
Cabinet Report: Delivering Our West Sussex Plan 2021-25

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 our strategic priorities.

Leader – Paul Marshall

- Priorities to deliver outcomes for West Sussex residents, communities and businesses for the coming four-year term of this administration are set out in [Our Council Plan](#): keeping people safe from vulnerable situations; a sustainable and prosperous economy; helping people and communities to fulfil their potential; and making best use of resources, underpinned by a cross-cutting theme of climate change. Aligning the budget-setting process with the Plan will ensure focus is maintained on delivery of the agreed outcomes and that the Council's limited resources are deployed to best effect. The performance indicators set out in the Plan will enable the impact of the Council's work to be measured and ensure that it remains on track to deliver on commitments.
- The [West Sussex Economy Reset Plan](#) was agreed by the Cabinet in November 2020 and confirmed as part of the Our Council Plan at County Council in February 2021. Since that time work has focused on medium-term recovery and longer-term growth, including working with the County Council's partners and appointed operators to open the doors of [The Track](#) in Bognor Regis, the progression of seven bids to the Government through the Community Renewal Fund, and projects to deliver support for digital adoption by West Sussex Small and Medium Enterprises. As the Government Roadmap continues to unfold, work with residents and partners on business support and employment and skills initiatives will continue to support the West Sussex economy in its recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adults Services – Amanda Jupp

- The County Council's [Safeguarding Adults Board](#) has developed a number of initiatives, publicised through its [podcast](#), to explain what safeguarding adults means. This includes [Making Safeguarding Personal \(MSP\)](#), and [a new Multi-Agency Risk Management protocol](#). This work is supported and promoted by the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care and other national partners.
- Adult Social Care has developed a new [Quality Assurance Framework](#) (PDF, 511KB) which sets out how the Council will ensure a culture of performance and continuous improvement, maintaining high standards throughout Adults' Services. This is further supported by [a set of core standards](#) (PDF, 213KB) which Adult Social Care expects to be applied by its staff in all activity.
- Adult Social Care, working jointly with Health partners, has developed [Home First](#) to provide appropriate and timely support for residents who are being discharged home from a stay in hospital. From March 2020 to date, 5,446 people have been discharged straight from hospital to their homes, with the average length of time for a person waiting on a ward to be discharged moving from 10 to 14 days to 1 to 3 days.

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- The West Sussex scheme, [Mental Health Discharge to Assess \(D2A\)](#), has been recognised by NHS England as an excellent example of how health, social care, and housing can work together to support working age adults to be discharged from acute mental health hospitals in a safe and timely manner. To date 243 discharges have been achieved, supporting the pandemic response by minimising delays to hospital discharges.
 - In 2021 two new [Extra Care Housing Schemes](#) will open in West Sussex, Monaveen and Lingfield Lodge, to provide much needed adapted housing for vulnerable adults who require housing with care. The schemes will provide an alternative to traditional residential placements and customers from both older people, working age, mental health, learning disabilities and Lifelong services are being referred.

Children and Young People (Lead Member for Children) – Jacquie Russell

- The [report](#) has been published following the recent **Ofsted monitoring visit**, focussing on achieving a stable and long-lasting home for children and young people looked after by the Council. The report highlighted that the local authority is making steady progress in this area and that senior leaders are ambitious and determined to improve services for children and young people, with a realistic plan in place to do this.

Learning and Skills – Nigel Jupp

- A **summer programme** has been developed aimed at encouraging children to eat more healthily and be more active during the school holidays. The £1.6m that the County Council has received to fund provision during the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays as part of the [Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#) will enable children to attend holiday clubs that provide engaging activities, promote a greater knowledge of health and nutrition and reduce social isolation.
- A range of opportunities to assist pupils to **catch-up on missed learning** caused by the pandemic are being funded through the [catch-up premium](#). Schools have received funding to use in a way that suits their cohort of pupils and circumstances, to provide specific activities which will support their pupils' education recovery.

Community Support, Fire and Rescue – Duncan Crow

- The Cabinet Member visited the **new-look** [Worthing Library](#) which opened to customers on 22 June. The custom-designed building provides new facilities, bringing together West Sussex County Council Registration Services; Children and Family Services; Find it Out and Youth Emotional Support Services and an enhanced Library Service, all under one roof.
- West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSF&RS) has been conducting a [Smoke Alarm Campaign](#) reminding residents of the importance of having working smoke alarms with regular testing. WSF&RS also offer a [Safe and Well Visit](#), a free pre-arranged visit to the home to provide advice on how to make it safer and, where appropriate, to fit smoke alarms free of charge.
- [A sampling programme](#), funded by the Food Standards Agency and carried out by West Sussex County Council Trading Standards, has investigated the

safety of food products brought online. Cases of concern were found leading to a recall of some food products. Residents are encouraged to report any issues by contacting Trading Standards via [report it online](#) or [Citizens Advice](#).

Environment and Climate Change (and Deputy Leader) – Deborah Urquhart

- Working with its [Business West Sussex](#) partnership the County Council is encouraging local small businesses to sign up to the Government's [Business Climate Hub](#) and start their climate action journey by committing to cutting carbon emissions in half by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050. Businesses can access tools and resources to support them in setting targets, taking action, tracking progress and publishing results.
- The [Bronze Carbon Literacy Certification](#) from the Carbon Literacy Trust was awarded to the County Council in June. Officers are now developing plans to roll-out Carbon Literacy training across the Council which will equip officers and Members with the knowledge, confidence and clarity of purpose needed to deliver the commitment to be a net zero Council.
- The **Joint Arun District Council/County Council 1-2-3 Collections Trial** started in May and has generally been well received by residents who now have food waste collections (and, if required, absorbent hygiene products collected separately) on a weekly basis. Recycling is collected fortnightly and remaining residual waste on a three-weekly basis. The amount of residual waste collected in the trial area has virtually halved and only a handful of issues have arisen for residents. A second phase, involving properties in a more central area with flats and multi-occupancy properties, will start in September.
- The County Council's **solar farm at Westhampnett** was [highly commended](#) at the national Decentralised Energy Awards for its contribution towards achieving net zero. The commendation recognised how the solar farm and its battery installation generates and stores clean electricity and supports the National Grid to balance electricity supply and demand. The batteries, which are managed on the County Council's behalf by Npower Business Solutions, can respond within seconds when additional power is needed at peak times or when generation capacity is lost elsewhere on the grid.

Finance and Property – Jeremy Hunt

- In late March this year, the County Council [confirmed competitive selection](#) of the construction organisation Morgan Sindall Group plc, through its development company Lovell Partnerships Limited, to become its long-term partnering company in the Council's commercial joint venture. **The Joint Venture Partnership** will carry out development on areas of land in which the Council has an interest. The partnering company will provide property development funding, expertise, resources and services to the joint venture. The Council is now involved in drawing up the required business cases and governance structure to support the venture, engaging with architects and engineers and other technical advisers for design and planning applications to build.
- Since the beginning of the **COVID-19 pandemic** the Government has invested heavily in ensuring that councils are supported to deal with the financial implications of the pandemic. In West Sussex the level of government support

through grant funding has meant that the financial impact has, so far, been mitigated. As an example, some grants have been passported through the County Council direct to care home providers, whilst the remaining grants received have covered such areas as the cost of increased activity, such as funding the Community Hub, the increased costs of service provision, as well as the loss of income from fees and charges, council tax and business rates. Prior to end of the 2020/21 financial year, the Council also received a number of grants to address pressures arising in the current financial year. Details of the grants which have been carried forward will be set out in the Outturn Performance Monitor, which will be published as part of the papers to be presented to the Cabinet on 27 July.

Highways and Transport – Joy Dennis

- The County Council will be consulting on all elements of the [Active Travel programme](#) during July and August which will include the Upper Shoreham Road Cycle Scheme including a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN); the A24 Findon to Findon Valley Cycle Scheme; and small-scale active travel improvements. Subject to consultation, the A24 Findon to Findon Valley and all active travel improvements will start to be constructed from Easter 2022. The Upper Shoreham Road and LTN scheme is subject to further successful funding bids.

Public Health and Wellbeing – Bob Lanzer

- [The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme](#), led by the NHS (Sussex Health and Care Partnership), has been rolled out in line with the Government and Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) requirements, with all adults now invited to receive their vaccination. The County Council is supporting this programme, carrying out targeted work with partners to encourage all adults to have their vaccination, engaging with communities in innovative ways such as mobile vaccination units, flexible clinics, as well as utilising community and faith links.
- [The West Sussex COVID-19 Local Outbreak Engagement Board's \(LOEB\) quarterly report](#) was presented to the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board subgroup on 24 June, highlighting the Board's progress. The LOEB has supported its partners during the period February to May on the Asymptomatic Testing Programme for West Sussex, COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, Local Tracing Partnership, early years, schools and university, preparations for the election, adult social care, and event management.

Support Services and Economic Development – Steve Waight

- The County Council is looking at how it should return to office-based working as lockdown restrictions ease. A flexible **Smarter Working approach** is planned from the start of October which will make improvements on how the County Council operated before the pandemic. Smarter Working will be based on business need, recognising the diverse services provided for residents while continuing to ensure the Council's offices are a safe environment for work.
- The County Council and District/Borough Councils have been working together to accelerate [gigabit capable connectivity](#) across the county and have completed the national gigabit pilot under the government's Local Full Fibre

Network Programme. The jointly funded pilot has connected 151 public sector sites across all eight councils including libraries, hospitals and civic offices and showcased West Sussex as a county that can work collaboratively to deliver regional ambitions. The public sector network is now being further extended alongside commercial fibre investments which will enable gigabit capable connections to homes and businesses in Worthing, Crawley, Horsham, Chichester, Littlehampton and Bognor Regis, putting West Sussex on track to meet the national gigabit targets.

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Background papers

None