

To all Members of the County Council

A virtual ordinary meeting of the County Council will be held at **10.30 am** on **Friday, 12 February 2021**.

Note: In accordance with regulations in response to the current public health emergency, this meeting will be held virtually with members in remote attendance. Public access is via webcasting.

The meeting will be available to watch live via the Internet at this address:

<http://www.westsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Agenda

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Members' Interests**

Members are asked to disclose any pecuniary or personal interests in matters appearing on the agenda.

3. **Minutes** (Pages 7 - 32)

The Council is asked to confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the County Council held on 11 December 2020.

4. **Appointments**

(a) **Committee Appointments**

To consider any proposed changes by the Groups to appointments. Any proposals will be circulated and changes will take effect from the end of the meeting.

(b) **Independent Remuneration Panel**

Mr Steve Cooper, Mr Kevin Scutt and Mrs Charlotte Pexton were first appointed to the Panel in February, October and December 2017, respectively, for a four-year term.

The Council is invited to appoint them for a second term, to run to February 2025 for Mr Cooper, October 2025 for Mr Scutt and December 2025 for Mrs Pexton.

5. **Address by a Cabinet Member**

At the discretion of the Chairman, to receive any address by a

Cabinet Member on a matter of urgency and/or significant interest to the County Council and which relates to the powers and responsibilities of the County Council or which affects the Council.

(a) **Address on Children First Improvement Plan** (Pages 33 - 36)

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People will make a statement on the Council's Children First Improvement Plan. A report is also attached. Members may ask questions of the Cabinet Member in accordance with Standing Order 2.33.

(b) **Address on the Fire & Rescue Service Covid-19 Inspection**

The Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities will make a statement on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services Covid19 Inspection of the Fire & Rescue Service. Members may ask questions of the Cabinet Member in accordance with Standing Order 2.33.

6. **WSSC Reset Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25** (Pages 37 - 68)

The Council is asked to consider and approve the West Sussex County Council Reset Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25, in the light of a report by the Leader.

7. **Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26**

The Council is asked to consider and approve the County Council budget for 2021/22, the Capital Strategy 2021-26 and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22, in the light of a report pack by the Cabinet Member for Finance which **is enclosed with the agenda.**

Lunch (In the event that the morning business is finished before lunch the afternoon business will be brought forward as appropriate.)

8. **Pay Policy Statement 2021/22** (Pages 69 - 80)

The Council is asked to approve the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22, in the light of a report from the Governance Committee.

9. **Notices of Motion**

(a) **Motion on Bus Lanes**

To consider the following motion, submitted by Cllr Michael Jones, notice of which was given on 26 January 2021. **Note:** The Chairman has indicated she intends to refer the motion to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure for

consideration. It will therefore not be debated at this meeting.

'This Council considers that licensed Hackney Carriages and private hire taxis offer a means of getting around the county for those who either do not have access to their own vehicle or need to get to places that are not already served by other forms of public transport. This Council considers that licensed Hackney Carriages and private hire taxis carrying more than one passenger results in a reduction of carbon emissions, which contributes towards this Council's ambition to tackle climate change. This Council also believes that this would also assist in reducing traffic congestion at peak times, so would have a substantial impact on reducing pollution in general.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to:

- (1) Facilitate a 12-month pilot scheme to enable licensed hackney carriages and private hire taxis to utilise the bus lanes in Crawley (excluding the Fastway network of guided bus lanes);
- (2) Report back to the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee ahead of the end of the pilot scheme on the benefits or otherwise ahead of a decision whether to make it a permanent arrangement; and
- (3) Explore opportunities when future new developments and infrastructure improvements are programmed and designed to expand the bus lane network around the county to facilitate the reliability and punctuality of the public transport network and contribute towards the reduction of carbon emissions.'

(b) **Motion on Romance Fraud**

To consider the following motion, submitted by Cllr Michael Jones, notice of which was given on 26 January 2021. **Note:** The Chairman has indicated she intends to refer the motion to the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities for consideration. It will therefore not be debated at this meeting.

'This Council recognises that romance fraud has been a growing problem since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, with many people experiencing loneliness potentially being targeted.

Romance fraud is the engineering of a supposed friendship or relationship for fraudulent, financial gain. Criminals invest significant amounts of time into socially engineering their

victims – knowing that as they gain the victim's trust, their chances of extracting considerable funds from them simultaneously increase.

This Council notes that Sussex Police indicated in October 2020 that nearly £3m had been lost by victims of romance fraud in 128 incidents, with a total of 195 reports of romance fraud being received from January to September 2020. It is concerned to note that this was a 56% rise on the previous year from the same period and that there are estimates that this could be only a fraction of the true extent of the crime, with many victims either too embarrassed to report it, or simply unaware that they have been deceived. Moreover, in 2020 the Times newspaper described Sussex as 'the nation's dating fraud capital'.

This Council welcomes the work undertaken so far by the Council's Community Safety Team to promote awareness and educate on the risks of romance fraud to residents of West Sussex, but calls on the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities to continue to commit to supporting the 'Get Safe Online' initiative as well as putting stronger energy, capacity and resource into efforts to support the Sussex Police campaign to provide a seamless solution, through continuing to reach potentially vulnerable residents via virtual means while restrictions on movement remain in place during 2021.'

10. **Governance Committee: Appointment of co-opted Independent member of Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee and change to Joint Scrutiny Arrangements**
(Pages 81 - 88)

To consider a proposal for the inclusion in the constitution of the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee of an independent member and a minor change to the joint scrutiny arrangements, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee.

11. **Report of Urgent Action** (Pages 89 - 90)

To note urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

12. **Question Time** (Pages 91 - 94)

Questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members on matters contained within the Cabinet report, written questions and any other questions relevant to their portfolios. Members may also ask questions of the Leader on anything that is currently relevant to the County Council. The report covers relevant Council business or developments in respect of portfolios arising since the meeting of the Council on 11 December 2020. A supplementary report may be published.

(2 hours is allocated for Question Time)

County Council concludes

Items not commenced by 4.15 p.m. will be deferred to the following meeting.

Director of Law and Assurance
3 February 2021