

West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

19 March 2021

At the virtual Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 19 March 2021, the members present being:

Cllr Duncton (Chairman)

Cllr Arculus	Cllr Kitchen
Cllr Acraman	Cllr Lanzer
Cllr Atkins, RD	Cllr Lea
Cllr Baldwin	Cllr Lord
Cllr Barling	Cllr Magill
Cllr Barnard	Cllr Markwell
Cllr Barrett-Miles	Cllr Marshall
Cllr Bennett	Cllr McDonald
Cllr Boram	Cllr Millson
Cllr Bradbury	Cllr Mitchell
Cllr Bradford	Cllr Montyn
Cllr Brunsdon	Cllr R Oakley
Cllr Buckland	Cllr S Oakley
Cllr Burgess	Cllr O'Kelly
Cllr Burrett	Cllr Oppler
Cllr Catchpole	Cllr Oxlade
Cllr Cloake	Cllr Patel
Cllr Crow	Cllr Pendleton
Cllr J Dennis	Cllr Purchase
Cllr N Dennis	Cllr Purnell
Cllr Edwards	Cllr Quinn
Cllr Elkins	Cllr Russell
Cllr Fitzjohn	Cllr Smytherman
Cllr Hall	Cllr Sparkes
Cllr High	Cllr Sudan
Cllr Hillier	Cllr Turner
Cllr Hunt	Cllr Urquhart
Cllr A Jones, MBE	Cllr Waight
Cllr M Jones	Cllr Walsh, KStJ, RD
Cllr A Jupp	Cllr Whittington
Cllr N Jupp	Cllr Wickremaratchi
Cllr Kennard	

87 Deaths of Lt Col David Jones and Mr Martin Daws-Chew

87.1 The Chairman reported the deaths of two former members of the Council, Lt Col David Jones, who had represented the Bourne division from 1989 to 1997 and Mr Martin Daws-Chew, who had represented The Witterings division from 1989 to 2009.

87.2 Members held a minute's silence.

88 Long Service Awards and Retirements

- 88.1 The Chairman asked members to join her in congratulating three members on 20 years' service on the County Council. Councillors Pat Arculus, Lionel Barnard and Louise Goldsmith were all first elected to the County Council in 2001. They had served in many important roles, with Cllrs Arculus and Barnard each serving as Chairman and Cllr Goldsmith serving as Leader.
- 88.2 As it was the last meeting before the election, the Chairman also expressed her thanks to members who were standing down at the end of the term and wished them well for the future.

89 Apologies for Absence

- 89.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Bridges, Cllr Goldsmith, Cllr Simmons and Cllr Smith.
- 89.2 Cllr Purchase and Cllr Barling and gave their apologies for the start of the morning session and joined at 11.10 am and 11.15 am respectively. Cllr A Jones joined at 10.42 am.
- 89.3 Apologies for the afternoon session were received from Cllr Barling and Cllr R Oakley. Cllr Montyn gave his apologies for the start of the afternoon session and joined at 3.36 pm. Cllr Purchase joined at 2.05 pm.
- 89.4 Cllr Oppler left at 2.27 pm and Cllr Buckland at 3.04 pm.

90 Members' Interests

- 90.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

91 Minutes

- 91.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 12 February 2021 (pages 9 to 22) be approved as a correct record.

92 Address by a Cabinet Member

- 92.1 Members received an address by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on the Council's Children First Improvement Plan, together with a report (pages 23 to 26).
- 92.2 In response to a question from Cllr Lord about whether young people were aware of the proposals for Find It Out centres in the early help consultation, the Cabinet Member agreed to review the level of engagement with young people with the Executive Director and respond to Cllr Lord.

93 Petition

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- 93.1 The Council debated the following petition. A briefing note from the Director of Children, Young People and Learning and a statement from the petitioners and been circulated with the agenda (pages 27 to 30).

Halt the planned cuts to West Sussex Children and Family Centres

'We call on West Sussex County Council to halt the planned cuts to its Early Help service and reverse the proposed closures of the Children's and Family Centres and Find it Out advice centres across the county.'

- 93.2 Mrs Catherine Arnold, on behalf of the petitioners, addressed the Council for five minutes in support of the petition.
- 93.3 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded to the petition for five minutes on behalf of the County Council.
- 93.4 The Council debated the petition.
- 93.5 A proposition was moved by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr A Jones as set out below:
- 'The Cabinet Member is invited to include this petition and the debate that follows in the consideration of her response to the consultation in due course.'
- 93.6 A proposition was moved by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr Oxlade as set out below:
- 'This Council supports the petition and asks the Cabinet Member to halt the process of closures.'
- 93.7 Mrs Arnold, on behalf of the petitioners, and the Cabinet Member were each given three minutes to make a closing statement.
- 93.8 The proposition by Cllr Bennett was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.

(a) For the proposition – 44

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Arculus, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Barnard, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Bradford, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Magill, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr R Oakley, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Turner, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the proposition – 5

Cllr Buckland, Cllr M Jones, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Quinn and Cllr Sudan.

(c) Abstentions – 13

Cllr Brunsdon, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Fitzjohn, Cllr Lea, Cllr Lord, Cllr Millson, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Patel, Cllr Purchase, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Walsh and Cllr Whittington.

93.9 The proposition was carried.

93.10 The proposition by Cllr M Jones fell away.

94 Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

94.1 The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22, in the light of a report from the Governance Committee (pages 31 to 42).

94.2 Resolved –

- (1) That the proposed revisions to the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) That authority be given to the Directors of Law and Assurance and of Human Resources and Organisational Development, in consultation with the Chairman, to finalise the wording of paragraphs 10.1 and 11.1 of the Statement once revised Regulations on any public sector pay cap have been published’.

95 Governance Committee: Appointment of co-opted Independent member of Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee and change to Joint Scrutiny Arrangements

95.1 The Council considered 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 (pages 43 to 50). It was noted that paragraph 11 of the report had been included in error and should be deleted.

95.2 Resolved –

- (1) That the changes to the constitution of the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) That the Director of Law and Assurance and the Director of Finance and Support Services be given delegated authority to make arrangements to finalise the job description, advertise and take all other steps necessary to recruit to the role, for which travel expenses will be payable; and

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- (3) That the changes to the constitution of the Joint Scrutiny Steering Group, with effect from 1 May 2021, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report, be approved.

96 Question Time

- 96.1 Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios, as set out at Appendix 3. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 51 to 66) and a supplementary report (supplement pages 1 and 2) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 2.38 (set out at Appendix 2).
- 96.2 As this item was deferred at the last meeting due to lack of time, the Cabinet report also included an Appendix 1 which set out the written questions submitted for the meeting of the Council on 12 February 2021.

97 Report of Urgent Action: Regulation 19

- 97.1 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (pages 67 to 70) was noted.

98 Soft Sand Review: adoption of changes to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan

- 98.1 The Council considered the Soft Sand Review: Adoption of changes to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan, in the light of a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment (pages 71 to 118).
- 98.2 Resolved –
- That the changes to the Joint Minerals Local Plan identified through the Soft Sand Review, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

99 West Sussex County Council Armed Forces Strategy

- 99.1 The Council considered the draft Armed Forces Strategy for approval by the Leader after the Council meeting, in the light of a report by the Armed Forces Champion (pages 119 to 126). It was noted that in Appendix 1 on page 125, in Figure 1 of the draft Strategy there should be a dotted line between the West Sussex Civilian Military Partnership and the WSCC Armed Forces Champion to indicate it was a reporting line.
- 99.2 The recommendation was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.
- (a) For the recommendation – 58

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Arculus, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Barnard, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Bradford, Cllr Brunson, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Fitzjohn, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr M Jones, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Lea, Cllr Lord, Cllr Magill, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Millson, Cllr Montyn, Cllr O'Kelly, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Patel, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Russell, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Sudan, Cllr Turner, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Walsh, Cllr Whittington and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the recommendation – 0

(c) Abstentions – 0

99.3 Resolved –

That the Armed Forces Strategy, subject to the minor amendment set out in minute 99.1 above, be endorsed for approval by the Leader.

100 Council meetings - contingency arrangements for pandemic restrictions

100.1 The Council considered proposed contingency arrangements for holding Council and committee meetings if the regulations allowing virtual meetings are not extended or replaced with similar provisions, in the light of a report by the Director of Law and Assurance (pages 127 to 132). The report was moved with a minor revision to Appendix 1, as shown below in bold, italic text with a deletion struck through, which had been circulated.

'3.09d Other members of the Council or a committee may participate in the meeting virtually via audio or video conferencing, including the right to speak on matters ~~not~~ requiring a decision or vote **where the Chairman of the meeting agrees**. They will not be entitled to vote on any business on the agenda. Virtual attendance at meetings convened under these arrangements shall be recorded and treated as a special dispensation for non-attendance at the meeting under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.'

100.2 Resolved –

(1) That the Council approves the adoption of emergency Standing Orders (Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the revision set out in minute 100.1 above) for use for any meeting of the Council or of a committee at which business is

required to be transacted requiring member vote or approval and which cannot otherwise be lawfully convened;

- (2) That these arrangements only be applied for as long as all leaders of the political groups of the Council approve of their use;
- (3) That the supplementary Council Standing Orders approved by the Council to enable the use of virtual meetings be confirmed to continue and to be used where required;
- (4) That attendance via virtual link by a member at meetings convened under these arrangements be recorded and that this be treated as a special dispensation for non-attendance at the meeting under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (5) That the Director of Law and Assurance keep all members advised of any changes in the regulatory framework leading to the need for this contingency.

101 Motion on Pension Investments

101.1 At the County Council meeting on 6 November 2020 the following motion had been moved by Cllr Michael Jones, seconded by Cllr Oxlade, and referred to the Governance Committee for consideration. A report by the Committee was included with the agenda (pages 133 to 136).

'In line with the principles previously supported by this Council in taking strong local action to address the climate emergency and recognising the strength of public opinion, as evidenced by the large demonstration at the full County Council meeting in February 2020, this Council calls on the West Sussex Pensions Committee to take all necessary steps to divest all of its investments from fossil fuel companies as soon as practicable.'

101.2 An amendment was moved by Cllr Lanzer and seconded by Cllr Wickremaratchi as set out below:

'In line with the principles previously supported by this Council in taking strong local action to address the climate emergency and recognising the strength of public opinion, as evidenced by the large demonstration at the full County Council meeting in February 2020, this Council calls on the West Sussex Pensions Committee to **focus on sustainable investment for growth through the application of its environmental, social and governance principles** take all necessary steps to divest all of its investments from fossil fuel companies as soon as practicable.'

101.3 The amendment was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.

(a) For the amendment – 37

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Arculus, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Barling, Cllr Barnard, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Magill, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Turner, Cllr Waight, Cllr Whittington and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the amendment – 14

Cllr Brunsdon, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Fitzjohn, Cllr M Jones, Cllr Lea, Cllr Lord, Cllr Millson, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Purchase, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Sudan and Cllr Walsh.

(c) Abstentions – 10

Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bradford, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Patel, Cllr Pendleton and Cllr Urquhart.

101.4 The amendment was carried.

101.5 The amended motion, as set out below, was agreed.

‘In line with the principles previously supported by this Council in taking strong local action to address the climate emergency and recognising the strength of public opinion, as evidenced by the large demonstration at the full County Council meeting in February 2020, this Council calls on the West Sussex Pensions Committee to focus on sustainable investment for growth through the application of its environmental, social and governance principles.’

102 Motion on Emergency Services

102.1 Due to lack of time the motion on emergency services fell away.

103 Motion on Mental Health

103.1 Due to lack of time the motion on mental health fell away.

104 Motion on Bus Lanes

104.1 Due to lack of time the motion on bus lanes fell away.

105 Motion on Romance Fraud

105.1 Due to lack of time the motion on romance fraud fell away.

106 Motion on Unitary Council Status

106.1 Due to lack of time the motion emergency services fell away.

Chairman

The Council rose at 4.40 pm

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Interests

Members declared interests as set out below. All the interests listed below were personal but not pecuniary or prejudicial unless indicated.

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
Item 5 – Petition on Children and Family Centres	Cllr Boram	Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing at Adur District Council
Item 5 – Petition on Children and Family Centres	Cllr Bridges	Member of Adur District Council and Lancing Parish Council
Item 8 – Question Time	Cllr Atkins	Local Authority Governor of Durrington Infant and Junior Federated Schools and member of Worthing Borough Council
Item 8 – Question Time	Cllr Boram	Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing at Adur District Council
Item 8 – Question Time	Cllr Bradbury	Member of Mid Sussex District Council
Item 8 – Question Time	Cllr Bridges	Member of Adur District Council and Lancing Parish Council
Item 8 – Question Time	Cllr Burrett	Member of Crawley Borough Council
Item 8 – Question Time	Cllr Catchpole	Chairman of Ni4H (No Incinerator for Horsham) campaign group
Item 8 – Question Time	Cllr Hillier	Mid Sussex District Council Cabinet Member for Economic Growth
Item 8 – Question Time	Cllr Smytherman	Chairman of Federation of Private Residents' Associations
Item 10 – Soft Sand Review	Cllr Dunton	Member of South Downs National Park Authority's Planning Committee
Item 11 – Armed Forces Strategy	Cllr Atkins	Veteran of the Royal Naval Reserve, Chair of the Royal Naval Association, Trustee of Building Heroes Charity, Director of Building Heroes Property Services
Item 11 – Armed Forces Strategy	Cllr Bradbury	Chairman of Building Heroes and Director of Building Heroes Property Services

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
Item 11 – Armed Forces Strategy	Cllr Walsh	Leader of Arun District Council
Item 13(a) – Motion on Pension Investments	Cllr Burrett	Deferred member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Item 13(a) – Motion on Pension Investments	Cllr J Dennis	Member of Pensions Committee
Item 13(a) – Motion on Pension Investments	Cllr Elkins	Member of Pensions Committee
Item 13(a) – Motion on Pension Investments	Cllr Hunt	Member of Pensions Committee
Item 13(a) – Motion on Pension Investments	Cllr N Jupp	Member of Pensions Committee
Item 13(a) – Motion on Pension Investments	Cllr Lanzer	Deferred member of the Local Government Pension Scheme and member of Crawley Borough Council
Item 13(a) – Motion on Pension Investments	Cllr Urquhart	Member of Pensions Committee
Item 13(a) – Motion on Pension Investments	Cllr Wickremaratchi	Member of Haywards Heath Town Council
Item 13(b) – Motion on Emergency Services	Cllr Crow	Substitute member on Sussex Police and Crime Panel
Item 13(b) – Motion on Emergency Services	Cllr M Jones	Crawley Borough Council substitute member on Sussex Police and Crime Panel
Item 13(d) – Motion on Bus Lanes	Cllr Burgess	Deputy Chairman of Licencing Committee at Crawley Borough Council
Item 13(d) – Motion on Bus Lanes	Cllr M Jones	Chairman of Licencing Committee at Crawley Borough Council
Item 13(e) – Motion on Romance Fraud	Cllr Crow	Substitute member on Sussex Police and Crime Panel
Item 13(e) – Motion on Romance Fraud	Cllr M Jones	Crawley Borough Council substitute member on Sussex Police and Crime Panel

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
Item 13(f) – Motion on Unitary Council Status	Cllr Baldwin	Member of Horsham District Council
Item 13(f) – Motion on Unitary Council Status	Cllr Bradbury	Member of Mid Sussex District Council
Item 13(f) – Motion on Unitary Council Status	Cllr Brunsdon	Member of Mid Sussex District Council
Item 13(f) – Motion on Unitary Council Status	Cllr Burgess	Member of Crawley Borough Council
Item 13(f) – Motion on Unitary Council Status	Cllr M Jones	Member of Crawley Borough Council
Item 13(f) – Motion on Unitary Council Status	Cllr Lea	Member of Mid Sussex District Council
Item 13(f) – Motion on Unitary Council Status	Cllr Lanzer	Member of Crawley Borough Council
Item 13(f) – Motion on Unitary Council Status	Cllr Sudan	Member of Crawley Borough Council

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Written Questions: 19 March 2021**1. Written question from Cllr Kirsty Lord for reply by Cabinet Member for Children and Young People****Question**

For each of the 11 youth Find It Out centres proposed for closure, can the Cabinet Member please provide:

- (a) The number and age breakdown of visits and unique users for each of 2017, 2018 and 2019;
- (b) The number and age breakdown of visits and unique users accessing equivalent County Council services online or by phone for each of 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020;
- (c) Statistics on how users travel to the centre (including walking, cycling, bus, train and car) with a breakdown by age, if available;
- (d) The distance travelled by users (less than one mile, 1 to 2 miles, 2 to 3 miles, over 3 miles) with a breakdown by age, if available;
- (e) A map showing the postcodes of users, or by postcode sector (e.g. BN6 9) if full postcode cannot be used to protect confidentiality; and
- (f) If a map is not available, a list of the number of users from each postcode or postcode sector (an Excel spreadsheet format would be preferred for this, if available).

Answer

It is not proposed that the eight Find It Out centres will close. It is proposed that they are relocated and the offer extended to 11 delivery points. In addition to this, the opening hours will also be increased from part-time to full-time.

- (a) The number of unique users are shown in Table 1 below.

The visits have been split into Drop-in Visits and Other Visits. These are based on the 11 substantive intervention types, as defined below Table 3. It is not possible to break down this information by age.

The database does not have the option to record whether a 'visit' was in person or virtually. However, for this purpose, we have assumed that all substantive interventions were visits to a physical building. However, the option to record 'Drop-in visit' is specific to Find It Out centres, so this is the key section for Find It Out centre activity. We are unable to break down the 'unique users' by intervention type.

Table 1 - Find It Out Centres - Unique Users, 2017 to 2019

Find It Out Centre	2017	2018	2019
Bognor Regis	339	250	204
Crawley	399	476	658
Mid Sussex	325	217	117
Worthing	665	511	423
Adur	237	78	18
Chichester	263	210	121
Horsham	356	357	353
Littlehampton	229	37	120

Table 2 - Find It Out Centres – Drop-in Visits, 2017 to 2019

Find It Out Centre	2017	2018	2019
Bognor Regis	811	569	317
Crawley	458	939	1077
Mid Sussex	313	284	142
Worthing	1558	1656	1284
Adur	315	86	23
Chichester	353	303	160
Horsham	389	457	562
Littlehampton	346	49	287

Table 3 - Find It Out Centres - Other Visits, 2017 to 2019

Find It Out Centre	2017	2018	2019
Bognor Regis	315	20	33
Crawley	395	51	58
Mid Sussex	678	80	61
Worthing	545	49	31
Adur	492	7	0
Chichester	242	12	1
Horsham	346	104	91
Littlehampton	240	3	5

* Other visits: as well as Drop-in Visits, the Substantive Intervention Types (visits) are:

- Accompanying a Client
- Annual Review
- Emergency Placement Review Meeting (Youth Homelessness Prevention Team)
- Interview - Client
- Interview - Client/Parent/Carer
- Multi-Agency Meeting (With Young Person Present)
- School Meeting (With Young Person Present)
- Single Agency Meeting (with Young Person Present)
- Youth Emotional Support Group Drop-in

- Youth Emotional Support Workshop

Table 4 - Find It Out Centres - All Visits, 2017 to 2019

Find It Out Centre	2017	2018	2019
Bognor Regis	1126	589	350
Crawley	853	990	1135
Mid Sussex	991	364	203
Worthing	2103	1705	1315
Adur	807	93	23
Chichester	595	315	161
Horsham	735	561	653
Littlehampton	586	52	292

- (b) The database captures other contact out to (sent) and from an individual (received). Contact may be by email, letter, text or phone. Contact may be with the young person and/or their family/carers. These contacts out and received are shown in the tables below.

This data is only available as a contact count and not by individual unique user.

Table 5 - Find It Out Centres - Contact Received, 2017 to 2020

Find It Out Centre	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bognor Regis	315	97	45	427
Crawley	739	197	202	93
Mid Sussex	545	178	3	4
Worthing	376	80	71	620
Adur	326	32	1	2
Chichester	243	107	32	1
Horsham	485	225	55	225
Littlehampton	110	7	3	5
Total	3139	923	412	1377

Table 6 - Find It Out Centres - Contact Sent, 2017 to 2020

Find It Out Centre	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bognor Regis	232	19	22	86
Crawley	684	66	76	41
Mid Sussex	609	72	1	0
Worthing	252	18	3	219
Adur	175	11	1	0
Chichester	125	17	12	0
Horsham	359	131	31	268
Littlehampton	71	0	0	2
Total	2507	334	146	616

- (c) This information is not captured on the database and is therefore not reportable.

- (d) Our reporting tool does not allow us to report the postcode of the individual at the visit date. It is only possible to report on current postcode, which may have changed since the visit. We are therefore unable to report accurately on this.
 - (e) For the reasons described in (d) above it is not possible to provide this.
 - (f) For the reasons described in (d) above it is not possible to provide this.
2. Written question from **Cllr Brenda Smith** for reply by **Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Question

I understand the Children and Family Centre in Langley Green, Crawley currently accommodates an amazing sensory room which was built in 2010 at some considerable cost. The Cabinet recently agreed to consult on a proposal that would see the Langley Green Children and Family Centre close along with 31 others around the County and I understand a decision as to whether they will close or not will be taken in July.

If it is ultimately decided that the Langley Green Children and Family Centre is to be closed next autumn, can I please have a commitment from the Cabinet Member, communicated to officers, that an alternative sensory room should be maintained in the locality and, as far as possible, the equipment and installations in the current sensory room re-utilised.

Answer

Early Help are proposing withdrawing Early Help specific services from the centre. Langley Green is a shared-use centre with Crawley Borough Council and has a dual-use agreement in place. The withdrawal of Early Help at this stage is a proposal and does not indicate that the centre will close. Future use of the building will be addressed as part of the asset planning following a decision by the Cabinet. This will include legal due diligence and an options appraisal.

3. Written question from **Cllr Michael Jones** for reply by **Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources**

Question

The pandemic has had a profound economic impact across the county, but indications suggest that Crawley is the most impacted area in West Sussex in terms of jobs and indeed it comes out as one of the most affected in the country primarily because of the presence of Gatwick Airport.

BBC Radio Sussex recently launched a new campaign called #CrawleyTogether, which will shine a spotlight on stories from the town and stand shoulder to shoulder with the local community.

Can the Cabinet Member tell me whether he agrees with me that there is a need for a specific focus on Crawley such as this?

Furthermore, can he update me on what steps have been taken by West Sussex County Council since the publication of the [Economy Reset Plan](#) in November 2020 to boost the economic recovery in Crawley and what progress he anticipates will occur over the remainder of this year.

Answer

Although all parts of the county have been hard hit, the data supports the view that of the West Sussex boroughs and districts Crawley's economy has been the most adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, for example:

- Local Universal Credit claimant count in January 2021 is 8.3% (6,020 claimants). Crawley remains the worst affected within the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area and ranks 35th out of 380 local authorities in the UK.
- There are 25,800 Crawley residents remaining on furlough.
- 18 per cent of all Crawley's workforce (17,000 residents) work in aviation with many thousands having already lost, or in the process of losing, their jobs.

The County Council has supported the Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce with both the Cabinet Member and officers supporting the task force and its sub-groups. These groups will be critical to developing business cases and progressing interventions that support Crawley's recovery.

The County Council is also actively investing in Crawley. The Crawley growth programme of more than £60m, has completed a number of schemes in recent years and is commencing construction of key infrastructure projects led by the County Council. The Eastern Gateway £8.35m scheme will start construction in summer 2021, as will the Manor Royal highways scheme, a £3m investment in the business district area of Crawley.

The Council is also undertaking redevelopment of a key town centre site in Crawley. Demolition works are live now and show the County Council's commitment to the town centre redevelopment in clearing the way for a longer-term regeneration of the site which will unlock key economic outputs for the area.

In addition, it is the County Council's intention to refresh the Crawley growth deal. A detailed review of the Crawley growth programme is currently being undertaken to ensure that projects in delivery until 2025 will best support Crawley's economic recovery and will further renew the Council's commitment to investment in the Crawley area.

Other priority activities within the Economy Reset Plan 2020-24 will support Crawley's economic recovery. These include:

- Support for enterprises and businesses affected by the pandemic, including through the recent Recover and Rise support programme with many Crawley businesses participating.
- Promoting to businesses the opportunity to secure funding for apprenticeship training through transfer of the Council's apprenticeship levy, with approval to support 15 apprenticeships in Crawley businesses during 2020/21 to date, with a value just under £70,000.

- County-wide partnership working with all the districts and boroughs to initiate a programme of support for businesses focussed on resilience and recovery through use of digital technologies and skills.
- The Experience West Sussex Destination Partnership working with Gatwick Airport to prepare to support the re-start of international tourism promotion when the time is right, supporting airport jobs and local businesses.
- Continuing digital infrastructure activities. These include working in partnership to deliver the Converged Fibre Connectivity project, an innovative project building a new duct and fibre route linking Crawley to the regional fibre network at Brighton Digital Exchange. This will provide greater fibre resilience and increased opportunity for commercial suppliers of gigabit-capable broadband to provide new connectivity to businesses along its route, including at Manor Royal Business District.

4. Written question from Cllr Brian Quinn for reply by Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources

Question

The former Prime Minister David Cameron previously asked Mary Portas (self-styled Queen of Shops) to investigate how to revive high streets.

One of the recommendations in her report published in December 2011 was for new powers to be given to councils to enter and upgrade strategic properties when landlords are negligent, using 'Empty Shop Management Orders'.

Under such arrangements there could be scope for councils to re-vamp shops, bring them back into use and charge rent to recover their costs with subsequent rent collected being passed to the property owner.

Besides relying on local growth plans and the active travel fund to revive high streets and town centres, can the Cabinet Member outline any other action he is aware of that will revive high streets and town centres across the county.

Answer

The world has moved on considerably in the ten years since the Portas Report and the decline of high street retail and the threats posed to town centres have accelerated rapidly during the pandemic.

The County Council's Economy Reset Plan 2020-24 sets out the Council's priorities for supporting economic recovery. These include activities that will assist the borough and district councils in reviving high streets and town centres across the county.

The County Council is working with the districts and boroughs through the Growth Deals, supporting the wide-ranging work they are progressing on the future of town centres and high streets. Some Growth Deals have an emphasis on town centre regeneration and public realm, for example, Chichester, Crawley and Worthing, and in Burgess Hill where there is a new library. As the country emerges from the pandemic the County Council will be working with partners to assess whether the approach being taken provides the best platform for recovery.

The Council is also keen to support and help revive collaborative workspaces in town centres, including through The Track Creative Digital Hub in Bognor Regis, and by providing support for enterprises who work in these hubs to recover through the recent Recover and Rise programme with more than 600 participants.

The Council is working with the district and borough councils and the Coast to Capital LEP, to further support business resilience and recovery through digital technologies and skills, with some focus on those sectors hit hardest by COVID-19 including the retail sector.

The Experience West Sussex Destination Partnership's marketing activities will feature spotlights on town centres to help attract visitors (in accordance with public health guidance), including a campaign focused on autumn and winter to encourage visitors throughout the year.

The Council is also progressing digital infrastructure plans to help create opportunities for digital technology and services to support the future of town centres.

5. Written question from Cllr Noel Atkins for reply by Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Question

I declare a personal interest as a local authority governor of Durrington Infant and Junior Federated Schools.

While I appreciate the excellent and difficult work the schools place planning and admissions team do, it is naturally not always possible to satisfy every parent. Can the Cabinet Member tell me:

- (a) What is the percentage success rate of successful admissions – a successful admission being any one of the three choices of school made by parents/carers;
- (b) How many parents did not get one of their three preferences for their children;
- (c) How many days have been set aside for appeals; and
- (d) What percentage of appeals are normally successful?

Answer

- (a) In the secondary school admissions round for 2021, 97.3% of parents received one of their three preferences. There were 9,079 applications in the round.
- (b) The Admissions Team were not able to meet one of three preferences for 2.7% of applicants. This equates to 251 children across the whole county.
- (c) Currently there are 73 days set aside for appeals, this could be subject to change. It is important to note that parents may appeal when one of their preferences have been met, but also where they wish to appeal for a higher preference school.
- (d) The success rate from last year for all secondary main admission appeals was 7%.

6. Written question from Cllr Noel Atkins for reply by Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Question

I declare a personal interest as a local authority governor of Durrington Infant and Junior Federated Schools.

Regarding the transition of St Andrew's School in Worthing to a co-educational school, can the Cabinet tell me:

- (a) Is St Andrew's bringing in staff that have experience in teaching girls;
- (b) As St Andrew's is a faith school where pupils normally take a GCSE in RE, can parents who are not religious request their child take an alternative GCSE;
- (c) Has sufficient investment been made in the school for this transition; and
- (d) Are adequate facilities in place for girls sports for example a net ball pitch?

Answer

- (a) County Council officers have been working closely with the headteacher, governing body and the Church of England Diocese to support the transition of the school from all boys to a co-educational establishment. Preparations to welcome girls into the school have been made since the decision was taken in regard to the school's change of status.
- (b) Whilst parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education, we would recommend any parents who have specific questions about the education of their child including curriculum options approach the school directly, to seek further information.
- (c) and (d)

Officers are working to support the need for a phased capital investment programme in the facilities of the school to provide for the entry of girls in September 2021. Investment in excess of £500,000 is being undertaken over this summer and further investment will be programmed when funds allow.

7. Written question from Cllr Chris Oxlade for reply by Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Question

I note from the Forward Plan that a number of schools are due to have their all-weather pitches replaced. As many of these types of pitches were installed around the same time, I am sure that there will be more schools needing to have these replaced in the not too distant future.

All-weather pitches enable schools to ensure that sport is played outside all year round, whether that is because schools do not have access to their own playing fields because their playing fields are unusable due to bad weather or because sports halls are in use in the summer for exams. Undoubtedly, access to outside space and exercise will be a priority for children returning to schools for their health and

wellbeing. Furthermore, all-weather pitches can provide an excellent resource within a local community and potentially provide schools with a much needed source of income though hire arrangements.

I understand there are different types of pitches depending on the priority of sport it is intended for. Can the Cabinet Member provide me:

- (a) With an assurance that when decisions regarding the replacement of all-weather pitches are to be taken that he will take account of both the schools preference and the potential wider community use of the pitch; and
- (b) Where this would result in additional costs, that he will do all he can to fund this, including exploring partnership funding and opportunities for additional grant funding where this is possible.

Answer

(a) and (b)

Ifield Community College and Oriel Community College are part of the Crawley Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Their existing artificial grass pitches were due life cycle renewal. The schools approached the PFI company to adapt them to be suitable for football and rugby which is part of the curriculum, unlike hockey. As a gesture of goodwill, the PFI company agreed to pay the additional costs to make them 3G all-weather rugby pitches. The surfaces and fitting have already been procured at cost to BAM (the PFI facilities management company) and should be replaced before September 2021. Hockey will continue to be played on grass pitches locally at the third of the PFI schools, Thomas Bennett Community College.

Horley Hockey Club, based in Surrey, has historically used the artificial grass pitch at Ifield for training. It is used for hockey for less than 8% of the week. Hazlewick School is the designated facility for hockey in Horley and we understand has recently been enhanced.

We would expect any replacement of an artificial grass pitch on a PFI school site to have considered the views of the school and the broader community usage wherever possible. For County Council-funded projects at non-PFI schools, I would expect officers to ensure they have taken account of both the individual school's preference and the potential wider community use of the pitch.

8. Written question from Cllr Pete Bradbury for reply by Cabinet Member for Environment

Question

There are unprecedented threats to the natural environment of West Sussex resulting from climate change and development. Current government ambitions on house building and infrastructure are likely to accelerate land use change, with implications for habitat and the wider environment.

I understand that the Government's Environment Bill proposes a number of measures to address such matters. Could the Cabinet Member please advise:

- (a) What is the County Council currently doing to address the threats to the county's precious environment;
- (b) What other actions does the County Council propose to take to safeguard our natural environment; and
- (c) What are the implications of the Bill for the County Council, including taking on new duties or responsibilities?

Answer

- (a) The County Council has adopted, and is implementing, a number of plans and strategies, including the Climate Change Strategy, the Pollination Plan, the West Sussex Tree Plan, the Notable Road Verge initiative, and the Local Wildlife Sites initiative. These initiatives bring together the County Council's aspirations and align them to those of the community and other major stakeholders in West Sussex.

Following flooding in the county during 2012/13, the County Council resolved to address issues with the drainage infrastructure. Since then, investments have been made in highway drainage and environmental improvements in areas worst affected by flooding. Local communities have been successfully supported by the funding for over 360 projects (over £3.3m) and work has been undertaken with nearly 150 community groups.

One of the first local authorities to set a carbon reduction target, in 2011 the County Council pledged to reduce emissions by 50% by 2020. At the end of 2019/20, the target was met and corporate carbon emissions were reduced by 51%. In April 2019, the County Council pledged net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and interim figures show that the carbon footprint is continuing to reduce.

In 2019/20, the County Council exceeded the Government's recycling target of 50%, achieving recycling rates of 53.1%, and also achieving the most improved rate of reuse, recycling and composting in the south-east in the same year. The County Council is now working towards the 2025 Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra's) target of 55%.

Furthermore, the County Council continues to support, and be an active member of several key partnerships, including the pan-Sussex Local Nature Partnership, the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. In addition, work continues with the other local authorities in the county and the valuable work of the High Weald AONB Unit and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy is supported.

- (b) The primary focus is on delivering the commitments and actions identified in the above plans and strategies. Where appropriate, opportunities will be taken to secure external funding to accelerate delivery or to bring forward proposals that are programmed for delivery in the longer-term.

As at present, the County Council continues to look for ways to work in partnership with private, public and third sector organisations where they share the ambition to protect, maintain and improve the environment of West Sussex.

- (c) The new responsibilities for local authorities relate to governance, waste and resource efficiency, air quality, water, and nature and biodiversity.

Notably, Defra are expected to launch a second consultation process this month around the key new measures in the resource and waste strategy to help promote a more circular economy. Officers have been involved in several workshops with Defra and the County Council will be poised to respond jointly with our district and borough partners.

The enactment of the Bill will require secondary legislation and, therefore, it is too early to understand how those new responsibilities will be apportioned within two-tier areas. However, the situation is being monitored and work continues locally, regionally and nationally to fully understand the likely resource implications for the County Council from the enactment of this Bill.

9. Written question from Cllr Michael Jones for reply by Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities

Question

The Fire Brigades Union has recently analysed the 2021/22 local government finance settlement and concluded that government funding for fire and rescue services in England has been cut by £139.7m since 2016/17. Funding for fire and rescue services has been reduced by 13.8% in cash terms over the five years since the last local government finance settlement, leaving fire and rescue services exposed as they face emerging threats from flooding, wildfires, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The analysis reveals that from 2016/17 to 2021/22 four brigades have had their funding cut by more than a third, this includes West Sussex which has lost £4.3m or 43.9%.

Can the Cabinet Member tell me:

- (a) Whether the fact that West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has had one of the most significant budget cuts in the country has been raised with the Government recently; and
- (b) If he has asked why West Sussex residents deserve to be less well protected than residents in other areas?

Answer

- (a) Officers and members continue to lobby central government for fair and equitable funding for all County Council services including fire and rescue. Like many authorities, West Sussex has experienced a reduction in funding over several years. A key aspect of this is the reduction in government grant available for all services, including fire and rescue services, and in particular a relatively outdated fire funding formula. Resourcing for the Fire & Rescue Service is managed within the County Council's overall budget and distributed based on the resources required to meet the county's risk; it is not informed by the figures that have been quoted by the Fire Brigades Union. The West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has not had a budget cut. In fact, over the last three years, there has been considerable investment in the service. Following the last HM Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services inspection the

County Council has invested an additional £5.1m (over three years) to resource improvement in prevention, protection and response in such areas as IT, vehicles equipment and training. In addition, a further £0.9m was invested in 2020/21, and together this investment has created additional capacity that has allowed the service to respond robustly to establish the improvements required, as demonstrated by our ability to respond and adapt effectively to the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- (b) Every fire and rescue authority must produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which is an assessment of all foreseeable fire related risk within our county. Resources are allocated based on this risk assessment and not demand and each fire and rescue service IRMP will be different but must identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face. The fire authority must also publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the Framework which is subject to scrutiny by the Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis.

10. Written question from Cllr Chris Oxlade for reply by Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities

Question

Evidence, requested over a year ago by the Scrutiny Committee, has still not been provided to show that staffing in Surrey's fire control is adequate to manage emergencies in both Surrey and West Sussex. When West Sussex had their own fire control, shift strength was six per shift, to manage around 9,000 incidents a year. The Surrey fire control also has just six staff per shift, but they now have to manage over 20,000 incidents a year.

Members have not been kept informed about plans for East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service to hand their fire control function over to Surrey. This will increase the number of emergencies the Surrey fire control has to manage to over 30,000 a year. If staffing is not significantly improved, there will be a more frequent risk of delays in the response to West Sussex emergencies. The risk of errors under pressure will also increase.

Will the Cabinet Member:

- (a) Inform Council of the maximum and minimum staffing levels proposed for the joint control when East Sussex joins the arrangement; and
- (b) Provide the evidence used to justify those levels?

Answer

- (a) and (b)

The Joint Fire Control Task and Finish Group was held in early 2021 on behalf of the Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee. The report from the group is due to be published in the next scrutiny committee papers.

The Task and Finish Group looked at all areas of the project including project delivery, performance, and included a look forward to East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service joining the collaboration.

Recent large multi-fire engine incidents including simultaneous incidents over the last fourteen months and several spate conditions* events have been experienced across Sussex and Surrey and have demonstrated that levels of staff are effective.

The fire control utilises state of the art mobilising technology where data messages are used by the operators and crews. The use of data enables operators to focus on answering 999 calls and allows for efficient management of the control room. Previous technology was outdated and did not utilise data messaging technology, therefore technology between the new and old control centre is not comparable. Staffing levels of six including two officers are both efficient and effective and are supported by modern technology.

- * 'Spate conditions' occur where many calls are being received simultaneously for multiple incidents not at the same address. These conditions are often for periods of hours or even days and can be prepared for in some cases, such as severe weather forecasts.

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Question Time: 19 March 2021

Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet. In instances where a Cabinet Member or the Leader undertook to take follow-up action, this is also noted below.

Best Start in Life

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member answered a question on the Integrated Front Door, from Cllr Sparkes.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

£20 supermarket vouchers and support for children over the Easter holidays, from Cllr Burgess.

Mental health support in schools, from Cllr Arculus, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones and Cllr Walsh.

A Prosperous Place

Leader

The Leader answered a question on listening to ideas from members, from Cllr Purchase.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Gatwick surface transport issues, from Cllr N Dennis.

In response to a question from about the introduction of a £5 charge for those dropping off or collecting passengers from Gatwick Airport and potential unintended consequences, the Cabinet Member said that if Cllr Dennis could let him have evidence of any issues he would consider them.

Pothole funding, from Cllr Millson, Cllr Quinn and Cllr Walsh.

A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place

Cabinet Member for Environment

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Trial booking system for Household Waste Recycling, from Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr M Jones, Cllr Quinn and Cllr Walsh.

Impact of incineration on recycling, from Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Pendleton and Cllr Walsh.

Improvements in recycling, from Cllr Bradbury and Cllr Burrett.

Barriers to electric car take-up, from Cllr Arculus, Cllr Cloake, Cllr O'Kelly and Cllr Smytherman.

Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Library Service in the Easter holidays, from Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Cloake and Cllr A Jones.

While responding to a question from Cllr Barrett-Miles the Cabinet Member, on behalf of the Council, expressed thanks to Lesley Sim, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Registration, who was leaving the Council at the end of March and wished her a long and happy retirement. He also congratulated Russell Allen on his appointment as the new head of service.

Central government proposal for Police and Crime Commissioners to take over Fire & Rescue Services, from Cllr S Oakley and Cllr Smytherman.

Anti-social behaviour, from Cllr Atkins.

Independence for Later Life

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Mental health first aid, from Cllr Edwards.

Social care support, from Cllr Brunsdon, Cllr A Jones and Cllr Turner.

In response to a question from Cllr Brunsdon about a recent report by the Care Quality Commission on the imposition of blanket orders for Do Not Resuscitate Orders in the early days of the pandemic and what the situation was in care homes in West Sussex, the Cabinet said she would find out and respond to her.