not many workable alternative routes and a lot of merit in refining any issues on the established course as opposed to engaging with a completely different set of stakeholders on a different course, it was discussed with the Highways Portfolio Holder that officers would work with Ironman in 2018 using the 2017 cycle route. Officers had talked to the Parish Council about how access could be improved as well as other issues of concern. Officers were therefore confident of building on the success of the 2017 event in order to ensure further improvement for this prestigious international sporting event to become an established part of Dorset's annual calendar of events.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the 2018 event would be signed by the end of January 2018.