

To all Members of the County Council

A virtual ordinary meeting of the County Council will be held at **10.30 am** on **Friday, 18 September 2020**.

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 - 28)

The Council is asked to confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the County Council held on 17 July 2020.

4. **Review of Proportionality** (Pages 29 - 30)

Following a recent change to group affiliation, the County Council has a statutory duty to review the proportionality on its committees. A brief explanation of the proportionality rules and how they are applied is set out in the attached report, together with the proportionality following the changes.

5. **Appointments** (To Follow)

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

6. **Address by a Cabinet Member** (Pages 31 - 36)

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.

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.

7. **Notices of Motion**

(a) **Motion on Support and Recognition for Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder** (Pages 37 - 38)

To consider the following motion, submitted by Cllr Edwards, which was referred to the Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults and Health at the meeting of the County Council on 13 December 2019:

'This Council advocates better treatment of veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and better recognition for those who have died as a result of this disorder. The County Council takes the wellbeing of all those who have served extremely seriously and is continually considering how it can better understand the needs of ex-services persons who are suffering from PTSD and provide the best possible support.

In this country there is a National Memorial Arboretum to commemorate those who have given their lives in the service of our country. Families are able to spend time there remembering their loved ones. Every name, in one place, a calm, respectful space, where people can reflect and honour these heroes. However, those veterans who have taken their own lives, succumbing to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder caused by combat, are not remembered at the National Memorial Arboretum.

This Council believes that this must change. These service personnel have given their all in their service for our country and in many cases have been medically discharged from service because of the trauma they have seen and taken part in. Subsequently, as civilians, they take their own life and therefore are recognised as combat related casualties.

This Council calls upon the Leader of the Council and the Armed Forces Champion to:

- (1) Lobby the Ministry of Defence to provide a fitting memorial to those who have served and ultimately succumbed to PTSD;
- (2) Continue to work with partners through the West Sussex Civilian Military Partnership Board to improve the lives of veterans and promote the services available to them with particular emphasis on mental health services, including use of the Forces Connect South East App to all staff as a signposting

mechanism;

- (3) Encourage staff to undertake Armed Forces Mental Health First Aid training; and
- (4) Work with the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health to ensure that health and wellbeing matters affecting veterans, including PTSD, are recognised in health and wellbeing strategies including the forthcoming refresh of Suicide Prevention Strategy in 2020.'

and the report of the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health.

(b) **Motion on Government Planning Consultation**

To consider the following motion, submitted by Cllr Bradbury, notice of which was given on 21 August 2020:

'This Council notes the Government's consultations on changes to the current planning system alongside the consultation on the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper, and welcomes the focus on building on brownfield sites, better energy efficiency standards and the requirement to enhance bio-diversity.

This Council also welcomes simplifying the planning process and the proposal to replace S106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy with a new Infrastructure Levy and to apply it to permitted development. However, it believes that planning should be kept local with public participation at its heart, with sufficient funding for local infrastructure that flows to the infrastructure provider. Therefore, the County Council must have a statutory role in the operation of the new levy and secure an appropriate share of the funds that are raised.

However, the Council calls for an urgent review of the housing allocation algorithm which concentrates housing numbers in the suburbs and rural areas, which already have an infrastructure deficit, and away from towns and cities, which post Covid-19, are crying out for regeneration of town centres and high streets. The Council registers its concern over the impact that this algorithm will have on West Sussex regarding:

- (1) The almost doubling of housing targets will impact the environment, loss of agricultural land, building on flood plains and the county's ability to combat climate change. The county already suffers from a lack of infrastructure such as roads, public transport, rail, and others and has just experienced water shortages in some areas;

- (2) Insufficient account is taken of the areas covered by national parks, AONBs and coastal flood plains, leading to mass development outside of these areas;
- (3) The need in rural areas is for affordable rented housing. The change to affordable housing thresholds would mean that in approximately 70% of small parishes no affordable housing contributions would be required on sites of fewer than 40 to 50 dwellings, this would mean that no affordable housing would be delivered in these communities which will be catastrophic for their sustainability.

Planning is not just about housing and it will be important to understand how the proposed changes to the operation of the planning system impact upon the County Council's statutory minerals, waste and other planning functions.

Council also supports the recommendation in the Glover Review to give AONBs statutory consultee status for planning applications in their area to strengthen their role in the planning system.

This Council therefore calls upon the Cabinet Member for Environment working with the Leader to liaise with the district and borough councils and Members of Parliament in making these points in the response to the consultation.'

(c) **Motion on unaccompanied Child Asylum Seekers**

To consider the following motion, submitted by Cllr Lord, notice of which was given on 1 September 2020:

'During summer 2020, the number of people arriving by boat to seek asylum in the UK has increased with an associated raised media profile for this issue. In August, Kent County Council announced that it is has now reached its capacity to accommodate unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. West Sussex County Council is signed up to the voluntary National Transfer Scheme and has taken six unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Kent since June.

This Council:

- (a) Recognises the United Kingdom's proud tradition of welcoming people fleeing conflict and persecution;
- (b) Asks the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to continue to work with other local authorities through the National Transfer Scheme, particularly Kent and Portsmouth, to meet the needs of as many Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children as we are able;

- (c) Acknowledges the role of West Sussex County Council's Children's Services and the foster carers who provide a safe home for our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and expresses our gratitude for their ongoing work; and
- (d) Acknowledges that, notwithstanding differing personal views, anyone engaged in discourse on this issue, including elected members, has a responsibility to treat the people involved with dignity, compassion and respect.'

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

(d) Motion on Post-16 Support Services

To consider the following motion, submitted by Cllr M Jones, notice of which was given on 1 September 2020:

'This Council notes that the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted on the education of young people over the age of sixteen in this County over the last six months or so. Those who have recently taken A levels, GCSEs and BTec examinations have had a particularly stressful time due to changes in the way exams were graded which impacted on choices for onward study for some young people. For those who were planning on seeking employment or apprenticeships after completing their education, the situation is even worse due to the current state of the economy.

Now more than ever these students need support to ensure they do not find themselves Not in education, employment or training (NEETs). Moreover, given the likely long term impact of the effects of the pandemic on the economy, it will become even more important than ever for this Council to be able to provide support for future generations of school-leavers.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to reprioritise funding to enable the reversal of the decision taken at full Council in February to reduce the post-16 support service that provides interventions and careers guidance for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) and instead to consider whether current staffing levels are adequate or should in fact be increased.'

8. Allocation of Additional Funding to support response to Covid-19 (Pages 39 - 42)

The Council is asked to approve an addition to the Council's revenue budget of grant funds allocated to the County Council by

the Government to support the work of the Council related to the public health emergency and to note how the allocations have been deployed, in the light of a report by the Director of Finance and Support Services.

9. **Question Time** (Pages 43 - 48)

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 17 July 2020. A supplementary report may be published.

(2 hours is allocated for Question Time)

10. **Governance Committee: Minor changes to the Constitution: Rights of Way Committee, Pension Advisory Board and Pensions Committee** (Pages 49 - 54)

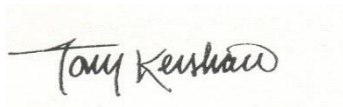
To consider minor changes to the terms of reference of the Rights of Way Committee, the Pension Advisory Board and the Pensions Committee, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee.

11. **Report of Urgent Action: Regulation 19** (Pages 55 - 56)

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

County Council concludes

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



Director of Law and Assurance
9 September 2020