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# **West Sussex County Council – Annual Meeting**

# 26 May 2023

At the Annual Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 26 May 2023, at County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ, the members present being:

# Cllr Bradbury (Chairman)

Cllr Wickremaratchi (Vice-Chairman) Cllr N Jupp Cllr Ali Cllr Kenyon Cllr Atkins, RD Cllr Kerry-Bedell Cllr Baxter Cllr Lanzer Cllr Bence Cllr Linehan Cllr Boram Cllr Lord Cllr Markwell Cllr Britton Cllr Burgess Cllr Marshall Cllr Burrett Cllr McKniaht Cllr Cherry Cllr Mercer Cllr Chowdhury Cllr Milne Cllr Condie Cllr Montyn Cllr Cooper Cllr Oakley Cllr O'Kelly Cllr Cornell Cllr Oppler Cllr Crow Cllr Dabell Cllr Oxlade Cllr J Dennis Cllr Patel Cllr N Dennis Cllr Payne Cllr Duncton Cllr Pudaloff Cllr Dunn Cllr Quinn Cllr Elkins Cllr Richardson Cllr Russell Cllr Forbes Cllr Greenway Cllr Sharp Cllr Hall Cllr Smith Cllr Hillier Cllr Sparkes Cllr Hunt Cllr Turley Cllr Johnson Cllr Urguhart Cllr Waight Cllr Joy Cllr Wild Cllr A Jupp

### 1 Chairman

1.1 Cllr Wickremaratchi, the Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair for the election of Chairman of the County Council.

# 2 Election of Chairman

2.1 The Vice-Chairman stated that he had one nomination for the office of Chairman of the Council, that of Cllr Pete Bradbury. Cllr Bradbury was elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

2.2 Cllr Bradbury made the prescribed declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

# 3 Election of Vice-Chairman

- 3.1 The Chairman stated that he had one nomination for the office of Vice-Chairman of the Council, that of Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi. Cllr Wickremaratchi was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.
- 3.2 Cllr Wickremaratchi made the prescribed declaration of acceptance of office.

# 4 Death of former Member and of former Chief Executive

- 4.1 The Chairman reported the deaths of Mr Graham Forshaw, a former Leader of the County Council who had represented the Goring division from 1977 to 2001, and of Mr Brian Fieldhouse, who had been the Council's Treasurer from 1974 to 1990 and Chief Executive from 1990 to 1995.
- 4.2 Members observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Forshaw and Mr Fieldhouse.

# 5 Presentation to Cllr Nigel Dennis

5.1 The Chairman presented a small memento to Cllr Nigel Dennis to mark his 30 years' service to the County Council.

# 6 Apologies for Absence

- 6.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Albury, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Evans, Cllr Gibson, Cllr McDonald, Cllr McGregor, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Nagel, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Wall and Cllr Walsh.
- 6.2 Apologies for the afternoon session were received from Cllr Condie, Cllr Dunn and Cllr Joy. Cllr Richardson was absent for the afternoon session.
- 6.3 Cllr N Jupp arrived for the afternoon session at 2.20 pm. Cllr Elkins, Cllr Oppler and Cllr Kenyon left at 2.20 pm, 3.10 pm and 3.20 pm respectively.

# 7 Members' Interests

7.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

# 8 Minutes

8.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 17 February 2023 (pages 7 to 20) be approved as a correct record, subject to the addition of Cllr Wild to the attendance list.

# 9 Result of By-election

9.1 The Council received the County Returning Officer's return of the by-election on 4 May 2023 for the county councillor for the East Grinstead Meridian electoral division (page 21).

# 10 Review of Proportionality

10.1 The County Council noted its statutory duty to review the proportionality on its committees each year and following the recent by-election. A paper on the application of the proportionality rules and how they were applied was set out on page 3 and a table showing the number of seats on committees had been circulated.

### 10.2 Resolved -

That the review of proportionality on committees be approved.

# 11 Notification of Appointment of Cabinet Members and Advisers to Cabinet Members

- 11.1 The County Council was reminded that the Leader was required each year to give notice to the Council of his appointments to the Cabinet and allocation of Cabinet portfolios between the cabinet members, together with the appointment of advisers to cabinet members.
- 11.2 The Council noted that Cllr Marshall had given notice to the County Council of his appointments for the ensuing year, as set out on pages 25 to 30.

# **12** Appointments to Committees

- 12.1 A schedule setting out the nominations for the re-appointment of the members of non-Executive committees, the chairmen, vice-chairmen, panels and substitutes of those committees and the members of Scrutiny Committees was circulated. Members were reminded that appointments of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of Scrutiny Committees will be dealt with at the next round of committees in the usual way.
- 12.2 The schedule was agreed as set out at Appendix 2.

# 13 Appointment of an Independent Member to the Independent Remuneration Panel

13.1 The Council approved an appointment to fill a vacancy for an Independent Member to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) and agreed to appoint Mr Donaldson for a third term, in the light of a report by the Chairman of the Standards Committee (supplement page 11).

# 13.2 Resolved -

- (1) That Mr John Donaldson be appointed for a third term as a member of the West Sussex IRP, from October 2023 to October 2027; and
- (2) That Dr John Godfrey, DL, be appointed for a first term as a member of the West Sussex IRP, from October 2023 to October 2027.

# 14 West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan: Five-yearly Assessment

- 14.1 The Council considered the outcome of the five-yearly assessment of the Joint Minerals Local Plan on whether a formal review, either in whole or in part, is required, in the light of a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change (pages 31 to 32 and supplement pages 1 to 40).
- 14.2 An amendment to the recommendation was moved by Cllr O'Kelly and seconded by Cllr Condie as set out below.

### **'Recommended**

That the Joint Minerals Local Plan is still relevant and effective and does not need to be formally reviewed, in whole or in part be further assessed for the need for formal review to ensure it is aligned with this Council's Climate Change Strategy and that the assessment is brought to a future meeting of the Council for decision.'

- 14.3 The amendment was lost.
- 14.4 Resolved -

That the Joint Minerals Local Plan is still relevant and effective and does not need to be formally reviewed, in whole or in part.

# Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children Services Judgement of the County Council's Children's Services 11 May 2023

- 15.1 The Council considered the recently published Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services Report, in the light of a report by the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills (pages 33 to 60).
- 15.2 Resolved -

That the report be noted.

# 16 Governance Committee: Review of Webcasting

16.1 Following a one-year trial, the Council considered a recommendation to add Health and Wellbeing Board meetings to the list of meetings

in Standing Orders where there is a presumption that they will be webcast, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (page 61).

# 16.2 Revolved -

That Health and Wellbeing Board meetings be added to the list of meetings in Standing Orders where there is a presumption that they will be webcast.

# 17 Report of Urgent Action

17.1 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (pages 63 and 64) was noted.

# 18 Question Time

18.1 Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios and asked questions of chairmen, as set out at Appendix 4. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 65 to 72) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 2.38 (set out at Appendix 3).

# 19 Motion on Defibrillators

19.1 The following motion was moved by Cllr Greenway and seconded by Cllr Cooper.

'West Sussex County Council recognises the importance of making defibrillators accessible and having them registered, especially in public places, sports grounds and Government-funded facilities.

This Council understands the role that it has in facilitating the delivery of new defibrillators across West Sussex.

The Council supports and welcomes the planned rollout of defibrillators by the Government to all state-funded schools that currently do not have one, with over 20,000 expected to be delivered to 18,000 schools by the end of the academic year.

This Council asks the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing to:

(1) Commit to working with the local community to find suitable places to place defibrillators, acknowledging that they are most effective within three minutes of a person collapsing, and to support finding funding for defibrillators in public places and community spaces;

- (2) Seek to register defibrillators held within County Council facilities with 'The Circuit', The National Defibrillator Network, supported by the British Heart Foundation;
- (3) Encourage schools to also register their government-funded defibrillator; and
- (4) Promote via the Council's publications (including on social media) the benefits of having a defibrillator in the community and explaining how they can be used in an emergency situation.'
- 19.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance and Property agreed to ask Facilities Management to look at the possibility of re-siting any defibrillators currently inside County Council premises to the outside of the building so they are accessible at all times.
- 19.3 The motion was carried unanimously.

Chairman

The Council rose at 3.38 pm

# **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
12 - Ofsted Inspection	Cllr Atkins	Local Authority Governor of Durrington Infant and Junior Federated Schools
15 - Question Time	Cllr Ali	Member of Crawley Borough Council
15 - Question Time	Cllr Atkins	Member of Worthing Borough Council
15 - Question Time	Cllr Burgess	Member of Crawley Borough Council
15 - Question Time	Cllr Burrett	Deferred member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
15 - Question Time	Cllr Lanzer	Member of Crawley Borough Council
15 - Question Time	Cllr Mercer	Chair of Orchard Hill College Academy Trust
15 - Question Time	Cllr Mercer	Member of Horsham District Council
15 – Question Time (Re- Energise Manor Royal)	Cllr Oxlade	Works for Manor Royal Business Improvement District
15 – Question Time (Electric Vehicle ChargePoints across the county)	Cllr Patel	Member of Arun District Council
15 - Question Time	Cllr Sharp	Member of Chichester District Council
16 - Notice of Motion on Defibrillators	Cllr Greenway	Member of Bersted Parish Council and Arun District Council
16 - Notice of Motion on Defibrillators	Cllr Lanzer	Member of the Sussex Health and Care Assembly
16 - Notice of Motion on Defibrillators	Cllr Oxlade	Works for Manor Royal Business Improvement District
16 – Notice of Motion on Defibrillators	Cllr Sharp	Member of Chichester District Council



# Minute Item 12

# **Appointments to Committees – May 2023**

(excluding non-Council members)

Changes shown in bold text

# **Scrutiny Committees**

**Note:** The chairmen and vice-chairmen of scrutiny committees will be appointed at the first meeting of each committee.

Name	No. of members	Members	Substitutes
Children and Young People's Services	12	Cllr Baldwin	Cllr Chowdhury
		Cllr Burgess	Cllr Duncton
		Cllr Cherry	Cllr Lord
		Cllr Cornell	Cllr Nagel
		Clir Dabell	_
		Clir Evans	
		Cllr Hall	
		Cllr Linehan	
		Cllr McGregor	
		Cllr Mercer	
		Cllr Smith	
		Cllr Sparkes	
Communities, Highways and	12	Cllr Albury	Cllr Baxter
Environment		Cllr Ali	Cllr Burgess
		Cllr Baldwin	Cllr Cooper
		Cllr Britton	Cllr Gibson
		Cllr N Dennis	Cllr Milne
		Cllr Greenway	
		Cllr Kenyon	
		Clir Kerry-Bedell	
		Cllr Oakley	
		Clir Payne	
		Cllr Quinn	
		Cllr Sharp	
Fire & Rescue Service	7	Cllr Bence	Cllr Albury

Name	No. of members	Members	Substitutes
		Cllr Boram	Cllr Evans
		Cllr Chowdhury	Cllr Oppler
		Cllr Duncton	Cllr Oxlade
		Cllr Joy	
		Cllr Patel	
		Cllr Pendleton	
Health and Adult Social Care	12	Cllr Ali	Cllr Baldwin
		Cllr Atkins	Cllr Burgess
		Cllr Cooper	Cllr Joy
		Cllr Dunn	Cllr McKnight
		Cllr Forbes	
		Cllr Johnson	
		Cllr Nagel	
		Cllr O'Kelly	
		Cllr Patel	
		Cllr Pudaloff	
		Cllr Wall	
		Cllr Walsh	
Performance and Finance	15	Cllr Baldwin	Cllr Baxter
		Cllr Burrett	Cllr Bence
		Cllr Boram	Cllr Johnson
		Cllr Britton	Cllr Payne
		Cllr Elkins	Cllr Walsh
		Cllr Gibson	
		Cllr Linehan	
		Cllr Lord	
		Cllr McDonald	
		Cllr McKnight	
		Cllr Milne	
		Cllr Montyn	
		Cllr Sparkes	
		Cllr Turley	
		Cllr Wall	

# Minute Item 12

# **Non-executive committees**

Name	No. of members	Members	Other members
Governance Committee	9	Cllr Bradbury (Chairman)	Substitutes:
		Cllr Burrett	
		Cllr A Jupp	Cllr Baxter
		Cllr Lord	Cllr Hunt
		Cllr Marshall	Cllr Urquhart
		Cllr O'Kelly	Cllr Walsh
		Clir Oxlade	
		Cllr Waight	
		Cllr Wickremaratchi (Vice-Chairman)	
Planning and Rights of Way	13	Cllr Ali	Substitutes:
Committee		Cllr Atkins (Vice-Chairman)	
		Cllr Burrett (Chairman)	Cllr Boram
		Cllr Duncton	Cllr Cherry
		Cllr Gibson	Cllr Forbes
		Cllr Kerry-Bedell	Cllr Kenyon
		Cllr McDonald	Cllr Markwell
		Cllr Montyn	Cllr Sharp
		Cllr Oakley	Cllr Turley
		Cllr Patel	Cllr Wickremaratchi
		Cllr Quinn	
		Cllr Wild	
		1 Labour vacancy	
Regulation, Audit and Accounts	7	Cllr Boram (Vice-Chairman)	Not applicable
		Cllr Condie (Chairman)	
		Cllr Greenway	
		Cllr Kenyon	
		Cllr McKnight	
		Cllr Montyn	
		Cllr Wall	
Standards Committee	9	Cllr Baxter	Not applicable

Name	No. of members	Members	Other members
		Cllr Bradbury (Chairman)	
		Cllr Burrett	
		Cllr Kenyon	
		Clir Mercer	
		Cllr Sparkes	
		Cllr Walsh	
		Cllr Wickremaratchi (Vice-Chairman)	
		Cllr Wild	

# **Informal Panels and Groups**

Name	No. of members	Members	Other members
Corporate Parenting Panel	7	Cllr Burgess	Not applicable
		Cllr Cooper	
		Cllr N Jupp	
		Cllr Linehan	
		Cllr Lord	
		Cllr Oxlade (Vice-Chairman)	
		Cllr Russell (Chairman)	
Foster Panel (North)	1	Clir Payne	Not applicable
Foster Panel (South East)	1	Cllr Smith	Not applicable
Foster Panel (South West)	1	Cllr Oppler	Not applicable
Additional Foster Panel	1	Cllr Hall	Not applicable
Safeguarding Adults Member	3	Cllr Chowdhury	Not applicable
Reference Group		Cllr A Jupp	
•		Cllr O'Kelly	
Treasury Management Panel	5	Cllr Condie	Not applicable
· -		Cllr Dunn	
		Cllr J Dennis	
		Cllr Hunt (Chairman)	
		Cllr Sparkes	

# Written Questions: 26 May 2023

1. Written question from Cllr Cornell for reply by Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills

# Question

The recent Ofsted Report on Children's Services recognised both the pressure we face in recruiting sufficient social workers, and the success we have had in recruiting from abroad.

However, we know that across the South East, the cost of living is making the retention of staff as serious an issue as recruitment.

Given the critical importance to our continued improvement journey of retaining these vital staff, can the Cabinet Member give us information on the progress and results of the recruitment drive since it began in September 2022, the measures we have in place to ensure we retain these staff and any early information relating to their retention?

### Answer

We have had offers of employment accepted by 52 social workers as a direct result of this focused recruitment drive. The new workers started to arrive in late January and as of 19 May we have had 29 of the social workers join us. The 29 are all still with us and current retention rate is 100%.

All the social workers who have joined us are being supported with an enhanced induction plan which includes support from our Professional Practice Team, bespoke training plans overseen with team managers and a small team of additional experienced workers. These additional workers are supporting the new starters in practical terms for example accompanying them on visits. Frequent supervision is being undertaken with team managers and also group and peer supervisions are happening. More formal on-going training sessions are also taking place. The new social workers are supported to gradually build the number and the complexity of children and families they are working with.

The other 23 workers are having their onboarding checks completed. One of the things required is Social Work England registration and there are currently delays being experienced with this. We have escalated our concerns to Social Work England and continue to work with them. In the meantime, we are actively keeping engaged and in touch with those waiting to arrive and in the second week of May hosted a 'Meet your Manager' Teams call to ensure they are all reassured that we are looking forward to welcoming them and to answer any questions they may have.

2. Written question from Cllr Smith for reply by Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills

# Question

Following the announcement of secondary school places in West Sussex on 1 March 2023, could you please advise the following:

- (a) How many children did not receive a secondary school placement of either their first, second or third choices across West Sussex?
- (b) Could you please advise us geographically if areas or cohorts have been especially affected by the allocation process and, if so, which areas and schools/cohorts have been affected?
- (c) How many pupils are going through the appeals process?
- (d) When is the latest date they can expect a decision to be made by?
- (e) Finally, could you please confirm that all children being allocated a school placement more than three miles from their home will receive school transport by West Sussex?

# **Answer**

The answers to the questions are as follows:

- (a) 9,072 (96.1%) received either their first, second or third preference secondary school place and 372 (3.9%) had no preference met.
- (b) The 372 are spread across the county although two areas (Horsham and Shoreham/Lancing) have seen a higher level of no preferences being met than elsewhere.
- (c) We have currently received 712 secondary school appeals to be heard independently, although requests are still being made. It should be noted that this figure is based on appeals received as pupils may have appeals lodged at more than one school.
- (d) Independent appeals are scheduled to be heard between May and July depending on the dates agreed with the schools and also panel members' availability. Once the independent appeal panel has made its decisions parents are usually informed within a week.
- (e) All school transport arrangements are made in accordance with the County Council's Home to School Transport policy. Where a secondary aged pupil has been placed at the next nearest suitable school to their home address where places are available and it is beyond the statutory three miles walking distance from the child's home, transport provision, usually by way of a train or bus pass, will be made.
- 3. Written question from Cllr Gibson for reply by Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

# Question

Emergency roadworks cause significant disruption to communities, economic loss to local businesses, and reputational damage to the Council. The increasing frequency of emergency roadworks in some locations suggests that the utility providers are relying on them to cover maintenance deficits.

Separately for each West Sussex district and for Imberdown division alone:

- (a) How many of each type of Permit for street, road or highways works (i.e. Major, Standard, Minor and Immediate) have been issued in each of the last two years?
- (b) How many of each type of Permit has each of the utility providers requested in each of the last two years?

### **Answer**

It is the case that any works on the highway have the potential to cause congestion and disruption for local communities and businesses. It is also the case that a failure in essential services such as gas, electricity, communications or water supply will also cause significant disruption for local communities and this is especially the case for an emergency such as a leak. Utility companies therefore have a legal right to maintain or upgrade their apparatus and the county council has a legal duty to permit this activity.

Data relating to total streetworks permits for the last two financial years are shown below. Unfortunately it is not possible to present the data by district or ward boundary without considerable effort (manual sorting) or commissioning a special report. Data is therefore presented in an <a href="Appendix (PDF, 505KB">Appendix (PDF, 505KB)</a> (available online) by financial year as permits relating to utility companies and towns.

In summary, during 2021/22, 1,340 emergency permits were granted. This figure rises to 1,476 during 2022/23.

Table 1: 2021/22 Permit Totals

Permit Type	Number of Permits
Minor	22,093
Immediate (Urgent)	6,001
Standard	3,824
Major	2,546
Immediate (Emergency)	1,340
Grand Total	35,804

Table 2: 2022/23 Permit Totals

Permit Type	Number of Permits
Minor	20,910
Immediate (Urgent)	7,245
Standard	3,386
Major	2,632
Immediate (Emergency)	1,476
<b>Grand Total</b>	35,649

**4.** Written question from **CIIr Gibson** for reply by Cabinet Member for **Highways** and **Transport** 

# Question

The A264 junctions with the A22 and the B2028.

- (a) What progress has been made on the joint feasibility study of the Felbridge A264/A22 junction with Surrey County Council, Tandridge District Council and Mid Sussex District Council?
- (b) When will the feasibility study scope be published and will it be subject to public consultation?
- (c) With regard to the <u>West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-36</u>; how will the feasibility study align with other work to address:
  - (i) the medium-term priorities set out in paragraph 7.131;
  - (ii) the issues set out in paragraph 7.124; and
  - (iii) the need for safety related interventions at the B2028/Wallage Lane junction set out in paragraph 7.123.
- (d) Does the Council consider that the carriageway surface of the A264/B2028 Dukes Head Roundabout is acceptable and safe for all users? What plans, including dates, are there for upgrading the carriageway including adding a westbound left turn only lane?

### **Answer**

- (a) The consultancy brief has been discussed with the local planning authorities and finalised. Project managers at the County Council and Surrey County Council have been identified. Once a consultant has been appointed, technical work and engagement with key stakeholders including county councillors can commence.
- (b) There is no intention to publish the consultancy brief, although the pertinent information can be shared with key stakeholders, including county councillors. It is not appropriate for public consultation to take place on the brief as the brief draws on policies and strategies that have previously been consulted on.
- (c) The study will consider the issues, challenges and priorities set out in the West Sussex Transport Plan that are relevant to the study area, alongside those in the Surrey Local Transport Plan and other relevant plans and strategies such as local plans and neighbourhood plans. The plans and strategies will be taken into account to develop a set of study objectives against which options can be assessed. The evidence base that supports these plans and strategies will be reviewed and used by the project team. Although the B2028 junction with Wallage Lane is outside the study area, it is a route used by traffic seeking to avoid congestion on the A22 and A264. The need for a safety scheme at this location will be revisited once the impacts of the preferred scheme are understood.
- (d) The County Council is aware of the condition of A264/B2028 Dukes Head junction. In the immediate term, the safety inspection regime monitors local defective areas and arranges repairs to defects and potholes in line with the County Council's Highway Inspection Manual. The Land West of Copthorne Development (13/04127/OUTES) includes a condition that requires the developer to deliver small-scale widening improvements in advance of the occupation of the 250th dwelling. The start of works for this scheme is dependent on the availability of road space but the County Council expects

these works to commence towards the end of 2023. As the developer-led improvements only include partial resurfacing of the junction, the County Council are also in the process of designing a scheme to resurface the remainder of the roundabout and approaches/departures for inclusion in the 2024/25 Carriageway Resurfacing Programme, subject to budget and overall priority need.

# 5. Written question from **Clir Milne** for reply by **Cabinet Member for Highways** and **Transport**

# Question

Following the tragic death of cyclist Pathushan Sutharsan at the A281 Downs Link crossing, there has been a further serious collision between a horse and a car.

Pathushan's Coroner wrote a Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths stating:

"In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. I believe your organisation have the power to take such action. It appears that at this stage there are no definitive plans in place to take this forward. Therefore the significant risk to the users of this junction remains".

Two years ago the Council identified a bridge as its preferred solution. Now that the Council has established that their fallback option of a Pegasus crossing is impractical because of cost and loss of trees, will the Cabinet Member agree to bring forward a bridge as a major scheme funded over a number of years?

### **Answer**

Following the release of the coroner's report into the incident in 2020, the County Council completed a series of remedial works to improve safety, including the erection of signs, clearance of vegetation and the installation of wooden barriers on the Downslink path.

An options report looked at the costs associated with a bridge and we have worked with SUSTRANS on this and potential bids to Department of Transport for funding. Full funding for this scheme is not available and any solution will require significant investment from the County Council's own funds.

For the County Council, Horsham District Council and SUSTRANS a bridge is the preferred option. However, the estimated cost of a bridge is approximately £2m with rising materials and constructions costs. Neither the County Council nor SUSTRANS have been able to make an economic case for the bridge in comparison to other priorities.

Until there is some prospect of funding being available to progress with a significant improvement at this site, our current position is for the scheme to remain in our pipeline until appropriate funding becomes available.



# Question Time: 26 May 2023

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 noted.

# Leader

The Leader answered questions on the following matters:

Business Hothouse programme, from Cllr Cooper and Cllr Mercer.

In response to a question from Cllr Mercer about support to sole traders and microbusinesses, the Leader agreed to send him a copy of the Business Hothouse evaluation report.

Gold Leadership Luncheon for South East Gold Award winners, from Cllr Burgess.

Consequences of the fire at a Midhurst hotel, from Cllr O'Kelly.

# **Cabinet Member for Adults Services**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Carers short breaks, from Cllr Duncton.

Market Sustainability Plan, from Cllr Kenyon.

# Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Secondary school places in Adur, from Cllr Boram, Cllr Mercer and Cllr Smith.

In response to a question from Cllr Smith about whether children with an Education, Health and Care Plan who live more than three miles from school are automatically offered a school bus or a taxi service, the Cabinet Member agreed to check and let her know.

Recommissioning of short breaks, from Cllr Lord.

In response to a question from Cllr Lord about the recommissioning of short breaks and whether providers are required to contact existing service users to let them know of the changes in provision, the Cabinet Member for said she would find out and let Cllr Lord know.

The Cabinet Member also agreed to check whether the communications about the changes had been good enough.

New schools for children with special educational needs, from Cllr Mercer and Cllr Oakley.

Education and Learning Strategy, from Cllr Payne.

# **Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Business and Intellectual Property Centre, from Cllr Ali.

Wholetime fire fighters, from Cllr Dabell.

New Horsham Fire Station, from Cllr N Jupp.

# **Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on Re-energise Manor Royal, from Cllr Oxlade.

# **Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

Adult Social care debt, from Cllr McKnight.

# **Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

The Cabinet Member, answered a question on the following matters:

Roads maintenance and potholes, from Cllr Cherry, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Kerry-Bedell and Cllr Quinn.

Scope for community bus partnerships, from Cllr Bence, Cllr N Dennis and Cllr Kerry-Bedell.

The Cabinet Member agreed to work with Cllr Bence to see if the Community Transport Scheme can be extended to provide bus services in Walberton.

Result of #WestSussBus consultation, from Cllr Sharp.

In response to a question from Cllr Sharp about how long the #WestSussBus consultation will last, the Cabinet Member said she would find out and let her know.

Electric Vehicle charge points, from Cllr Duncton, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr McKnight, Cllr O'Kelly, Cllr Patel and Cllr Quinn.

Written Question 3 - co-ordination of street works for utility companies, from Cllr Boram, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Milne and Cllr Waight.

School Street project, from Cllr Ali, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Markwell and Cllr Milne.

In response to a question from Cllr Greenway about whether there have been discussions with borough and district councils about enforcement of traffic restrictions, the Cabinet Member said she would find out and respond.

In response to a question from Cllr Ali about why Gossops Green Primary School is not included in the project, despite discussions about its inclusion, the Cabinet Member said she would find out and let him know.

# **Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on National No Smoking Day, from Cllr Lord, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Oakley and Cllr Sparkes.

In response to a question from Cllr Lord about whether work is being done for future campaigns to target teenagers who are vaping, the Cabinet Member agreed to report back at a later date.

In response to a question from Cllr Markwell about what is being done to target children too young to pick up anti-vaping messages via social media, the Cabinet Member agreed to find out and respond.

In response to a question from Cllr Oakley about whether trends in cigarette sales are one of the measurements of the effectiveness of campaigns in changing smoking behaviours, the Cabinet Member said he would check to see if local data is available.

