

---

## Cabinet Report: Delivering the West Sussex Plan 2017-22

This report sets out the key strategic decisions, policy and programme initiatives, consultations, government announcements and key events within each Cabinet portfolio area to deliver the Council's strategic priorities.



### Best Start in Life

#### Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Jacquie Russell

- A new and updated [Leaving Care Local Offer](#) has been launched. Produced in conjunction with partners and care leavers themselves, the offer sets out the services the County Council provides, and the support young people can expect as care leavers from 18 to 25 years old. It aims to ensure care leavers are able to access all relevant services and support and be as prepared as possible for living independently, to aid a smooth transition towards adulthood.
- [Ofsted](#) has undertaken a focused visit to assess the quality of decision making by Children's Services during the pandemic on the journey of the child, from initial referral onwards. Inspectors talked to children and care leavers about their experiences and met social workers to discuss their cases. Inspectors also evaluated the work of the Education and Skills service in its partnership working with schools and assessed the effectiveness of the [Virtual School](#). The outcome of the visit will not be graded but reflected in a letter outlining the findings that will be published on the Ofsted [website](#) on 4 December.

#### Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Nigel Jupp

- Adult Education learners studying with Aspire Sussex have achieved a [100% pass rate in their English and Maths GCSEs](#). 73.6% of the students obtained grade 4-9 (previously A\*-C), despite the disruption of moving from their usual face-to-face lessons in March to online learning from April, due to the pandemic. [Aspire Sussex Ltd](#) is commissioned by the County Council to provide learning opportunities for adults in communities across West Sussex, supporting them to reach their learning goals such as working towards a career change or to better support their children with their own studies.
- The [Educational Psychology Service](#) (EPS) has been working with the Education and Skills service and external partners to produce [support and guidance](#) for schools in **ensuring the emotional wellbeing of their staff and pupils** who may have concerns and anxieties related to the pandemic. As well as these resources, the EPS provides supervision and training for members of school staff to become Emotional Literacy Support Assistants. These staff are able to provide direct support within the school environment in situations where a child or young person is presenting with feelings of worry or where they have experienced an impact of COVID-19 directly, such as a bereavement.

- 
- The figures for **pupil attendance** since term started in September have been encouraging with the number of children in school in West Sussex, including those with Education, Health & Care Plans, regularly [exceeding the national average](#). This continues the [trend seen in the summer term](#) when schools welcomed back high numbers of eligible pupils during the partial re-opening. Teachers, school staff and governors have worked hard to ensure the necessary safety measures are in place and reassure pupils and parents about the changes to the school environment.



## A Prosperous Place

### Leader – Paul Marshall

- Following County Council's debate in July, work on **developing the Reset Plan** is now well underway, with a series of workshops being held with County Council officers and stakeholders and partners from a wide range of organisations from across the county. The workshops examined the four priorities in the plan: keeping vulnerable people safe, sustainable and prosperous economy, helping people and communities fulfil their potential and making best use of resources. Further engagement activity with members and staff is planned, with the Reset Plan due to be debated and ratified by full Council in December.
- The Leader continues to raise concerns with MPs and the Government regarding the **financial pressures that West Sussex County Council is facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic** and the impact that this is likely to have on the Council's ability to contribute to the economic and social recovery of the county. The Council is working with organisations such as SE7 and the County Councils Network in order to promote a collective voice for West Sussex on this challenging issue.

### Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure – Roger Elkins

- Highways England recently announced the [preferred route](#) for the **A27 Arundel Bypass**. The County Council's preferred scheme was along a different route (the magenta route). However, this investment in West Sussex's road infrastructure is very welcome. The rationale for this decision will be carefully examined and further detail is awaited about the much-needed mitigation package to, as much as possible, limit the impact on residents and the environment.
- The highways team is currently working with a number of communities to implement **wildflower verges and pollinator friendly places** throughout the county and are looking to trial and assist other areas to improve biodiversity. Anyone interested in implementing a scheme in their area should contact [active.communities@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@westsussex.gov.uk) so preparations can be made for the 2021 planting season.

- 
- Due to COVID-19, the deadline for receipt of [community highways scheme applications](#) is being extended until 13 November 2020. Whilst not all applications can be progressed, many schemes have been successfully delivered including footpaths, crossings and local public realm improvements. Schemes must demonstrate a clear understanding of the problem and proposed solution and show that community engagement and support has been undertaken and the proposed scheme has the local member's approval.

#### **Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources – Bob Lanzer**

- A [decision report](#) has been published to award a contract for the **enabling works phase of the development of the Horsham Enterprise Park**. The contract will support site preparation works to enable commencement of the scheme in spring 2021. The Horsham Enterprise Park will deliver a high quality mixed commercial and residential scheme to boost the local economy by providing new homes and high value jobs. Local members and the community will be informed of the works prior to commencement.
- The County Council's [gigabit capable broadband voucher 'top up' scheme](#) is supporting the Department of Culture, Media and Sport national scheme. Whether for a resident or rural business, the voucher can be topped up to £4,000 each. So far over 150 premises have claimed vouchers since the launch this summer and 30 more communities are looking to progress the scheme. Local members are being asked to help in encouraging residents to sign up to the scheme in communities where speeds are still slow



## **A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place**

#### **Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities – Duncan Crow**

- The County Council has committed to the investment of £20.85m for the delivery of a new fire station and [a new fire and rescue service training centre](#) at Highwood in Horsham. The project underlines the continued commitment to training firefighters, giving them the best resources to undertake their job, so that West Sussex communities are kept safe.
- The Council's Community Safety and Wellbeing Team has supported this year's **Hate Crime Awareness Week from 10 to 17 October** with a series of social media posts highlighting what a hate incident is and why it can be so damaging to a victim and to society. Anyone targeted is encouraged to access the free, confidential support available to them through the [Hate Incident Support Service](#).
- The County Council, as part of the [Sussex Anti-Slavery Network](#), has signed a pledge alongside East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council, supporting **Sussex-wide plans to become a Slavery Free Community** by 2030. A Slavery free Community eradicates forced labour, ends modern slavery and human trafficking and secures the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour. To report a suspicion or seek

---

advice there is a [Modern Slavery Helpline](#) operating confidentially which is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### **Cabinet Member for Environment – Deborah Urquhart**

- **Solar Together Sussex** is a group-buying scheme that enables householders to install high quality solar panels and battery storage systems in their home at a reduced price. The scheme supports the County Council's ambition for communities to generate and use renewable energy and act on climate change. More than 5,800 expressions of interest have been received through the autumn 2020 registration, more than half of which are from West Sussex addresses.
- Wasting less, especially food, saves money and is good for the environment. The **recycling rate in West Sussex has increased to 53%** and, on average, households have managed to reduce their general waste by 30kg compared to last year. To help boost recycling rates even further, residents are reminded that their household recycling should be clean dry and loose and more details can be found on the [County Council's website](#).

### **Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources – Bob Lanzer**

- In common with all employers the County Council has a legal obligation under the Equality Act 2010 to accommodate staff and visitors with disabilities. In alignment with [inclusive and accessible design of buildings](#) a [decision report](#) has been published concerning funding for a series of **accessibility improvements** at County Hall, Chichester, Durban House, Bognor Regis, County Hall North, Horsham and Crawley library offices. Improvements include upgrading door closures, powered openings and toilet facilities, introducing induction hearing loops, provision of enhanced safe refuges from fire above the ground floor and provision of tactile paving and improved signage. More complex works, such as that for lifts and access slopes, will be programmed for a later date.



## **Independence for Later Life**

### **Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – Amanda Jupp**

- This year's **local health and care services Winter Plan** developed through collaborative and place-based engagement, has received praise from NHS England as an exemplar of good practice. Arrangements during the winter period October 2020 to 31 March 2021 have been set out within the Plan to ensure that services can meet the needs of the local population, including the expected additional pressure due to COVID-19.
- As a member of the [Smoke Free West Sussex Partnership](#) (PDF, 1MB) the County Council is **working to reduce smoking** recognising the increased priority during the pandemic. [Smoke free activity](#) has responded to the requirements and impacts of COVID-19 by changing from face-to-face to

---

phone-based support and focusing on vulnerable groups, addressing some of the inequalities they face. The West Sussex Health and wellbeing Board adopted smoking as a key priority at its meeting on 8 October 2020.



## A Council that works for the Community

### Cabinet Member for Finance - Jeremy Hunt

- The Council is working to prepare **a balanced budget for 2021/22** within an exceedingly difficult financial environment characterised by COVID-19, a single year government spending plan, economic recession, Brexit, and continuing uncertainty affecting residents and businesses in West Sussex. The budget gap for 2021/22 currently stands at £23m but modelling work suggests that a worst-case scenario could be as much as £49m. Consideration of how to close the gap is ongoing with options including identifying further service reductions and generating further income through increased fees and charges, with the need to take into account the awaited Draft Finance Settlement in December and any change in the current council tax referendum limit of 2%.

**Contact:** Helen Kenny 033 022 22532

### Background papers

None