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West Sussex County Council – Annual Meeting

22 March 2024

At the Annual Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 22 March 2024, at County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ, the members present being:

Cllr Montyn (Chairman)

Cllr Sparkes (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Albury

Cllr Ali

Cllr Atkins, RD

Cllr Baldwin

Cllr Bence

Cllr Boram

Cllr Bradbury

Cllr Britton

Cllr Burgess

Cllr Burrett

Cllr Cherry

Cllr Chowdhury

Cllr Condie

Cllr Cornell

Cllr Crow

Cllr Dabell

Cllr J Dennis

Cllr N Dennis

Cllr Duncton

Cllr Dunn

Cllr Elkins

Cllr Gibson

Cllr Hall

Cllr Hillier

Cllr Hunt

Cllr Johnson

Cllr Joy

Cllr A Jupp

Cllr N Jupp

Cllr Kenyon

Cllr Kerry-Bedell

Cllr Lanzer

Cllr Linehan

Cllr Lord

Cllr Markwell

Cllr Marshall

Cllr McDonald

Cllr McGregor

Cllr McKnight

Cllr Milne

Cllr Mitchell

Cllr Nagel

Cllr Oakley

Cllr O'Kelly

Cllr Oppler

Cllr Oxlade

Cllr Patel

Cllr Payne

Cllr Pudaloff

Cllr Quinn

Cllr Richardson

Cllr Russell

Cllr Smith

Cllr Turley

Cllr Urquhart

Cllr Waight

Cllr Wall

Cllr Wickremaratchi

Cllr Wild

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 Pieter Montyn. Cllr Montyn was elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

- 2.2 Cllr Montyn 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 Elizabeth Sparkes. Cllr Sparkes was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

- 3.2 Cllr Sparkes made the prescribed declaration of acceptance of office.

4 Apologies for Absence

- 4.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Sharp and Cllr Walsh.

- 4.2 Apologies for the morning session were received from Cllr Mitchell. Apologies for the afternoon session were received from Cllr Baldwin and Cllr Dunton. Cllr Britton, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Joy and Cllr Richardson were absent for the afternoon session. Cllr Pudaloff arrived for the afternoon session at 2.35 pm.

5 Members' Interests

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

6 Minutes

- 6.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 16 February 2024 (pages 7 to 20) be approved as a correct record.

7 Review of Proportionality

- 7.1 The County Council noted its statutory duty to review the proportionality on its committees each year as set out in a paper on the application of the proportionality rules and how they are applied together with a table showing the number of seats on committees (pages 21 and 22).

- 7.2 Resolved –

That the review of proportionality on committees be approved.

8 Notification of Appointment of Cabinet Members and Advisers to Cabinet Members

- 8.1 The County Council was reminded that the Leader is 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.

- 8.2 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 23 to 28.

9 Appointments

- 9.1 A schedule setting out the nominations for the 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 annual meetings of committees in the usual way.

- 9.2 The schedule was agreed as set out at Appendix 2.

10 Appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

- 10.1 The Council received a report from the Appointing Committee recommending an appointment to the post of Chief Executive of the Council, to act as the Council's Head of Paid Service (tabled report pages 1 and 2).

- 10.2 Resolved –

That Leigh Whitehouse be appointed to the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) of West Sussex County Council with effect from a date to be agreed but no later than end July 2024.

11 Governance Committee: Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

- 11.1 The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25, in the light of a report from the Governance Committee (pages 29 to 38).

- 11.2 Resolved –

That the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

12 Governance Committee: Revisions to the Constitution

- 12.1 The Council considered minor changes to the Constitution in relation to mandatory training requirements for the members of certain panels and committees and revisions to the terms of reference of the Governance Committee and of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee to be in line with current practice and recent legislative changes, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 39 to 42).

- 12.2 Resolved –

- (1) That that the statement set out in paragraph 2 of the report be included in the terms of reference of the Appeals Panel, Fostering Panel, Pensions Committee and Planning and Rights of Way Committee in Part 3 of the Constitution;
- (2) That paragraph 3 of the terms of reference of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny be amended as set out in paragraph 5 of the report; and
- (3) That paragraph 22 of the terms of reference of the Governance Committee be removed.

13 Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee: Review of Financial Regulations

13.1 The Council considered revisions to Financial Regulations, in the light of a report by the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee (pages 43 to 72).

13.2 Resolved –

That the revised Financial Regulations, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

14 Report of Urgent Action

14.1 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (pages 73 to 76) was noted.

14.2 Cllr Lord requested that future reports to the Council should contain enough information to enable members to understand the reason for the use of the urgent action process.

15 Question Time

15.1 Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios, as set out at Appendix 4. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 77 to 80) and a supplementary report (supplement page 9) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 2.38 (set out at Appendix 3).

16 Motion on Property Disposal

16.1 The following motion was moved by Cllr Milne and seconded by Cllr Condie.

`Current arrangements for declaring council assets surplus to requirement, and their subsequent disposal, are not satisfactory:

- The decision rests exclusively with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property.
- It provides insufficient opportunity for consultation with key stakeholders such as district and borough councillors and parish councils.
- There is no co-ordination with the policies of the local planning authority and decisions may directly contradict their wishes as expressed in their District Plan.
- If a land or property asset is subsequently transferred into the Joint Venture with Morgan Sindall, the criteria for development become purely commercial which prevents a full consideration of other desirable social outcomes (such as a higher percentage of affordable housing).

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to:

- (1) Introduce a new approach to the declaration and disposal of assets which has a fuller set of arrangements for local member and stakeholder consultation to take account of a broader set of interests; and
- (2) Extend this revised approach to the adoption of clearer criteria to be applied when deciding whether to option a site to the JV.'

16.2 The motion was lost.

17 Motion on Digital Exclusion

17.1 The following motion was moved by Cllr McGregor and seconded by Cllr Burgess.

'This Council notes that there is an ever-increasing use of and reliance on the provision of services via digital media.

It is well recognised that the use of digital technology has brought many benefits. However, it also excludes those who do not have the finance, resources, skills, or devices to engage with digital services.

In June 2023 the House of Lords Communications and Digital Select Committee identified that:

- 2.4m people are still unable to complete a single basic digital task to get online;
- 1.7m households have no broadband or mobile internet access.

The Council recognises that:

- The Council ensures, through the implementation of our digital culture, the availability of non-digital alternatives to access Council services.
- The Council's libraries are helping people engage with digital services.
- The Council has an extensive programme of work to build digital skills, including free access to public computer networks, the provision of free Wi-Fi in public spaces, and through our Digital Ambassador volunteers.

However, the Council recognises that despite this programme of support, many residents continue to be digitally excluded. Furthermore, digital exclusion goes much further than engagement with the services of West Sussex County Council. We need to be supporting our residents regarding all the effects of digital exclusion.

In recognition of this digital divide, the Council commits to increasing its work to ensure that residents are not digitally excluded within the county. The Council requests that the Chief Executive and Leader:

- (1) Ensure that the County Council is best able to identify residents and particular groups of residents who are most at risk of being digitally excluded due to lack of finance, resources, skills or devices.
- (2) Work with those groups to find the most effective ways of improving digital inclusion, recognising those ways will be different, depending on the reasons for the lack of digital inclusion.
- (3) Strengthen working with all tiers of local government and the voluntary sector to address digital exclusion.
- (4) Target appropriate publicity measures to raise awareness of the alternatives to digital engagement with the Council, for those residents for whom using digital channels is not a viable option.'

17.2 An amendment was moved by Cllr Pudaloff and seconded by Cllr McKnight.

'This Council notes that there is an ever-increasing use of and reliance on the provision of services via digital media.

It is well recognised that the use of digital technology has brought many benefits. However, it also excludes those who do not have the finance, resources, skills, or devices to engage with digital services, ***or those who experience barriers to existing services to address digital exclusion.***

In June 2023 the House of Lords Communications and Digital Select Committee identified that:

- 2.4m people are still unable to complete a single basic digital task to get online;
- 1.7m households have no broadband or mobile internet access.

The Council recognises that:

- The Council ensures, through the implementation of our digital culture, the availability of non-digital alternatives to access Council services.
- The Council's libraries are helping **some** people engage with digital services.
- The Council has an extensive programme of work to build digital skills, including free access to public computer networks, the provision of free Wi-Fi in public spaces, and through our Digital Ambassador volunteers.

However, the Council recognises that despite this programme of support, many residents continue to be digitally excluded. Furthermore, digital exclusion goes much further than engagement with the services of West Sussex County Council. We need to be supporting our residents regarding all the effects of digital exclusion.

In recognition of this digital divide, the Council commits to increasing its work to ensure that residents are not digitally excluded within the county. The Council requests that the Chief Executive and Leader:

- (1) Ensure that the County Council is best able to identify residents and particular groups of residents who are most at risk of being digitally excluded due to lack of finance, resources, skills or devices, **and other barriers to existing services to address digital exclusion.**
- (2) Work with those groups to find the most effective ways of improving digital inclusion, recognising those ways will be different, depending on the reasons for the lack of digital inclusion, **which can include a lack of transport or lack of opening hours for Council facilities.**
- (3) Strengthen working with all tiers of local government and the voluntary sector to address digital exclusion **to provide long term and sustainable funding for targeted schemes for those experiencing digital exclusion.**

(4) Target appropriate **resident engagement and** publicity measures to raise awareness of the alternatives to digital engagement with the Council, for those residents for whom using digital channels is not a viable option.

(5) Ensure that, as with other aspects of equality, an assessment of digital inclusion/exclusion is an integral part of every project from the County Council.'

17.3 The amendment was lost.

17.4 The motion was carried.

Chairman

The Council rose at 3.46 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
11 – Pay Policy Statement 2024/25	Cllr Burrett	Deferred member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
11 – Pay Policy Statement 2024/25	Cllr Lanzer	Deferred member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
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, relating to publication of audited accounts	Cllr Burrett	Deferred member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
15 – Question Time	Cllr Chowdhury	Carer and member of Worthing Borough Council
15 – Question Time	Cllr Condie	Member of Burgess Hill Town Council
15 – Question Time	Cllr Gibson	Member of Mid Sussex District Council
15 – Question Time, relating to provision of Domestic Abuse Housing Support Services	Cllr Markwell	Director of Mate Space Community Interest Company
15 – Question Time	Cllr McGregor	Member of Adur District Council, Lancing Parish Council and Sompting Parish Council
15 – Question Time, relating to Special Education Needs and Disability Ofsted Report	Cllr Smith	Parent of a child with an Education and Health Care Plan maintained by the County Council
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Ali	Member of Crawley Borough Council
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Cherry	Member of Burgess Hill Town Council and Trustee of Park Centre CIO (charitable incorporated organisation), Burgess Hill

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Condie	Member of Burgess Hill Town Council
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Greenway	Member of Arun District Council
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Johnson	Member of Selsey Town Council and Chichester District Council
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Lanzer	Member of Crawley Borough Council
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Milne	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure, Horsham District Council
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Turley	Member of Worthing Borough Council
16(a) – Notice of Motion on Property Disposal	Cllr Waight	Member of Worthing Borough Council
16(b) – Notice of Motion on Digital Exclusion	Cllr Greenway	Member of Arun District Council

Appointments to Committees – March 2024

(excluding non-Council members)

Changes shown in bold text

Scrutiny Committees

Name	No. of members	Members	Substitutes
Children and Young People’s Services	12	Cllr Baldwin (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Burgess Cllr Cherry Cllr Cornell Cllr Dabell Cllr Evans Cllr Hall Cllr Linehan (Chairman) Cllr McGregor Cllr Mercer Cllr Smith Cllr Wickremaratchi	Cllr Chowdhury Cllr Duncton Cllr Lord Cllr Nagel
Communities, Highways and Environment	12	Cllr Albury Cllr Baldwin Cllr Britton (Chairman) Cllr N Dennis Cllr Hillier Cllr N Jupp Cllr Kenyon Cllr Kerry-Bedell Cllr Oakley (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Payne Cllr Quinn Cllr Sharp	Cllr Baxter Cllr Burgess Cllr Cooper Cllr Gibson Cllr Milne

Name	No. of members	Members	Substitutes
Fire & Rescue Service	7	Cllr Bence Cllr Boram (Chairman) Cllr Chowdhury Cllr Duncton Cllr Joy Cllr Patel Cllr Pendleton (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Albury Cllr Evans Cllr Oppler Cllr Oxlade
Health and Adult Social Care	12	Cllr Ali Cllr Atkins Cllr Cooper (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Forbes Cllr Johnson Cllr McGregor Cllr Nagel Cllr O'Kelly Cllr Patel Cllr Pudaloff Cllr Wall (Chairman) Cllr Walsh	Cllr Baldwin Cllr Burgess Cllr Joy Cllr McKnight
Performance and Finance	15	Cllr Baldwin Cllr Burrett (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Boram Cllr Bradbury Cllr Britton Cllr Elkins Cllr Gibson Cllr N Jupp Cllr Linehan Cllr Lord Cllr McDonald Cllr McKnight Cllr Milne Cllr Turley Cllr Wall	Cllr Baxter Cllr Bence Cllr Johnson Cllr Payne Cllr Walsh

Non-executive committees

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

Name	No. of members	Members	Other members
Standards Committee	9	Cllr Baxter Cllr Burrett Cllr Kenyon Cllr Mercer Cllr Montyn (Chairman) Cllr Sparkes (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Walsh Cllr Wickremaratchi Cllr Wild	Not applicable

Informal Panels and Groups

Name	No. of members	Members	Other members
Corporate Parenting Panel	7	Cllr Burgess Cllr Cooper Cllr Dabell Cllr Linehan Cllr Lord Cllr Oxlade (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Russell (Chairman)	Not applicable
Foster Panel (North)	1	Cllr 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 Reference Group	3	Cllr Chowdhury Cllr A Jupp Cllr O'Kelly	Not applicable
Treasury Management Panel	5	Cllr Condie Cllr Dunn Cllr J Dennis Cllr Hunt (Chairman) 1 vacancy	Not applicable

22 March 2024

- Written question from **Cllr Gibson** for reply by **Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Education and Skills**

Question

The 2024 edition of Planning School Places shows that demand for secondary places in East Grinstead exceeded capacity in four of the last five years.

Published Admission Number (PAN). A school planning area is deemed full when capacity in use exceeds 95%.

Year	PAN Year 7	Pupils in Year 7	Surplus places	% of Capacity in use
2017	540	522	18	97%
2018	540	526	14	97%
2019	540	549	-9	102%
2020	540	532	8	99%
2021	540	539	1	100%
2022	540	557	-17	103%
2023	540	554	-14	103%

The report states that the current provision of places is insufficient to meet the demand within the planning area when in-year admissions are factored in and announces the intention to introduce bulge classes at both Imberhorne and Sackville schools.

School	Year project commenced/ proposed implementation date	Project Type	Additional provision provided/ proposed	New PAN	New Capacity
Imberhorne Secondary School	2024	Bulge class	Additional cohort of 30 for 5 years	n/a	n/a
Sackville Secondary School	2024	Bulge class	Additional cohort of 30 for 5 years	n/a	n/a

The recently announced secondary school place allocations for September 2024 includes a waiting list for places at Imberhorne, confirming the pressures outlined in the report.

On 29 February the Council removed the key decision for the allocation of funding for the bulge classes from the Forward Plan.

- (a) What evidence supports the decision not to proceed with the provision of bulge classes?
- (b) What is the estimated demand for places in future years and how will in-year allocations be handled?

Answer

- (a) When secondary transfer applications were received and assessed in January and February 2024 there were 12 vacancies (one at Imberhorne and 11 at Sackville on the existing combined Published Admission Number of 540). It therefore seemed unnecessary to add extra accommodation. After allocation, there are still 10 places available at Sackville which remain unfilled and can cater for expected in-year admissions. All in-area, on time applications for Imberhorne received a place at allocation. A number of on time, out-of-area children with a sibling at the school also received a place. There is a waiting list for Imberhorne; the majority of children on this live out of county.
- (b) Demand for secondary places is anticipated to peak in 2027/28 although numbers for 2024/25 are lower than anticipated; fresh forecasts for pupil numbers are due to be received in June 2024. It may be necessary to mobilise temporary accommodation in January/February 2025 to manage demand for September 25 entry, but only if it is required.

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

Question

Following the West Sussex Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) inspection's findings of inconsistent support for young people transitioning to adult services, 18 to 25, how can the Council and NHS collaborate for smoother transitions, especially regarding mental health needs?

The inspection highlighted long wait times for diagnosis and treatment, impacting those with poor attendance most. Additionally, fragmented occupational/physiotherapy services were identified.

- (a) Can dynamic support registers be improved for smoother council-NHS handoffs, considering mental health needs?
- (b) How can integrated key worker support, including mental health specialists, be expanded to minimise disruption?
- (c) How will wait times, access thresholds, specialist provision gaps (speech & language), and fragmented therapy services in relation to these transitions be addressed?
- (d) What joint efforts can strengthen preparation for adulthood and ensure ongoing support for mental health and additional needs?

Answer

In response to questions (a) to (c), as these relate to services provided by NHS Sussex, the County Council can advise that these matters will be addressed by NHS Sussex as part of their response to the SEND inspection.

(d) A range of measures are in place including:

- As part of the Adults Improvement Programme, a transitions programme has produced two joint transition protocols setting out the roles and responsibilities of multiple services that support young people as they approach adulthood, which were published in January 2024. The next stage of this project is to improve further the advice and information for young people with mental health support needs. The Transitions Programme will work collaboratively with the Education and Learning Transformation Programme to jointly support the strategic approach to preparation for adulthood so that young people consistently receive the right help and support to lead successful lives.
- A multi-disciplinary transitions panel, which will shortly include representation from the Parent Carer Forum, meets regularly to ensure a smooth transition for those moving from Children's to Adult Services and any ongoing support for mental health and additional needs that may be required.
- In addition, the skills and expertise of Children with Disability (CWD) workers has been developed in preparing young people to transition to adult social care and this is evidenced by 80% of CWD workers reporting better knowledge and capability. Bespoke information and guidance for staff is improving transition specific practice and processes, which includes a focus for mental health and additional needs.
- Thought-Full (Mental Health Support Teams) work in schools attended by over 50% of children and young people aged 5 to 18.
- Development of pathways for Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) so that children and young people can access education and achieve their potential.
- WOWSI (Working on Worries Support and Intervention) parent-led CBT approach for parents of primary school aged children to reduce anxiety.
- Web-based Thriving in Education tool to improve access to mental health and emotional wellbeing advice and information, primarily for schools but also parents and other professionals.
- District and borough-based forums exist in some localities between GPs, practice managers and schools to discuss attendance, EBSA, mental health and emotional wellbeing, building understanding between professional groups.

3. Written question from Cllr Smith for reply by Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue

Question

With the Household Support Fund ending in September 2024, as announced by The Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget, could you please advise:

- (a) How West Sussex County Council will financially support our most vulnerable residents after this time? Will there be any other local or centrally funded initiative made available to residents once the Household Support Fund ceases to help them access funds for essential items?
- (b) Will the removal of the Household Support Fund result in any job losses or a need for restructuring within the Communities team?

Answer

- (a) Following the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 6 March 2024 regarding the continuation of the Household Support Fund for the period 1 April to 30 September 2024 we are awaiting guidance and fund criteria to be published by the Department of Work & Pensions. This will set out the scope of the approach to be delivered during the next six-month period and may indicate a direction of travel in respect of future policy and subsequent budget allocations.

Future funding by way of dedicated grant allocation is still uncertain. However, the County Council will continue to lobby the Government in collaboration with other local authorities, for the continued provision of support for the most vulnerable residents.

The Communities, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Committee (CHESC) is scheduled to receive a paper on the Household Support Fund (HSF) at its 14 June 2024 meeting. This will set out the activity delivered in the current full year of HSF Round 4 (2023/24), reflect on outcomes achieved, and consider the approach for HSF Round 5 (1 April to 30 September 2024).

The agenda item will provide CHESC members with the opportunity to contribute as to the future approach to be taken by the County Council.

- (b) No - the County Council has not drawn any administration costs from the Household Support Fund and therefore there are no staff directly paid from these grant funds.

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

Question

- (a) The joint Surrey County Council/West Sussex County Council A22/A264 Corridor Study missed its announced deadline of the end 2023 for its initial report providing a summary of previous transport studies and options considered for alleviating the traffic congestion at the Felbridge junction and along the A22 London Road. What is the new date for the initial report to be issued?
- (b) The final report for the Corridor Study, including the recommended options, is due to be published at the end of this year. Is this date likely to slip and, if so, what is the new date for its publication?
- (c) The Dukes Head roundabout is a key junction on the A264. The road surface has attracted considerable adverse comment from road users and the need to

resurface the carriageway has been accepted by the County Council. Can the Council confirm that the roundabout will be resurfaced this year and is it able to announce a firm date?

Answer

The West Sussex Transport Plan (WSTP) includes improvements to the A22 and A264 corridor as a medium term (2027-32) priority.

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) has been working jointly with Surrey County Council (SCC) on the A22-A264 East Grinstead to Godstone area corridor feasibility study, which is expected to identify a set of improvements for delivery subject to demonstrating deliverability and value for money. The study is being led by SCC and transport consultants were commissioned to support the study in early autumn 2023.

To date, work has taken place to review previous studies and establish a set of objectives against which options can be appraised. Unfortunately, the study has been delayed due to the departure of the previous project manager. However, a new SCC project lead will begin at the start of April 2024. At the present time, the overall programme for the study is being revised with the aim of minimising any future delays and, if possible, bringing the project back to the original timetable for publication of the final report.

The resurfacing of the A264 Dukes Head roundabout has a permitted programme date of 17 and 18 July and should be completed over two nights. This will of course be subject to operational influences such as weather, resource and materials.

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Question Time: 22 March 2024

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.

Cabinet Member for Adults Services

The Cabinet Member answered questions on delays to dementia assessments, from Cllr Johnson and Cllr O'Kelly.

In response to a question from Cllr O'Kelly about the temporary suspension of dementia assessments and its impact on Council services, the Cabinet Member said she would find out and let her know. The Cabinet Member was supportive of Cllr O'Kelly's suggestion that the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust should be invited to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee so that the Committee could look at whether the suspension had achieved the desired outcomes.

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Orchard House inspection, from Cllr Burgess.

Special Educational Needs (SEND) inspection of the West Sussex Local Area Partnership, from Cllr Burgess, Cllr Cherry and Cllr Smith.

In response to a concerns expressed by Cllr Smith that the relevant scrutiny committee would not consider the result of the SEND Ofsted inspection, published in February, until June, the Cabinet Member said the report had been taken to the meeting of the Cabinet in February and that she would give Cllr Smith a copy of the address she had made at that meeting.

Education and Health Care Plans, from Cllr Lord and Cllr Smith.

Secondary school placements in relation to Forest School, from Cllr Payne.

Proposals for St Antony's and Jesse Younghusband Schools in Chichester, from Cllr Joy, Cllr O'Kelly and Cllr Oakley.

In response to a question from Cllr Joy, the Cabinet Member said that, if the decision were taken to proceed with the proposals, she would let him know whether communication with parents of the two schools would be joint, separate or both.

News schools in Burgess Hill, from Cllr Cherry and Cllr Condie.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Recycling rates and booking systems for sites, from Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Oakley and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

Operation Watershed, from Cllr Burgess, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord, Cllr Oakley.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Support for the delivery of essential bus services, from Cllr Boram, Cllr Payne, Cllr Quinn and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

Additional £4m of revenue funding to support highway maintenance, from Cllr Bradbury.

Pedestrian and cycle facilities at roundabouts, from Cllr N Dennis.

In response to a question about whether there had been an audit to see if roundabouts were safe and usable, the Cabinet Member said she would find out and let him know. The Cabinet Member also agreed to find out whether consideration had been given to replacing roundabouts with signal-controlled junctions.

Electric vehicle chargepoints, from Cllr Boram, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord and Cllr McKnight.

Cuts to Active Travel fund, from Cllr Ali, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr McKnight, Cllr Oakley, Cllr Quinn and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters:

Vaccination rates in West Sussex, from Cllr Condie and Cllr Lord.

In response to a question about the current uptake of the MMR vaccine in West Sussex, the Cabinet Member said he would find out and let Cllr Lord know.

In response to a question from Cllr Condie the Cabinet Member said he would find out the level of shingles vaccination in the county and let him know.

Your Health Matters survey and avoiding digital exclusion, from Cllr McGregor.

Cabinet Member for Support Services and Economic Development

The Cabinet Member answered questions about hybrid working, from Cllr Atkins and Cllr Pudaloff.