

To all Members of the County Council

An ordinary meeting of the County Council will be held at **10.30 am** on **Friday, 14 December 2018** at **County Hall, Chichester**.

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 11 - 46)

The Council is asked to confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the County Council held on 19 October 2018.

10.45 am

4. **Appointments**

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

5. **Address by a Cabinet Member**

At the discretion of the Chairman, to receive any address by a Cabinet Member on a matter of urgency and/or significant interest to the County Council and which relates to the powers and responsibilities of the County Council or which affects the Council.

6. **Notices of Motion**

(a) **Motion on Fire and Rescue Service Funding**
(Pages 47 - 48)

To consider the following motion, submitted by Mr Jones, which was referred to the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities at the meeting of the County Council on 19 October 2018.

Note: With the Chairman's agreement, Mr Jones has revised the wording of his motion to reflect that the decision maker for possible service changes would be the Chief Fire Officer rather than the Cabinet Member as set out below.

'This Council notes the existing, and increasing, gap in the funding provided per person from the Government towards West Sussex Fire and Rescue

Service (WSFRS), in comparison to the per-person funding in all of those Fire and Rescue Services immediately surrounding it. Not only are many of these surrounding authorities receiving much higher sums to protect their communities, but with further government cuts in 2019/20, the gap is set to become far worse, and even more unfair, for West Sussex. Moreover, the local government Settlement Funding Assessment for fire authorities shows West Sussex having the biggest funding cut in England, between 2016/17 and 2019/20, of 45%. The English average is a 15% cut.

This Council also notes that despite assurances by the previous Chief Fire Officer that there would always be a minimum of 30 fire appliances and crews available, out of 35 across the county at any one time, that in practice, between 7 am and 7 pm, there are rarely more than 15 available, sometimes as few as 10, and that firefighters are having to work hard to keep such numbers and maintain the resilience of the Service.

This Council further notes that WSFRS has already had very deep cuts made to it in recent years, with £2.5 million and £1.6 million in 2012 and 2014 respectively, making it according to the FBU the second worst hit fire authority in the proportion of its overall number of firefighters lost in the whole of Great Britain, with a reduction of 37% of its firefighters, during that time.

The Council is aware that the Chief Fire Officer is due to take decisions in December which will result in a reduction of preventative measures which have proved to be a vital tool in reducing risk and saving lives through initiatives such as the Safe Drive to Stay Alive safety awareness campaign and the Firebreak scheme. It is understood that cuts are also proposed which will reduce the availability of the technical response unit who deliver specialist rescue services, and reducing the staff complement for the Resilience and Emergencies Team (RET) in the region of 50%.

The Council is also aware the HMI inspection of WSFRS began in November with preliminary feedback expected to be provided in December but its final report is not due to be published until May 2019.

This Council believes in the context of the circumstances outlined above, and also because it is impossible to predict what issues or extra demands the HMI inspection may reveal which will require action, it would be inappropriate at this time to come forward with any measures which would result in a reduction in funding and the delivery of services by the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

The Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To call on the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities to instruct the Chief Fire Officer not to take any decisions that will result in a reduction in staffing or services provided by WSFRS, as the service has taken as much as it can bear without further compromising public and firefighter safety, further threatening the availability of crews and appliances at the county's fire stations and increasing the likelihood of road traffic accidents; and
- (2) To request the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities jointly write to the relevant Government Minister, questioning the inequalities in funding for WSFRS and calling for it to be raised so that it is in line with the funding that other neighbouring fire authorities receive, per person.'

and the report of the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities.

(b) **Motion on Gatwick Master Plan**

To consider the following motion, notice of which was given on 25 November 2018 by Mr Acraman.

'This Council is resolved to oppose the Gatwick Master Plan published by Gatwick Airport Ltd (GAL). When the Government decided on a new runway at Heathrow, it was implicit that there would not be (nor need there be) further runways at either Gatwick or Stansted. This attempt by GAL to use the emergency runway for take-off is to try to evade the conclusions arrived at by the Government and to achieve a second runway at Gatwick by the back door.

Our objections to this proposal are the same as they were to GAL's original second runway proposal:

- Unacceptable noise increase over the whole of our area
- Influx of more population into an area with minimal current unemployment
- Pressure on housing
- Pressure on schooling
- Complete lack of road improvement suggestions to cope with the significantly increased traffic movement
- The geographical constraints on the London/Brighton rail line making increased train numbers an impossibility

In addition, the Master Plan is completely lacking in financial information on the potential costs of the development both within the airport and the surrounding environment. There is no indication of what (if any) contribution GAL are prepared to make towards the sizeable infrastructure costs in the surrounding area and which would largely have to be borne by the County Council.

The Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to oppose the Gatwick Master Plan.'

(c) **Motion on Gatwick Master Plan**

To consider the following motion, notice of which was given on 27 November 2018 by Mrs Russell.

'This Council notes the aspirations in the Gatwick Master Plan for growth within the curtilage of the Airport in response to the ever increasing demand for air travel by residents and businesses, proposing various growth scenarios.

The County Council recognises the contribution made by Gatwick to the national economy and the economic benefits to the local economy of having a successful international airport in the county.

The Council also acknowledges the concerns of residents in areas close by who could be affected adversely and the potential growth in housing across the larger geographic area linked to by growth at Gatwick.

The Council continues to make the case for greater infrastructure investment in the county and in for any further growth at Gatwick this is paramount.

At this stage Gatwick Airport Limited has not done enough work to establish the impacts of its ambitions or the appropriate mitigation measures and it makes limited reference to how its proposals would work with or complement those of other organisations for growth or development within the wider area.

If there is to be a plan to safeguard land for a future additional runway it would be of benefit to our communities to have the certainty that this would not be developed at least during the period covered by the proposed Master Plan and a Memorandum of Understanding with the County and Borough Councils should be considered to achieve this guarantee.

If airport growth is to be sustainable and manageable it must be shown to be planned only as

part of a compelling case which addresses:

- Noise footprint, air quality and environmental impact
- Airport surface access and associated infrastructure capacity for an optimum infrastructure solution
- The future employment and housing growth implications
- Economic, employment and community engagement strategies
- The timing of the indicative future investment projects

The Gatwick Master Plan is aspirational but lacks sufficient detail or evidence in specific areas to provide assurance that the above issues have been or are being fully considered.

This Council therefore acknowledges the Master Plan but, due to lack of evidence and clarity on important detail, requests the Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to work with Gatwick and the LEP to ensure that further work is undertaken to provide sufficient information to inform the Master Plan in the future.

The Council invites the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to ensure that these concerns are fully addressed in the Council's response to the Gatwick Master Plan and that a Memorandum of Understanding is proposed to address the limits needed on the timing of any future additional runway on safeguarded land.'

(d) **Motion on Women standing for Election**

To consider the following motion, notice of which was given on 26 November 2018 by Ms Flynn.

'It is 100 years since the Representation of the People Act 1918, allowing many more men to vote and some women to vote as well as stand for election. This Council celebrates the first two women councillors first elected, Ellen Chapman and the Hon Evelyn Gladys Cecil, who took their place in the Council in 1919 immediately after women were allowed to participate in local elections. Progress has been made for a diverse representation of councillors but there is still some way to go.

This Council believes that a Woman's place is in the Chamber – the Council Chamber – and supports all efforts between now and the County Council elections in 2021 to attract more women to put themselves forward to stand for election as a county councillor.'

(e) **Motion on Bus Services**

To consider the following motion, notice of which was given on 27 November 2018 by Dr O'Kelly.

'In West Sussex, some 27 million passenger journeys are made each year, many of which are made on commercial services. This Council recognises the value of buses to the residents of West Sussex, not only in terms of transport for economic, leisure and education reasons, but also the social value they provide to our communities.

This Council recognises that the promotion of bus services and the Council's support for non-commercial services helps to improve the quality of life for many people and assists in delivering these priorities set out in the West Sussex Plan:

- (a) Independence for later life: services that support older people in later life to live independently. Availability of bus services enables older people to travel more without reliance on a car, avoiding the risks of social isolation that may come from a lack of ability to travel.
- (b) Best start in life: Good bus service provision provides access to early education and education settings for children and allows for greater choice. It also helps young people to access a wider choice of further education and employment.
- (c) Strong, safe and sustainable place: Environmental sustainability can be achieved through modal shift to more use of bus services, reducing the number of cars on the road, which improves road safety and air quality.
- (d) A prosperous place: Good bus service provision forms a key sustainable infrastructure to support the economy and encourage the visitor economy, particularly into rural areas. A good bus network helps to realise the aim that opportunities should be available to all and to help businesses to thrive through more sustainable transport and a reduction in traffic congestion.

In view of these strategic priorities, this Council asks the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to make every effort to maintain existing service level provision (both in frequency and network coverage) for the current subsidised non-commercial services across the county.'

(f) **Motion on Post Offices**

To consider the following motion, notice of which was given on 27 November 2018 by Mrs Mullins.

(a) This Council notes with concern that:

On 11 October 2018 it was announced that 74 crown post offices across the UK, including those in Crawley and Worthing will be franchised to WH Smith. Taken together, successive franchise announcements mean the loss of 60% of the crown office network since 2013.

These privatisations are financed using millions of pounds of public money, despite the fact that the public has never endorsed the closures, indeed they have only ever protested against them. Indeed, despite considerable campaigning over recent years with huge local public support (frequently with tens of thousands of local residents' signing petitions) the crown post offices in Chichester, Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, Horsham, Shoreham-by-Sea and Haywards Heath were all closed despite the overwhelming will of the public that they remain open.

In 2014/15 alone, £13 million of public money was used to pay compensation to get rid of post office staff, and the Communication Workers Union (CWU) estimates the staff compensation cost of the latest privatisation will be at least £30 million, affecting as it does, 800 staff.

Reports by Consumer Focus (2012) and Citizens Advice (2016) have identified issues with the franchising of post offices to WH Smith including poor accessibility for people with mobility impairments, longer queuing times, and inferior service and advice on products.

Franchising means the loss of jobs with good terms and conditions at the Post Office. WH Smith replaces experienced post office staff with new employees in typically minimum wage part time roles. This is clearly bad for jobs in West Sussex and Post Office workers, many of whom are our local residents.

The closure of our Crown post offices and relocation to a WH Smith, also means the loss of prime high street stores and this contributes to the demise of our town centres. No explanation has been given as to

why the profit-making Crown post offices such as those of Crawley and Worthing are being handed to WH Smith.

All Crown post offices are under threat of closure and/or franchising in future, if the latest round of privatisations are allowed to go ahead, it could prove the tipping point for the viability of the entire post office network.

- (b) This Council notes that on 15 November 2018 the majority of members on Crawley County Local Committee agreed to call on the Leader of this Council, in her role as the lead on Economy matters, to respond to the consultation on the relocation of Crawley Post Office on behalf of the County Council, opposing the relocation.

- (c) This Council believes that:

Our post offices are a key asset for the community, and the expertise and experience of staff there is invaluable.

The relentless franchising and closure programme of the profit-making Crown post offices, points to a lack of vision rather than the plan for growth and innovation that is needed.

The Government should therefore halt these closures and bring together stakeholders, including the CWU, and industry experts to develop a new strategy that safeguards the future of the Post Office.

This Council resolves to:

- (1) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Government to raise concern about the apparent managed decline of the post office network and the impact on high streets across the UK as well as the service in the franchised premises, and the poor quality jobs that result;
- (2) Ask the Leader to respond to current consultations on the Post Office in Haywards Heath and Worthing to oppose the proposals; and
- (3) To join local campaigning to raise awareness of the value of our Post Office and the need for it to remain an asset of and for the people.'

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

7. **Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel** (Pages 49 - 52)

The County Council is asked to consider and note the report of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

8. **Governance Committee: Delegation to other Local Authorities** (Pages 53 - 54)

To consider a proposal that non-Executive committees should have the power to delegate functions to another local authority, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee.

9. **Question Time** (Pages 55 - 66)

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 19 October 2018. A supplementary report may be published.

(2 hours is allocated for Question Time)

County Council concludes

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

Director of Law and Assurance
5 December 2018

The times stated indicate the latest end times for previous business and should not be relied on as start times for subsequent items

Webcasting

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the County Council's website on the internet - at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. The images and sound recording may be used for training purposes by the Council.

Generally the public gallery is not filmed. However, by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

19 October 2018

At the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 19 October 2018, at the County Hall, Chichester, the members present being:

Mr Barnard (Chairman)

Mrs Arculus	Mrs Kitchen
Mr Acraman	Mr Lanzer
Lt Cdr Atkins, RD	Mr Lea
Mr Baldwin	Ms Lord
Mr Barling	Mr Markwell
Mr Barrett-Miles	Mr Marshall
Mr Boram	Mr McDonald
Mr Bradbury	Mrs Millson
Mr Bradford	Mr Mitchell
Mrs Bridges	Mr Montyn
Mr Buckland	Mr R J Oakley
Mr Burrett	Mr S J Oakley
Mr Catchpole	Dr O'Kelly
Mr Cloake	Mr Oppler
Mr Crow	Mr Oxlade
Mrs Dennis	Mr Parikh
Dr Dennis	Mrs Pendleton
Mrs Duncton	Mr Petts
Mr Edwards	Mr Purchase
Mr Elkins	Mrs Purnell
Mr Fitzjohn	Mr Quinn
Ms Flynn	Mrs Russell
Ms Goldsmith	Mr Simmons
Mrs Hall	Mr Smytherman
Mr High	Mrs Sparkes
Mr Hillier	Mr Turner
Mr Hunt	Mrs Urquhart
Mr Jones	Mr Waight
Mrs Jupp	Dr Walsh, KStJ, RD
Mr Jupp	Mr Wickremaratchi
Ms Kennard	

69 Apologies for Absence

69.1 Apologies were received from Lt Col Barton, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Brunsdon, Mrs Jones, Mrs Mullins, Mr Patel, Mrs Smith and Mr Whittington.

69.2 Apologies for the afternoon session were received from Mr Simmons. Mrs Hall and Mr Markwell were absent for the afternoon session. Mr Oppler left at 3.15 p.m. Dr O'Kelly, Ms Lord and Mr Turner left at 4.00 p.m.

70 Members' Interests

70.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

71 Minutes

71.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 20 July 2018 (pages 11 to 38) be approved as a correct record.

72 Appointments to Committees

72.1 The Council approved appointments to fill vacancies as set out below.

Committee	Change
Children and Young People's Services Select Committee	Mrs Bridges Ms Flynn
Performance and Finance Select Committee	Mr Catchpole (Vice-Chairman) Mr Edwards Mr Fitzjohn
Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee	Mrs Pendleton

73 Appointment of Co-opted Member

73.1 The Council approved the appointment of Mr Trevor Cristin, Director of Education, Church of England Diocese of Chichester, as a voting co-opted member of the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee to fill a vacancy.

74 Petition

74.1 The Council debated the following petition. A briefing note from the Director of Law and Assurance and a statement from the petitioners and been circulated with the agenda (supplement pages 3 and 5).

Save Crawley Open House!

'This petition demands that West Sussex County Council rejects the proposed cuts to Housing Related Support, which will cause untold misery for the most vulnerable members of our society, and instead maintains this vital support for our local homeless.'

- 74.2 Mr Peter Lamb, on behalf of the petitioners, addressed the Council for five minutes in support of the petition.
- 74.3 The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health responded to the petition for five minutes on behalf of the County Council.
- 74.4 The Council debated the petition.
- 74.5 Mr Lamb, on behalf of the petitioners, and the Cabinet Member were each given three minutes to make a closing statement.
- 74.6 A proposition was moved by Mr Bradbury and seconded by Mrs Arculus as set out below:

'That this County Council supports the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health in engaging with the recently-formed consortium to ensure that future contracts meet the need for targeted support and mitigate any unintended consequences and in ensuring that the County Council's work with districts and boroughs achieves an integrated approach to tackling homelessness across the county.'

- 74.7 The proposition was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 35.5.

(a) For the proposition – **48**

Mr Acraman, Mrs Arculus, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mrs Bridges, Mr Catchpole, Mr Cloake, Mr Crow, Mrs Dennis, Mrs Duncton, Mr Edwards, Mr Elkins, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Flynn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Mr Markwell, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Parikh, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mr Simmons, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the proposition - **12**

Mr Buckland, Dr Dennis, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchase, Mr Quinn, Mr Smytherman and Dr Walsh.

(c) Abstentions – **1**

Mr Barnard

- 74.8 The proposition was carried.
- 74.9 A proposition was moved by Mr Jones and seconded by Mr Oxlade as set out below:

'That this Council supports the petition and calls on the Cabinet Member to agree to the request made in the petition and abandon the proposals to cut the home support fund in any way and confirm that the current contracts remain in place for a further year.'

74.10 The proposition was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 35.5.

(a) For the proposition – **13**

Mr Buckland, Dr Dennis, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mr Markwell, Mrs Millson, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchase, Mr Quinn, Mr Smytherman and Dr Walsh.

(b) Against the proposition - **43**

Mr Acraman, Mrs Arculus, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mr Catchpole, Mr Cloake, Mrs Dennis, Mrs Duncton, Mr Edwards, Mr Elkins, Ms Flynn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr High, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Parikh, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mr Simmons, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – **5**

Mr Barnard, Mrs Bridges, Mr Crow, Mr Fitzjohn and Mr Hillier.

74.11 The proposition was lost.

75 Motion on Tackling Homelessness and supporting those at Risk

75.1 The following motion was moved by Mr Jones and seconded by Mr Oxlade.

'This Council is extremely concerned that 2018 has seen the number of people sleeping rough in West Sussex reach its highest level since modern records began. It supports the aims of the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy to tackle rough sleeping and pledges to do it all it can to ensure the aims to eradicate rough sleeping become a reality in West Sussex, including targeted prevention activity. Furthermore, this Council values the work of voluntary sector organisations around the county who support some of the most vulnerable residents who are at risk of homelessness or who need support to prevent them from being homeless. The Council is concerned to note that:

(1) The current proposals being considered by the Cabinet Member which might cut the entire funding for housing support will bring significant impacts in the medium to longer

term by adding to the demand for acute higher cost specialist services and that implementation of these proposals would not only put this Council at odds with national government policy but crucially will deny local councils the opportunity to secure government funding in tackling this major social problem. In addition, the 'floating support' services at threat are a key tool for promoting social inclusion and stable communities through tenancy sustainment, community engagement and a reduction in anti-social behaviour, all key planks in meeting strategic objectives within the Council's own West Sussex Plan 2017-22;

- (2) Without this support this Council expects to see a rise in homelessness across all client groups, including families with associated social and health costs. These include direct costly impacts on social care services through family breakdown with increased child protection issues, foster and other care placements and temporary accommodation placements for intentionally homeless families. Poor educational attainment and increased truancy rates for children in unsettled and temporary accommodation will inevitably be added consequences;
- (3) The termination of housing support for young people over 18, through such initiatives as the foyers across the county, puts vulnerable young people who have either suffered a troubled family life, or are care leavers, in a position where they will be moved from a relatively stable and secure environment which can be used as a stepping stone into living independently, and either be immediately forced into shared temporary accommodation or sharing in the private rented sector, with people who will not be vetted or motivated to act in that young person's best interest. While this would be undesirable for all young people placed in that situation, it will be particularly inconsistent with the Council's duty as a corporate parent to care leavers, who form a significant proportion of the current service users; and
- (4) If funding is removed and refuge accommodation for women and their children subjected to domestic abuse is no longer available, this will put women's lives and children's lives directly at risk, as well as taking away support for women with their recovery and helping to rebuild their confidence and self-esteem, and losing specialist support workers for the children who accompany them.

This Council believes that the proposals clearly and directly fly in the face of three of the key areas of focus agreed by the Council – best start in life for children and young people, a strong, safe and sustainable place for communities and a council that works for communities. This Council further believes that a fourth key area of focus, independence in later life, is also significantly impacted by

these proposals because the current preventative service model extra care housing schemes give vulnerable older people whose disabilities, frailty or mental health make ordinary housing unsuitable the opportunity to live independent for longer.

Therefore this Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health ensures that the existing funding through 18 contracts with housing related support services is maintained in full for 2019/20 and rejects the current proposals being considered to terminate them.'

75.2 An amendment was moved by Mr Barling and seconded by Mr Boram.

'This Council is extremely concerned that 2018 has seen the number of people sleeping rough in West Sussex reach its highest level since modern records began. It supports the aims of the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy to tackle rough sleeping and pledges to do it all it can to ensure the aims to eradicate rough sleeping become a reality in West Sussex, including targeted prevention activity. Furthermore, this Council values the work of voluntary sector organisations around the county who support some of the most vulnerable residents who are at risk of homelessness or who need support to prevent them from being homeless. The Council is concerned to note that:

- (1) The current proposals being considered by the Cabinet Member which might cut the entire funding for housing support will bring significant impacts in the medium to longer term by adding to the demand for acute higher cost specialist services and that implementation of these proposals would not only put this Council at odds with national government policy but crucially will deny local councils the opportunity to secure government funding in tackling this major social problem. In addition, the 'floating support' services at threat are a key tool for promoting social inclusion and stable communities through tenancy sustainment, community engagement and a reduction in anti-social behaviour, all key planks in meeting strategic objectives within the Council's own West Sussex Plan 2017-22;
- (2) Without this support this Council expects to see a rise in homelessness across all client groups, including families with associated social and health costs. These include direct costly impacts on social care services through family breakdown with increased child protection issues, foster and other care placements and temporary accommodation placements for intentionally homeless families. Poor educational attainment and increased truancy rates for children in unsettled and temporary accommodation will inevitably be added consequences;

- (3) The termination of housing support for young people over 18, through such initiatives as the foyers across the county, puts vulnerable young people who have either suffered a troubled family life, or are care leavers, in a position where they will be moved from a relatively stable and secure environment which can be used as a stepping stone into living independently, and either be immediately forced into shared temporary accommodation or sharing in the private rented sector, with people who will not be vetted or motivated to act in that young person's best interest. While this would be undesirable for all young people placed in that situation, it will be particularly inconsistent with the Council's duty as a corporate parent to care leavers, who form a significant proportion of the current service users; and
- (4) If funding is removed and refuge accommodation for women and their children subjected to domestic abuse is no longer available, this will put women's lives and children's lives directly at risk, as well as taking away support for women with their recovery and helping to rebuild their confidence and self-esteem, and losing specialist support workers for the children who accompany them.

This Council believes that the proposals clearly and directly fly in the face of three of the key areas of focus agreed by the Council – best start in life for children and young people, a strong, safe and sustainable place for communities and a council that works for communities. This Council further believes that a fourth key area of focus, independence in later life, is also significantly impacted by these proposals because the current preventative service model extra care housing schemes give vulnerable older people whose disabilities, frailty or mental health make ordinary housing unsuitable the opportunity to live independent for longer.

Therefore this Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health ensures that ~~the existing funding through 18 contracts with housing related support services~~ **are** is maintained ***in a sustainable way and to continue to promote the Government's homelessness strategy (for rough sleepers) and continues constructive consultations with all district and borough councils and the service providers*** ~~in full for 2019/20 and rejects the current proposals being considered to terminate them.'~~

75.3 The amendment was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 35.3.

(a) For the amendment – **48**

Mr Acraman, Mrs Arculus, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mrs Bridges, Mr Catchpole, Mr Cloake, Mr Crow, Mrs Dennis, Mrs Duncton,

Mr Edwards, Mr Elkins, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Flynn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Mr Markwell, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Parikh, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mr Simmons, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the amendment - **12**

Mr Buckland, Dr Dennis, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchase, Mr Quinn, Mr Smytherman and Dr Walsh.

(c) Abstentions - **1**

Mr Barnard

75.4 The amendment was carried.

75.5 The motion as amended and set out below was agreed.

'This Council is extremely concerned that 2018 has seen the number of people sleeping rough in West Sussex reach its highest level since modern records began. It supports the aims of the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy to tackle rough sleeping and pledges to do it all it can to ensure the aims to eradicate rough sleeping become a reality in West Sussex, including targeted prevention activity. Furthermore, this Council values the work of voluntary sector organisations around the county who support some of the most vulnerable residents who are at risk of homelessness or who need support to prevent them from being homeless. The Council is concerned to note that:

- (1) The current proposals being considered by the Cabinet Member which might cut the entire funding for housing support will bring significant impacts in the medium to longer term by adding to the demand for acute higher cost specialist services and that implementation of these proposals would not only put this Council at odds with national government policy but crucially will deny local councils the opportunity to secure government funding in tackling this major social problem. In addition, the 'floating support' services at threat are a key tool for promoting social inclusion and stable communities through tenancy sustainment, community engagement and a reduction in anti-social behaviour, all key planks in meeting strategic objectives within the Council's own West Sussex Plan 2017-22;
- (2) Without this support this Council expects to see a rise in homelessness across all client groups, including families with associated social and health costs. These include direct

costly impacts on social care services through family breakdown with increased child protection issues, foster and other care placements and temporary accommodation placements for intentionally homeless families. Poor educational attainment and increased truancy rates for children in unsettled and temporary accommodation will inevitably be added consequences;

- (3) The termination of housing support for young people over 18, through such initiatives as the foyers across the county, puts vulnerable young people who have either suffered a troubled family life, or are care leavers, in a position where they will be moved from a relatively stable and secure environment which can be used as a stepping stone into living independently, and either be immediately forced into shared temporary accommodation or sharing in the private rented sector, with people who will not be vetted or motivated to act in that young person's best interest. While this would be undesirable for all young people placed in that situation, it will be particularly inconsistent with the Council's duty as a corporate parent to care leavers, who form a significant proportion of the current service users; and
- (4) If funding is removed and refuge accommodation for women and their children subjected to domestic abuse is no longer available, this will put women's lives and children's lives directly at risk, as well as taking away support for women with their recovery and helping to rebuild their confidence and self-esteem, and losing specialist support workers for the children who accompany them.

This Council believes that the proposals clearly and directly fly in the face of three of the key areas of focus agreed by the Council – best start in life for children and young people, a strong, safe and sustainable place for communities and a council that works for communities. This Council further believes that a fourth key area of focus, independence in later life, is also significantly impacted by these proposals because the current preventative service model extra care housing schemes give vulnerable older people whose disabilities, frailty or mental health make ordinary housing unsuitable the opportunity to live independent for longer.

Therefore this Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health ensures that housing related support services are maintained in a sustainable way and to continue to promote the Government's homelessness strategy (for rough sleepers) and continues constructive consultations with all district and borough councils and the service providers.'

76 Motion on Cycling

76.1 At the County Council meeting on 20 July 2018 the following motion had been moved by Dr O'Kelly, seconded by Ms Lord, and referred to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure for consideration. A report by the Cabinet Member was included with the agenda (pages 39 and 40).

'This Council recognises the significant work being done by the Cabinet to promote the benefits of increasing cycle journeys, in terms of improving fitness, reducing congestion and the need to provide additional parking spaces, and improving air quality, as well as opening up the countryside for both residents and visitors. Along with the undoubted benefits of making cycling easier, there are also a number of issues that need to be addressed for the benefit of all residents and visitors to West Sussex. There are also new developments, such as electric bikes and increasing numbers of motorised scooters, which should, ideally, be segregated from pedestrians as far as possible in town centres.

The Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to hold a county-wide Cycling Summit to explore all the issues more fully, involving the whole range of stakeholders to address at least the following issues:

- (1) The health benefits of increasing cycling miles and how this can be achieved;
- (2) The role of cycling in addressing congestion and air quality;
- (3) Increasing cycle commuting and the role of employers in encouraging this;
- (4) Cycling Safety;
- (5) Cycle tourism - opportunities and threats, including a presumption against road closures for large cycle events and damage to popular off-road routes;
- (6) Cycling education, and involving schools and other educational establishments in promoting cycling;
- (7) Involving businesses, and encouraging them to promote cycling through their travel plans;
- (8) Maximising grant funding and exploring other ways of funding new high quality infrastructure;
- (9) Design standards and increasing cycling infrastructure and capacity; and
- (10) Recognising the different challenges of promoting cycling in urban and rural environments and working with district,

borough, parish and neighbourhood councils, and the South Downs National Park Authority.'

- 76.2 An amendment was moved by Mrs Russell and seconded by Mrs Urquhart.

'This Council recognises the significant work being done by the Cabinet to promote the benefits of increasing cycle journeys, in terms of improving **health and wellbeing** fitness, reducing congestion and the need to provide additional parking spaces, and improving air quality, as well as opening up the countryside for both residents and visitors. Along with the undoubted benefits of making cycling easier, there are also a number of issues that need to be addressed for the benefit of all residents and visitors to West Sussex. There are also new developments, such as electric bikes and increasing numbers of motorised scooters, which should, ideally, be segregated from pedestrians as far as possible in town centres.

The Council therefore calls on the Cabinet **Members** to hold a county-wide Cycling Summit to explore all the issues more fully **including at the 2019 Cycling Summit**, involving the whole range of stakeholders to address at least the following issues:

- (1) The health **and wellbeing** benefits of increasing cycling miles and how this can be achieved;
- (2) The role of cycling in addressing congestion and air quality;
- (3) Increasing cycle commuting and the role of employers in encouraging this;
- (4) Cycling **and Pedestrian** Safety;
- (5) Cycle tourism - opportunities and threats, including a **detailed consideration of proposed** presumption against road closures for large cycle events and **potential consequences for** damage to popular off-road routes;
- (6) **The continuation of c**Cycling education **in schools through 'Bikability' courses, instructor advice and school travel plans**, and involving schools and other educational establishments in promoting cycling;
- (7) Involving businesses, and encouraging them to promote cycling through their travel plans;
- (8) Maximising grant funding and exploring other ways of funding new high quality infrastructure;
- (9) **The success of the newly-implemented** Design standards and increasing cycling infrastructure and capacity; and

- (10) Recognising the different challenges of promoting cycling in urban and rural environments and working with district, borough, parish and neighbourhood councils, and the South Downs National Park Authority.'

76.3 The amendment was accepted.

76.4 The motion, as amended and set out below, was carried.

'This Council recognises the significant work being done by the Cabinet to promote the benefits of increasing cycle journeys, in terms of improving health and wellbeing, reducing congestion and the need to provide additional parking spaces, and improving air quality, as well as opening up the countryside for both residents and visitors. Along with the undoubted benefits of making cycling easier, there are also a number of issues that need to be addressed for the benefit of all residents and visitors to West Sussex. There are also new developments, such as electric bikes and increasing numbers of motorised scooters, which should, ideally, be segregated from pedestrians as far as possible in town centres.

The Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Members to explore issues more fully including at the 2019 Cycling Summit, involving the whole range of stakeholders to address the following issues:

- (1) The health and wellbeing benefits of increasing cycling miles and how this can be achieved;
- (2) The role of cycling in addressing congestion and air quality;
- (3) Increasing cycle commuting and the role of employers in encouraging this;
- (4) Cycling and Pedestrian Safety;
- (5) Cycle tourism - opportunities and threats, including a detailed consideration of proposed road closures for large cycle events and potential consequences for popular off-road routes;
- (6) The continuation of cycling education in schools through 'Bikability' courses, instructor advice and school travel plans;
- (7) Involving businesses, and encouraging them to promote cycling through their travel plans;
- (8) Maximising grant funding and exploring other ways of funding new high quality infrastructure;
- (9) The success of the newly-implemented Design standards and increasing cycling infrastructure and capacity; and
- (10) Recognising the different challenges of promoting cycling in

urban and rural environments and working with district, borough, parish and neighbourhood councils, and the South Downs National Park Authority.'

77 Motion on consultation on Shale Gas and Other Oil and Gas Exploration and Production

77.1 The following motion was moved by Ms Lord and seconded by Mrs Millson.

'This Council notes that, in May this year, Ministers outlined a proposal in a Written Ministerial Statement to redefine non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration applications as permitted development and to redefine large scale shale gas production sites as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects which would mean central government would determine planning applications rather than local authorities.

This Council believes that the wishes of local communities should be considered in decisions on shale gas and other oil and gas exploration and production, and that these decisions are best determined by local Mineral Planning Authorities through the planning process.

This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Environment respond to the Government's consultation that applications for shale gas exploration, and for other oil and gas exploration, should not become permitted development and that they, along with planning applications for shale gas production, should be determined by local planning authorities in accordance with planning law and guidance, and also to share this response with West Sussex MPs and relevant government ministers.'

77.2 An amendment was moved by Mrs Duncton and seconded by Dr Walsh.

'This Council notes that, in May this year, Ministers outlined a proposal in a Written Ministerial Statement to redefine non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration applications as permitted development and to redefine large scale shale gas production sites as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects which would mean central government would determine planning applications rather than local authorities.

This Council believes that the wishes of local communities should be considered in decisions on shale gas and other oil and gas exploration and production, and that these decisions are best determined by local Mineral Planning Authorities through the planning process.

This Council resolves to ***support the proposed draft responses, as published on 10 October 2018 in the Members'***

Information Service newsletter, ask the Cabinet Member for Environment respond to the Government's consultation that applications for shale gas exploration, and for other oil and gas exploration, should not become permitted development and that they, along with planning applications for shale gas production, should be determined by local planning authorities in accordance with planning law and guidance, and **to** also to share this response with West Sussex MPs and relevant government ministers **making it clear that we will oppose attempts by the Government to dilute local democracy.**

77.3 The amendment was accepted.

77.4 The motion, as amended and set out below, was carried.

'This Council notes that, in May this year, Ministers outlined a proposal in a Written Ministerial Statement to redefine non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration applications as permitted development and to redefine large scale shale gas production sites as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects which would mean central government would determine planning applications rather than local authorities.

This Council believes that the wishes of local communities should be considered in decisions on shale gas and other oil and gas exploration and production, and that these decisions are best determined by local Mineral Planning Authorities through the planning process.

This Council resolves to support the proposed draft responses, as published on 10 October 2018 in the Members' Information Service newsletter, should not become permitted development and that they, along with planning applications for shale gas production, should be determined by local planning authorities in accordance with planning law and guidance, and to also share this response with West Sussex MPs and relevant government ministers making it clear that we will oppose attempts by the Government to dilute local democracy.'

78 Motion on Scrutiny of Strategic Budget Options

78.1 With the agreement of the Council, Dr Walsh withdrew his motion on scrutiny of strategic budget options, having accepted assurances given in the briefing note on the arrangements for consultation for proposed savings decisions and budget preparation.

79 Motion on Fire and Rescue Service Funding

79.1 The following motion was moved by Mr Jones and seconded by Mr Oxlade.

'This Council notes the existing, and increasing, gap in the funding

provided per person from the Government towards West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS), in comparison to the per person funding in all of those Fire and Rescue Services immediately surrounding it. Not only are many of these surrounding authorities receiving much higher sums to protect their communities, but with further government cuts in 2019/20, the gap is set to become far worse, and even more unfair, for West Sussex. Moreover, the local government Settlement Funding Assessment for fire authorities shows West Sussex having the biggest funding cut in England, between 2016/17 and 2019/20, of 45%. The English average is a 15% cut.

This Council also notes that despite assurances by the previous Chief Fire Officer that there would always be a minimum of 30 fire appliances and crews available, out of 35 across the county at any one time, that in practice, between 7 am and 7 pm, there are rarely more than 15 available, sometimes as few as 10, and that firefighters are having to work hard to keep such numbers and maintain the resilience of the Service.

This Council further notes that WSFRS has already had very deep cuts made to it in recent years, with £2.5 million and £1.6 million in 2012 and 2014 respectively, making it according to the FBU the second worst hit fire authority in the proportion of its overall number of firefighters lost in the whole of Great Britain, with a reduction of 37% of its firefighters, during that time.

The Council is aware that it was confirmed at the September meeting of the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee, that the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities would be coming forward with proposals for further cuts to the Service in November, although as of the date this motion was submitted, this was still not indicated on the Council's Forward Plan of key decisions.

The Council is also aware the forthcoming HMI inspection of WSFRS is not due to begin until November, and aside from some preliminary feedback expected during the following month, is not due to formally publish its conclusions until its final report, expected in May 2019.

This Council believes in the context of the circumstances outlined above, and also because it is impossible to predict what issues or extra demands the HMI inspection may reveal which will require action, it would be inappropriate at this time to come forward with any measures which would reduce the amount of funding WSFRS receives.

The Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To request the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities abandons any plans to bring forward further

proposals for cuts to WSFRS, as the service has taken as many cuts as it can bear without further compromising public and firefighter safety, and further threatening the availability of crews and appliances at the county's fire stations; and

- (2) To request the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities jointly write to the relevant Government Minister, questioning the inequalities in funding for WSFRS and calling for it to be raised so that it is in line with the funding that other neighbouring fire authorities receive, per person.'

79.2 The motion was referred to the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities for consideration.

80 Question Time

80.1 Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios and asked questions of chairmen, as set out at Appendix 3. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 45 to 58) and a supplementary report (supplement pages 1 to 3) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 2.38 (set out at Appendix 2).

81 Performance and Finance Select Committee: Annual Scrutiny Performance 2017/18

81.1 The Council considered the Annual Scrutiny Newsletter 2017/18 which summarised the work of the Select Committees and reported the performance measures to the end of the year, in the light of a report by the Performance and Finance Select Committee (pages 59 to 76).

81.2 Resolved –

That the Annual Scrutiny Newsletter 2017/18, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

82 Report of Urgent Action

82.1 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (pages 77 and 78) was noted.

Chairman

The Council rose at 4.15 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
Item 6 - Petition on 'Save Crawley Open House'	Mr Boram	Member of Adur District Council
	Mr Bradbury	Member of Mid Sussex District Council and Chairman of Building Heroes Education Foundation
	Mr Burrett	Prejudicial Interest as Trustee of Crawley Open House (Mr Burrett left the room for the discussion of the item)
	Mr Hillier	Close relative has a close association with Crawley Open House
	Mr Jones	Cabinet Member for Housing at Crawley Borough Council
	Mr Quinn	Member of Crawley Borough Council
Item 7(a) - Motion on Tackling Homelessness and supporting those at risk	Mr Boram	Member of Adur District Council
	Mr Bradbury	Member of Mid Sussex District Council and Chairman of Building Heroes Education Foundation
	Mr Burrett	Prejudicial Interest as Trustee of Crawley Open House (Mr Burrett left the room for the discussion of the item)
	Mr Hillier	Close relative has a close association with Crawley Open House
	Mr Jones	Cabinet Member for Housing at Crawley Borough Council
	Mr Lanzer	Member of Crawley Borough Council

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
Item 7(a) - Motion on Tackling Homelessness and supporting those at risk (cont)	Mr S J Oakley	Member of Chichester District Council
	Mr Quinn	Member of Crawley Borough Council
	Mr Smytherman	Member of Worthing Borough Council and Trustee of Coastal West Sussex MIND
	Mr Turner	Member of Worthing Borough Council
Item 8 – Question Time All paragraphs	Mr Bradbury	Trustee of Sussex Learning Trust, member of Mid Sussex District Council and Chairman of Building Heroes Education Foundation
	Mr Smytherman	Member of Worthing Borough Council and Trustee of Coastal West Sussex MIND
Item 8 – Question Time Paragraph 9 (Rail timetable change inquiry)	Dr Dennis	Annual rail season ticket holder between Horsham and London
Item 8 – Question Time Paragraph 19 (Stoptober)	Mr Turner	Pharmacist
Item 8 – Question Time Paragraph 20 (Flu Campaign)	Mr Turner	Pharmacist
Item 8 – Question Time Paragraph 21 (Going Local)	Mr Turner	Pharmacist
Item 8 - Question Time Paragraph 24 (Local Government Pension Fund Awards)	Mr Burrett	Member of Local Government Pension Scheme
	Mr Lanzer	Deferred member of Local Government Pension Scheme
Item 8 - Question Time (Incineration of clinical waste)	Mr Parikh	Work for and have funding from the NHS

Written Questions: 19 October 2018

1. Written question from **Mrs Mullins** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Adults and Health**

Question

The Cabinet Member may recall that at the February County Council meeting this year, the budget papers referred to an announcement in the provisional local government finance settlement, allowing local authorities to increase council tax from 2% to 3%, before a referendum was needed. As a result a core rise in council tax of 2.95% was included in the 2018/19 revenue budget presented (alongside an additional 2% for adult social care). That budget report went on to describe a number of one off investments for 2018/19 totalling £2.5m, to be paid for out of additional money raised through council tax.

Among those one-off investments was an allocation of £0.6m, to work with district and borough councils, to develop options to provide increased temporary accommodation in the county and reduce the growing level of homelessness being experienced across West Sussex.

Can the Cabinet Member please provide:

- (a) A breakdown per district and borough, of how many additional places were delivered for homeless people, as a result of that £0.6m funding allocation, so far this year; and
- (b) Information on how many of those additional places might be impacted by the cuts in housing related support which she is proposing to make in next year's budget.

Answer

The County Council does not have a statutory role in addressing homelessness as this legal duty sits with the district tier of local government.

However, the authority recognises that there is a significant interdependence between support for vulnerable people and access to accommodation and is already playing an active part in supporting those residents affected by homelessness who are central to the County Council's statutory duties – including 16 and 17-year-olds, Care Leavers and households identified as Intentionally Homeless.

- (a) Current work to consult partners and providers on the future funding of the 'Housing Related Support contracts' includes remodelling future service provision to focus on the most vulnerable and to identify potential use of County Council assets to support additional units of accommodation. This one-off funding is thus supporting work to quantify demand pressures and consider opportunities for shared accommodation initiatives with the district and borough councils and has identified the following additional units of accommodation to date;

- Eight properties across the county that will be leased to the local district council on a peppercorn basis, which will manage them on the County Council's behalf, and the capacity shared by both authorities to accommodate homeless households to whom a statutory duty is owed.

The first two of these properties are expected to go live with Crawley Borough Council in December 2018 following completion of some refurbishment works.

- Seven units based in Chichester for young people, which will provide two emergency access bed spaces for homeless 16 and 17-year-olds and Care Leavers and will provide five units of longer-term supported accommodation for this client group.

This project is scheduled to come on line on 17 December 2018.

- Exploration of the transfer of a surplus County Council site within Adur District to the local council to support the development of additional units of accommodation in exchange for County Council nomination rights for those threatened with homelessness.

Further work to review additional asset opportunities is being developed alongside the work to remodel service provision with partners.

In addition, £50,000 has been utilised as a one-off uplift to increase the number of units and level of support provided to rough sleepers in the south of the county through additional funding to support the opening of the new 24/7 Bognor Hostel, run by StonePillow. The long-term provision of these services is part of the remodelling of the Housing Related Support contracts, as above.

- (b) As no decision has yet been made and the consultation with stakeholders is still ongoing, it is not possible to provide this information.

2. Written question from Mr Oxlade for reply by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Question

I have a number of questions relating to Beechfield secure children's home in Copthorne, West Sussex which closed in 2016 following an inadequate Ofsted inspection. I understand the home required major building work which was subsequently undertaken and signed off at the end of 2017 but that the unit remains closed at present.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me:

- (a) Whether the County Council is or has been paying for any West Sussex children being accommodated in similar facilities within other local authorities since the facility closed in 2016;

- (b) Whether any operating licences/registration has to be in place and if so, when any current licences are due to expire/have expired;
- (c) How much the refurbishment has cost and to what extent this has improved the facilities available previously (e.g. any additional beds or equipment for more therapeutic services);
- (d) For each of the three years prior to the closure of the facility confirm the extent to which the operating costs exceeded the income generated through other local authority placements;
- (e) How much the facility is costing on average per month whilst sitting empty (in terms of insurance/security/re-deploying staff in alternative roles); and finally
- (f) Summarise the nature of any discussions he or officers have had with the Department for Education and/or Ofsted regarding the future of this facility and confirm when he anticipates a decision will be taken as to whether to re-open it or not.

Answer

- (a) A total of four children (five placements) have been placed in Secure Accommodation at a cost of £454,000 since the closure in October 2016.
- (b) Beechfield’s license is due to expire on 31 March 2019.
- (c) There has been a total spend of £729,000 spent on the refurbishment of Beechfield, all of which has been Department for Education (DfE) Grant Funded.
- (d) Including corporate spend and overheads, the expenditure exceeded the income in the following years:

Year	Cost
2013/14	£49,000
2014/15	£167,000
2015/16	£386,000

- (e) The majority of staff have now been redeployed into other vacant posts already budgeted for in the directorate. For those staff that remain ‘over establishment’, the cost to the budget from 1 April to 30 September has been c£150,000. The cost for the remainder of the financial year is anticipated to be around £15,000 per month. However, this may reduce further still through Beechfield leavers or through other posts becoming vacant that these staff can then be redeployed into.

Rates	£17,500
Grounds maintenance	£8,013
Utilities	£19,554

Mechanical and electrical maintenance	£37,619
Facilities Management visits	£5,000
Security	£10,000
Total budget per annum	£97,686

- (f) Officers have been involved in ongoing discussions with the DfE and Ofsted about the future options for the facility. In September 2018 the DfE undertook a site visit. The Executive Director Children, Adults, Families, Health and Education is now leading on these discussions and we are hopeful that a final decision regarding the future of Beechfield will be confirmed in coming months.

3. Written question from Dr Walsh for reply by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations

Question

I understand that Performance Related Pay (PRP) is being introduced for Hay management grades across the County Council.

- (a) Who took this decision and when?
- (b) Was any consultation carried out with staff organisations, and if so, which?
- (c) Was a full analysis of the risks and benefits carried out and is it available?
- (d) What is the financial provision for the scheme?
- (e) How many employees are eligible for the scheme, and at what grades?
- (f) What percentage of basic pay do the PRP payments represent at each grade?
- (g) Is PRP a one off payment, or an addition to basic salary?
- (h) Why was this not presented to the Performance and Finance Select Committee for scrutiny?

Answer

(a), (b), (c) and (h):

The Council's Pay Policy was agreed by the County Council on 16 February 2018 and amended by the County Council on 20 July 2018. The following paragraphs are for particular note:

- '5.1 Staff on NJC and Hay grades are eligible for annual incremental increases to base pay until they reach the top of the grade for their role. There is no further base pay progression once the employee reaches the maximum of the grade, with the exception of a small

number of staff who retain an entitlement to an additional long service increment, in accordance with the rules of a scheme which is no longer current.

- 5.2 Incremental progression is subject to 'satisfactory' performance and this will be defined within the Council's Performance Management Policy/Procedure.
- 6.5 The pay awards for staff on Hay pay grades are determined locally and are approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Change; and following consultation with the staff concerned and UNISON.
- 6.6 The total sum available for any pay increase for staff on SMG or Hay grading arrangements is decided annually by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement (S151 Officer) and Director of Human Resources and Organisational Change. This is based on consideration of appropriate market and other relevant information, including the performance of the County Council and affordability.
- 6.7 In exceptional circumstances; and as approved by the Leader in the case of SMG Tier 1; and as approved by the Chief Executive in the case of SMG Tier 2 to 4 and Hay grades - an unconsolidated additional payment may be made to recognise exceptional performance.'
- (d) Please see paragraph 6.6 of the Pay Policy. The financial provision is agreed as part of the budget setting process.
- (e) There are 404 Hay graded staff – all paid according to the provisions of the Pay Policy.
- (f) Not applicable.
- (g) The only reference within the Pay Policy to an unconsolidated payment provision is in paragraph 6.7.

4. Written question from Mr Jones for reply by the Cabinet Member for Environment

Question

The Cabinet Member will no doubt be aware of the concerns raised by organisations like the British Lung Foundation, and campaigns such as #noidling and Doctors against Diesel, highlighting the impact of air pollution on children.

A recent report by Unicef UK and Queen Mary University of London has demonstrated that while youngsters only spend 40 per cent of their time on the school run and at school, they receive 60 per cent of their exposure to tiny particles of black carbon during that time. Moreover, research by Greenpeace in

2017 indicates that more than 2,000 schools and nurseries across the country are located close to roads with illegal levels of pollution, underlining the seriousness of the problem.

I am aware of the county-wide action plan for tackling air quality published earlier this year which makes reference to funding provided by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to deliver a targeted intervention with 13 schools within the air quality management areas (AQMAs) in West Sussex aimed at reducing idling during school drop-offs and pick-ups, increasing walking and cycling rates and to measures the changes.

Can the Cabinet Member please:

- (a) Confirm which schools will be involved in this intervention and when she anticipates the findings being available;
- (b) Outline what other action with schools is planned to highlight and address this issue; and
- (c) In light of the above question, will she encourage headteachers in schools across West Sussex to comply with the guidance, in as far as they are not doing this already, from the National Education Union (NEU) and the British Lung Foundation, key elements which include:
 - Encouraging schools to create action plans to protect pupils' health. This includes installing air pollution monitors to show when toxic air is worst, in order to help make decisions about outside PE lessons and monitor vulnerable pupils with underlying health conditions.
 - Recommending the introduction of travel plans to reduce the danger of air pollution around schools. This could include car sharing, safe walking routes away from main roads, making sure there is sufficient parking for scooters and bikes, discouraging car parking outside the school gates and asking parents arriving in cars to turn off their engines.
 - Reminding parents that children in buggies are at greater risk, due to their proximity to vehicle exhaust pipes; and
 - Linking air pollution and its impact to the national curriculum in Science, PHSE, English and Geography.

Answer

- (a) Following the award of £105,900 from Defra to target interventions, as described in the question above, with schools within or very close to air quality management areas across Sussex, Sustrans and Living Streets have been appointed as delivery partners.

26 schools have been approached to fill 13 spaces for West Sussex. A number have agreed to take part and a few have declined. Activities with the schools will be arranged to fit around their own particular timetables, so

final results will not be available until the end of the project next September. However, we will know how the messages around anti-idling etc. have been received from the regular reports from the delivery partners.

The schools approached are:

Adur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buckingham Park Primary • Eastbrook Primary • Glebe Primary Academy • St Nicholas & St Mary Primary • St Peter's Primary • Swiss Gardens Primary
Chichester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central School • Lancastrian • Parklands Community Primary School • Portfield Primary • St Richard's
Crawley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazelwick School • Milton Mount Primary • Northgate Primary School • Pound Hill Infant Academy • Pound Hill Junior Academy • Three Bridges Primary School
Horsham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Peter's, Cowfold • Storrington Primary • Thakeham Primary
Mid Sussex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hassocks • Windmills
Worthing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bramber • Broadwater • Downsbrook Primary • Thomas A Becket Infant School • Thomas A Becket Junior School

- (b) The lessons learnt from the Defra grant project will be shared with all schools including any who were not able to participate in the project initially. We also continue to work with the EYE Project (Eco Young Engaged) to bring environmental messages to schools and we arranged for an air quality stand at the Chichester event on 5 October 2018. Sustrans and Living Streets were also represented. This will be repeated at future events in other areas across the county.
- (c) I will work with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and the Director for Public Health to agree the best way to encourage more involvement in schools. Work with schools on School Travel Plans and safer routes to school will continue to be carried out by the Local Transport Improvement Officers.

5. Written question from Mr Jones for reply by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Question

The Adur Planning Committee recently approved a hybrid planning application that could see 600 new houses and an Ikea store built in Lancing.

I understand that the 2ha site that the County Council was seeking for a primary school has been included with the planning permission but that the £4.35m in Section 106 funding to meet the costs of primary, secondary and further education provision in the local area arising from the additional housing allocation, was not. Furthermore, that same development essentially depends upon a 'land swap' with the developer of land owned by the County Council, although the terms for the proposed land transfer are not, as yet, agreed.

Can the Cabinet Member(s) please:

- (a) Assure me, given the serious impact the entire New Monks Farm development will have on the surrounding towns and parishes, that although this Council has yet to directly seek the views of the residents of those surrounding towns and parishes, it will now engage fully with them in respect of whether to proceed, and that these views will be taken into account prior to a decision approving any such 'land swap' being made;
- (b) Advise me (in confidence outside this meeting if needs be) of the value of the existing land owned by the Council known as Withy Patch;
- (c) Confirm whether the 'land swap' of the land owned by the Council at Withy Patch would be a key decision, and when it is anticipated this might be taken;
- (d) With regard to the provision of developer contributions towards education as a result of additional housing on this development, can the Cabinet Member please confirm:
 - (i) How significant a problem is the failure of the County Council to secure the requested £4.35m;
 - (ii) What level of contribution in s106 funding towards education provision he anticipates the County Council will receive; and
 - (iii) Comment on the extent to which the taxpayer will end up having to fund additional school places as a result of this development.

Answer

- (a) As part of the planning application process, and in accordance with planning legislation, there has already been full consultation with the public and an opportunity for all those residents affected to make representations. The County Council does not propose to undertake an additional consultation

with residents. In the event that the County Council proposes to proceed with the relocation of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) site, there will be full consultation with the individual residents at the site.

- (b) The value of the existing GRT site at Withy Patch remains dependent on a number of factors which are yet to be agreed. Discussions are ongoing with the developers and it would prejudice those discussions for any sum to be disclosed.
- (c) It is anticipated that any land transfer arrangements related to the relocation of the Withy Patch site would require a key decision. The preparation of a report is dependent on provisional agreement of terms.
- (d)
 - (i) The County Council still expects to receive some S106 contributions towards the new primary school project costs and will consider how best to deliver the new school from available funding;
 - (ii) At this stage the County Council cannot confirm the level of S106 contributions that will be received from developers; and
 - (iii) The County Council always seeks to ensure developers fully mitigate the impact of their development to minimise the costs to the County Council. However, if the full value of a new school cannot be secured by S106 contributions, the County Council would look to address any shortfall by the use of either Basic Need grant from central government or the possibility of a Department for Education-funded Free School.

6. Written question from Mrs Mullins for reply by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Question

In July 2011, the then Cabinet Member for Education and Schools, declared the former Court Meadow site surplus to operational requirements, from September 2012. At that time he stated the site would be sold, with the capital receipt used towards the cost of the Woodlands Meed project.

Since then the site was leased for a period of time to the Building Heroes Education Foundation, but I believe has largely remained vacant.

I understand that the former school site was marketed over the summer, with several offers having been received. However, Cuckfield Parish Council has submitted an application to declare the property an asset of community value, which the County Council has objected to. I believe a decision by Mid Sussex District Council on the outcome is awaited and presumably the Cabinet Member will either take a decision to formally declare the land surplus to requirements, or engage with the Parish Council regarding their proposals.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me:

- (a) Given that the land ceased to be used for education purposes in September 2012, why it has taken more than six years to market the site for re-sale;
- (b) What has the former school site been used for since September 2012 and for how long;
- (c) Whether the land is being marketed with planning permission for housing;
- (d) What liaison has taken place with the adjacent travellers site and Orchard House Respite Care Home, regarding the proposed future use of the site;
- (e) Whether he will commit to ensuring the proceeds achieved from the sale be 'ring fenced' for Woodlands Meed, or special needs in general; and
- (f) How much it has cost to transport pupils, from the former Court Meadow school site, to alternative education facilities, including escort costs, over the past six years.

Answer

- (a) It was not considered prudent to market this site following the school closure in 2012. The potential proceeds from a sale at that time would have generated an insignificant capital sum. The subsequent housing allocation (for 10 dwellings) within the Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan, improved market conditions and certainty around the need to retain the adjoining property led to the more recent decision to offer the site for sale.
- (b) The Court Meadow buildings were occupied by Building Heroes from 2014 to July 2015. The property has remained vacant since that time, apart from a classroom on the site which is currently used by Orchard House on a temporary basis.
- (c) The site has not been marketed with the benefit of a planning permission for housing. Any proposed sale would be conditional upon the purchaser securing planning approval for a form of development acceptable to the County Council and sensitive to the location of Orchard House and the Lodge.
- (d) There has been full consultation with Children's Services and the management at Orchard House concerning the proposed disposal. There has been no direct engagement with the families occupying the nearby County Council-owned travellers site.
- (e) Current practice for the sale of assets is to put the capital receipts into the County Council's Capital Programme. Their use is then strategically considered against the corporate priorities of the West Sussex Plan which, of course, includes access to education that meets the needs of our community.
- (f) County Council records show that 39 pupils were provided with transport to Court Meadow school in the school year before closure (2011/12). In most cases pupils were transferred to Woodlands Meed school and provided with

transport to get to Woodlands Meed. In some cases there was a change of placement, either immediately or in subsequent years, that was not connected to the new school being built. The County Council does not have records for the costs in the ensuing years of each individual's transport to Woodlands Meed (or the new placements) who were previously at Court Meadow.

7. Written question from Mrs Dennis for reply by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure

Question

The Burgess Hill Northern Arc will deliver 3,500 new houses in the land to the north of Burgess Hill, most of which is in the parish ward of Ansty, together with a substantial upgrade of the A2300 - the east/west link from the A23 into Burgess Hill through the parish wards of Twineham and Hurstpierpoint. The project has yet to be subjected to planning examination, although this is imminent. The planning vision promises to deliver 'the best of town and country to offer vibrant local centres' and a development with a 'sense of place' but mentions nothing about protecting the surrounding villages from the impact of the 20,000 plus additional daily traffic movements this will generate.

What practical steps does the County Council propose to take to preserve and enhance the sense of place in the villages that will be most affected by this huge development?

Answer

The development of the Northern Arc is a priority for both the County Council and Mid Sussex District Council, identified in the Burgess Hill Growth Deal agreed by the Leaders and Chief Executives of both authorities. County Council officers worked with Homes England and Mid Sussex District Council in the development of the Masterplan and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which were approved by the Mid Sussex District Council Cabinet in September 2018.

The Masterplan and IDP identify a clear phasing and investment strategy that will ensure the required infrastructure is provided to support growth including a new secondary school, two new primary schools, delivery of an east/west internal link road, full funding of the link road junction with the A2300 and sustainable transport links between Northern Arc and key destinations. Overall, the projects will deliver infrastructure with a value in excess of £162m.

The Masterplan and IDP set a number of key principles in terms of the form and phasing of development. However, it is important to recognise that a further level of detail will be required to support planning applications which will be subject to approval by Mid Sussex District Council in consultation with the County Council.

Transport Assessments and traffic modelling accompanying the planning applications will detail the precise extent and design of proposed highways and transport improvements.

The traffic modelling will include an assessment of impacts and mitigation on the local villages and the local road network, including the B2036. The requirement to identify the impacts and deliver appropriate mitigation is highlighted in both the Masterplan and the IDP and is emphasised in the County Council's consultation response to Mid Sussex District Council in relation to both documents.

County Council officers continue to work closely with Mid Sussex District Council and Homes England and will provide quarterly updates on progress in relation to this significant development opportunity being delivered in our county.

8. Written question from Mr Quinn for reply by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure

Question

The Cabinet Member may recall that at February Council this year the budget papers referred to an announcement in the provisional local government finance settlement allowing local authorities to increase council tax from 2% to 3% before a referendum was needed. As a result a core rise in council tax of 2.95% was included in the 2018/19 revenue budget presented (alongside an additional 2% for adult social care). That budget report went on to describe a number of one off investments for 2018/19 totalling £2.5m to be paid for out of additional money raised through council tax.

- (a) Among those one-off investments was an allocation of £0.5m for a programme of works relating to white lines and signage to improve the safety of the County's roads. As I drive around the county I still see roads without clearly marked white lines and signage obscured by overgrown vegetation. Can the Cabinet Member please let me have a breakdown per District and Borough of how much of this £0.5m funding was spent on: (i) white lines, and (ii) signage, and which roads were dealt with? Can he also advise what money remains available in this year's budget to tackle this issue.
- (b) Furthermore, on my travels I am noticing a considerable increase in kerbside vegetation growth which, if not addressed in a timely way, can lead to cracked pavements and road surfaces. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm in respect of each Borough and District how often spraying to tackle this issue is planned and at what intervals, and whether this commitment has or will be met this year.

Answer

- (a) Please find below details showing all sign/ line jobs either completed or due to be completed by end of this financial year.

We have identified over £440,000 worth of work with a further £60,000 work expected to be identified in the next month.

Town	Road	Work Type	Forecast Cost	Km of lines
Worthing	Broadwater Road	Lines	£15,000.00	1.6
Crawley	a264 SW bypass	signs	£13,129.00	
Crawley	a2220	signs	£2,978.00	
County	A286 Chi to Midhurst (raised as	Lines	£35,000.00	16
County	A281 Lining	Lines	£19,500.00	12
Slaugham	Warninglid Lane Slaugham (2.9km)	Lines	£8,897.00	2.9
Burgess Hill	Leylands Road Burgess Hill (1.3km)	Lines	£6,803.00	1.3
Burgess Hill	London Road Burgess Hill (1.3km)	Lines	£7,002.00	1.3
New timber	Saddlescombe Road Newtimber (Priority	Lines	£5,022.09	3
Henfield	Henfield Road Poynings (Priority	Lines	£4,715.29	3.8
New timber	Muddleswood Road Newtimber (Priority	Lines	£1,954.16	1.5
New timber	Brighton Road Newtimber (Priority	Lines	£3,899.67	2.2
Albourne & Sayers Common	London Road Albourne & Sayers Common (Priority	Lines	£5,639.40	3.3
Crawley	Crawley Avenue A22	lines	£45,923	5
slinfold	a264	lines	£15,363.00	5
Crawley	A 264 SW bypass	studs	£7,396.00	11
Lyminster	Lyminster Road	lines	£3,187.00	1.3
Crawley	a264 SW bypass	lines	£10,048.00	4
County	A24	Signs	£85,000.00	
County	A24	Signs	£0.00	
County	A24	Signs	£0.00	
Worthing	Chapel Road	Signs	£6,000.00	
Haywards Heath	Boardhill lane	lines	£10,506.00	2
County	A272 Hampshire to	Lines	£70,000.00	32
Worthing	Longfurlong	lines	£2,063.00	0.5
Scaynes Hill	Lewes Road	Signs	£3,127.00	
Bolney	Cowfold Road	Signs	£4,295.00	
Bognor	A29	lines	£6,076.00	3
Stedham	A272	lines	£2,274.00	0.7
Pagham	Lower Bognor Road	lines	£7,892.00	2.2
Westbourne	Emsworth common	lines	£7,979.00	3
Broadbridge Heath	Farthings Hill	lines	£4,280.00	1
Henfield	A281	lines	£5,079.00	1
Hurstpierpoint	A281	lines	£2,587.00	1.7
Haywards Heath	Sussex Sq	lines	£4,217.00	1
Shoreham	A281 Lining	lines	£6,655.00	0.75
Crawley	Manor Royal	lines	£3,490.00	0.6
			£442,976.61	125

- (b) With regard to weed spraying highways carry out up to two complete sprays throughout the county each year. Depending on weed growth and available budget, some areas are treated a third time if budget allows. Weed Spraying is carried out during May to June and again August to September. The weed spraying programme is due to finish next week.

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Question Time: 19 October 2018

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

Best Start in Life

Paragraph 5, Pupil Attainment at Key Stages 1 and 2 (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills), from Ms Flynn.

Alternative Provision College, (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills), from Mr Buckland and Dr Walsh.

In response to a question from Mr Buckland about the secondary unit of the Alternative Provision College in Chichester to his division, the Cabinet Member agreed to provide a written response to the following questions:

- Why was Mr Buckland, as local member, not informed about the change
- Why were other local organisations not consulted (i.e. the Town Council has youth services in the building)
- Did the Council consider the crime and anti-social behaviour implications – if so, could the risk assessment be provided
- Did the Council consider the implications for anti-social behaviour on the rail network – if so, could the risk assessment be provided
- Were the Police, Transport Police and other key agencies consulted – if so, could their responses be provided
- Is any review of the decision planned in terms of its effectiveness and any negative impact on the town centre?

A Prosperous Place

Paragraph 8, Horsham Enterprise Park (Leader/Economy), from Mr Jupp and Mrs Millson.

Paragraphs 10 and 28, A27 Improvements (Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure), from Mr Jones, Mr Montyn and Dr Walsh.

In response to a request from Mr Montyn that the Leader urge the member of Parliament for Chichester to emphasise at Westminster and with Highways England the need for a long-term and comprehensive solution and adequate funding for a full scheme for the A27 at Chichester, the Leader agreed to write to Mrs Keegan.

Paragraph 30, Velo South Stakeholder Engagement (Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure), from Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr S J Oakley and Dr O'Kelly.

In relation to the targeted parish meetings, in response to a request from Mr Oakley the Leader agreed include the parishes affected by the parking contingency plan in relation to the impact on the A27.

Second runway at Gatwick (Leader/Economy), from Mr Acraman, Mrs Kitchen and Mr Quinn.

Written Question 7, Burgess Hill Northern Arc (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure), from Mr Bradbury and Mrs Dennis.

The Cabinet Member agreed to meet Mr Bradbury to discuss traffic management and the need to preserve a sense of place in the surrounding villages.

Cost of repairing speed indicator devices and insurance position (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure), from Mr Acraman and Mr Baldwin.

In response to a question from Mr Baldwin about the insurance position in relation to speed indicator devices and, particularly in areas where there is no parish precept, options for funding, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources agreed to liaise with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to clarify the position and respond to Mr Baldwin.

A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place

Paragraph 13, National Hate Awareness Week 13 to 20 October 2018 (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities), from Mr Jones.

In response to a question from Mr Jones about a recent incident in Barns Green and to what extent the record number of incidents point to an increase in activity and extremism in the far right movement and/or an increase in hate crime incidences in rural communities, the Cabinet Member said she would provide him with the figures.

Paragraph 14, Worthing Community Hub Pilot (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities), from Mr Smytherman.

Paragraph 16, Household Waste Recycling Sites Permit Scheme (Cabinet Member for Environment), from Mr Purchase, Mrs Purnell and Mr Quinn.

Paragraph 17, West Sussex Waste Partnership Food Waste Campaign (Cabinet Member for Environment), from Mr Barling and Mrs Millson.

Incineration of clinical waste (Cabinet Member for Environment), from Mr Parikh.

A Council that works for the Community

Paragraph 23, Public Services Infrastructure: Gigabit (Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations), from Mrs Duncton and Mr S J Oakley.

In response to a question from Mrs Duncton, the Cabinet Member agreed to send all members information about the business voucher scheme for small and medium-sized businesses.

Paragraph 25, County Council Funding (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources), from Dr Dennis.

Member involvement in staff groups (Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations and Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities), from Mr Oxlade.

Written Question 3, Performance-Related Pay (Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations), from Mr Jones and Mr Purchase.

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Notice of Motion: Fire and Rescue Service Funding

- 1** The Chairman of the County Council referred the notice of motion on Fire and Rescue Funding, submitted to the County Council on 19 October 2018, to the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities for consideration. The motion called on the Cabinet to not put forward further proposals for cuts to the West Sussex Fire Service and requested that the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities jointly write to the relevant Government Minister to question inequalities in funding as set out in the motion.
- 2** The Cabinet Member met Mr Jones on 31 October 2018 to discuss the motion. The position in relation to funding comparisons with neighbouring authorities has been provided in a briefing for members. It must be noted that funding arrangements differ between county authorities such as West Sussex and Surrey and stand-alone Fire Authorities such as those of the county's other neighbours.
- 3** The Cabinet Member confirms that there are no current plans for changes or savings related to the number of fire engines/fire stations in West Sussex. All changes to Fire and Rescue are managed through a risk assessment process which fully considers any risks to public and firefighter safety of any proposal. Proposals will also include public consultation when appropriate. The Cabinet Member also confirms that the forthcoming Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection of the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service is underway but that, aside from some preliminary feedback expected during December, is not due to formally publish its conclusions until its final report is produced which is expected in May 2019. The Cabinet Member is not, therefore, prepared, at this time, to write to the relevant Government Minister.
- 4** The Cabinet Member will consider the needs of the service and the actions required to maintain or enhance performance in light of the inspection report and the inspection process. Members will be involved in those considerations both through scrutiny and more broadly.
- 5** The Cabinet Member therefore:
 - rejects the premise for the motion and considers the requests made in the motion to be either premature or unnecessary in order to maintain the quality and integrity of the service. The Cabinet Member is keen to work with all members to protect and nurture the work of West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.
 - confirms that emergency response fire engines and statutory services are not affected by current plans for savings or service reductions but work is ongoing to assess where and whether it may be possible to make further reductions in costs as part of the County Council's budget planning process. As part of this assessment non-statutory prevention work is being considered for change through the operational work of the Director of Operations and Chief Fire Officer.
 - confirms that the County Council is fully responsible for the management of the Service, the assessment of service need, and for risk management in

service and budget planning. This will be informed by the HMICFRS process with any proposals arising being subject to member engagement and scrutiny.

- suggests a need to wait for the outcomes of the HMICFRS inspection in order to be better informed on any further action to take which could include writing to the relevant Government Minister should such a step be considered helpful.
 - welcomes discussion and debate on any proposed service changes and savings, emphasising the need for the County Council members to work together to protect and maintain the excellent standard of service that West Sussex Fire and Rescue provides and invites scrutiny of any decision making at the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee.
- 6** Mr Jones confirmed that he still wishes to debate the motion at County Council on 14 December 2018. With the Chairman's agreement, Mr Jones has revised the wording of his motion to reflect that the decision maker for possible service changes would be the Chief Fire Officer rather than the Cabinet Member, as set out on the agenda.
- 7** The Cabinet Member is unable to support the motion for the reasons set out above, and due to the need to address the issues set out in the motion at the appropriate time, in light of the HMICFRS inspection currently underway. The Cabinet Member's decision on this matter was published via the Executive Decision Database on 23 November 2018.

Debbie Kennard

Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities

Contact: Erica Keegan, 033 022 26050

Background Papers

None

Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel

What is Corporate Parenting?

- 1 Everybody working with or representing the interests of children and young people in care is a corporate parent and should be aware of their responsibilities. All local authority staff, elected members and relevant partner agencies share this duty. In practical terms, being a corporate parent means advocating on behalf of these children and young people to ensure they get the support they need to achieve the best outcomes. Asking the straightforward question, "Would this be good enough for my child?" and challenging any poor practice are central to this role.

The work of the Corporate Parenting Panel

- 2 The Corporate Parenting Panel oversees the services provided to children and young people in care. It is an all-party group which provides advice and challenge to the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Education and Skills. Membership of the Panel is:

Andrew Baldwin
Joy Dennis
Dawn Hall
Morwen Millson (Chairman)
Chris Oxlade
Jacky Pendleton
Elizabeth Sparkes

What has the Panel been doing?

- 3 The Panel last reported to County Council in April 2018 and since that time has continued to focus on priority areas as outlined in its Work Programme, as well as continuing its work with the Children in Care Council and identifying new areas of work. The Panel is only obliged to report to County Council once per year, but it feels that more regular reporting is beneficial in order to raise the profile of corporate parenting.
- 4 **CLA Strategy and Action Plan** – The Panel has worked with officers to help develop the Children Looked After (CLA) Strategy and Action Plan, to which the Children in Care Council has also contributed. The Strategy and Action Plan was agreed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in March 2018. The Panel will continue to monitor the Action Plan at future meetings.
- 5 **Health Report** – Members welcomed Heather Lomas to the Panel, the new Designated Nurse for CLA. The Panel was updated on current health assessments, and areas which raised concern, such as timescales relating to those assessments. The Designated Nurse for CLA hopes to promote a more integrated model of working, resulting in a smoother and more efficient system that ultimately prioritises our own West Sussex children. This will include a mental health assessment for certain children depending on the

circumstances. Members also supported the call for a more sophisticated dashboard of health data

- 6 Care Leavers** – The Panel helped to develop a briefing for members of the County Council who also sit on their local district/borough council. The briefing sets out how district and borough council colleagues can support care leavers in their area, for example in terms of housing or leisure facilities.
- 7 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)** – The Panel received a report on this in September which detailed work that the Council is undertaking in this area. The Panel raised concern that, although the health needs of UASC are being met, Initial Health Assessments are taking too long. Members asked for the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to approach local MPs to highlight a need for extra funding for this work.
- 8 Advocacy Service** – Members received the Advocacy Service Annual Report. It highlighted that all children are offered the use of an advocate at their first review meeting for as long as they want it; older children can choose not to have an advocate (however, few choose not to have one). Children can give feedback verbally or online and are generally satisfied with the advocacy they receive. An update will be provided at an earlier point in 2019.
- 9 Virtual School** – The Panel considered data relating to results, attendance and exclusion. Members noted that fixed-term exclusions have declined and there are no permanent exclusions. The report also highlighted that, although absence rates seemed high for the alternative provision college, they were 15% lower than the previous year. Members were concerned the data demonstrated that CLA children are not achieving as well as other non-CLA nationally. They did, however, understand that that the journey of a CLA has a significant impact upon their education and that this should be considered when looking at the data.
- 10 Children’s Residential Homes** – Members received an update on children’s residential homes in West Sussex. The Panel and the Children and Young People’s Services Select Committee have helped to identify key issues around facilities management and specific budgets in order to ensure increased performance and outcomes for this area. This is now a standing item on the Corporate Parenting Panel agenda until further notice in order to ensure that progress continues.
- 11 Adoption and Fostering Annual Reports** – The Panel received the Adoption and Fostering Annual Reports. The Panel heard directly from two couples (one who had recently adopted, and one who had been fostering for some time). Both couples had been happy with the support they received from the County Council. The service is developing a targeted campaign to try to increase the number of people coming forward to apply to become foster carers or to adopt.
- 12 Independent Visitor Scheme Annual Report** – The Panel considered the annual report of the Independent Visitor (IV) Scheme. The Annual Report provides an overview of the Independent Visitor Scheme 2017/18 and the number of IVs recruited and matched with children.

-
- 13 Independent Reviewing Officer Service** – The Panel considered the annual report of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service. The role of the IROs is two-fold: chairing the child’s review, and monitoring the child’s case on an ongoing basis including whether any safeguarding issues arise. Members noted that it has been very beneficial for the IRO service to move to the Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement service area. The move has refreshed the team and there is a robust system of duty.
- 14 Children in Care Council** – Members of the Panel have continued to meet with the Children in Care Council, most recently in October 2018.
- 15 Epic Awards** – West Sussex Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum will hold the annual seventh EPIC Award Ceremony to celebrate the achievement of West Sussex Children Looked After and Care Leavers on Sunday, 9 December at Butlins, Bognor Regis.
- 16 Advent Calendars** – The Panel would like to thank all those officers and members of the County Council who contributed to the donation of advent calendars for our children in care and care leavers. The target for 800 advent calendars was exceeded.
- 17 Youth Offending Service** – The Panel considered a report that provided an update on the performance and practice of the Youth Offending Service in relation to CLA. This included current performance data, current working practices and information regarding the future development of practice within the YOS in relation Children Looked After.

Future Plans

- 18** The Panel will be considering the following in the coming months:
- Further meetings with the Children in Care Council
 - Performance Data
 - Virtual School update
 - Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)
 - Voice of the child

Recommended

That the report be noted.

Morwen Millson

Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel

Contact: Rachel Allan 033 022 28966

Background Papers: None

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Governance Committee: Delegation to Other Local Authorities

Background and context

- 1** The Local Government Act 1972 makes provision for local authorities to delegate functions to other local authorities. It has become apparent that there are no explicit delegations currently in the County Council's Constitution to allow this to take place, other than for specific joint committees.
- 2** A recent example has occurred where it would be appropriate for the Planning Committee to delegate its powers on an appeal matter to the district council concerned. Because of a lack of explicit delegation, this decision will be taken by an officer using the urgent action procedure.

Proposal

- 3** It is recommended that a delegation to non-Executive committees should be included in the Constitution to allow for this type of delegation in future, as an additional term of reference for each Committee in Part 3, Appendix 5 (Planning, Regulation, Audit and Accounts and Rights of Way Committees), Appendix 6 (Standards Committee) and Appendix 7 (Governance Committee):

'To delegate powers, when appropriate and on the recommendation of the Director of Law and Assurance, to another local authority including a borough or district borough council and to be able, subsequently, to review, amend or withdraw that delegation.'

- 4** While it is expected that delegation will only be appropriate on rare occasions, having a general power to make such a delegation will increase the flexibility of committee for determining these matters themselves.

Risk Management Implications

- 5** The delegation of any function to another local authority must be exercised with care as the public may still see the County Council as being a lead party in the matter, so reputational risk is possible if any problems occur.

Recommended

That the terms of reference of the Governance, Standards, Planning, Rights of Way and Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committees be amended to include the delegation set out in paragraph 3 above.

Lionel Barnard

Chairman of the Governance Committee

Contact: Charles Gauntlett 033 022 22524

Background Papers: None

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(Links marked with an * are to documents in pdf format)

Cabinet Report: Delivering the West Sussex Plan 2017-22



BEST START IN LIFE



All children and young people are ready for school and work

1 Ofsted Inspection Outcomes (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Recent judgements following Ofsted inspections of schools in West Sussex show that more pupils in the county now attend a school rated at least 'Good' compared with 2016. By the end of October 2018, 85% of all pupils attended a school rated at least 'Good' an increase from 81.5% in October 2016. Implementation of the new School Effectiveness Strategy will ensure that school leaders and governors strive to ensure more pupils are receiving an improved level of education in the county over the next few years. The strategy sets out that maintained schools which are not yet 'Good' will receive support and challenge from the County Council to raise standards with an expectation that pupils will receive a 'Good' education within a year. A variety of improvement measures will be used such as school-to-school support whereby leaders at highly rated schools assist schools with areas which require development. For those Academies or Free Schools which are not yet 'Good' the Service will work closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office to ensure the Academy Trust is being challenged to improve.



Families and children have a healthy family, home and work life

2 Healthy Pupils Capital Fund (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

There has been a positive response from West Sussex schools to the opportunity to bid for monies from the Healthy Pupils Capital Fund. The fund has been created from monies obtained through the [Soft Drinks Industry Levy](#), a levy that applies to the production and importation of soft drinks containing added sugar. It is intended that the fund will be used to pay for facilities or initiatives that

(Links marked with an * are to documents in pdf format)

encourage all school children and young people aged 4 to 18 to become more active, or which promote a healthy diet and support those with mental health issues. The County Council was allocated £766,000 from the fund. This has been distributed to those schools whose bids ranked most highly against criteria which included data held by the County Council on the condition of existing school facilities and how the school ranks against specific national measures of pupil health, including excess weight of primary age children. The successful bids range from funding for all-weather sports surfaces to the installation of a teaching kitchen. These projects will offer opportunities for children to learn the benefits of engaging in physical activity and the values of healthy eating, thereby helping to provide them with the best start in life.



Children and young people feel safe and secure

3 Call Management for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

During the Ofsted focused inspection of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in March 2018 inspectors identified that “systems and processes required simplifying to improve the timely progression of work”. To make improvements in this area it was recognised that more efficient management of the high volume of telephone calls received by the MASH was needed to improve the customer experience and deal better with the frequent number of calls that were not MASH-related. From August a team at the Customer Service Centre have begun answering calls to the MASH. The team has been trained so it can respond to specific enquiries and re-direct calls which are not MASH-related whilst ensuring those calls that are more specialist or complex are transferred to the appropriate colleague at the MASH. The resulting reduction in call volumes has freed up staff at the MASH to deal with the numerous requests for information they receive in a more timely and robust manner. The improvements delivered by this change have already been noted by partners including the National Probation Service, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service and neighbouring local authorities.

4 Pause Programme (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Following the first year of a three-year pilot the ‘Pause’ programme has made significant progress in achieving the aim of reducing the number of children being taken into care. The programme involves health and social care professionals working intensively with vulnerable women who have had a number of children removed from their care, enabling these women to pause and tackle the difficult issues in their lives. The 22 women on the programme are offered practical and emotional support, such as help with housing and overcoming debt or assistance in obtaining services like counselling, whilst also accessing long-acting, reversible contraception to break the damaging cycle of repeatedly becoming pregnant. The women have made progress in working towards their individual goals and some have even had the courage to share their stories anonymously through a range of television interviews highlighting the positive impact of the project on their lives. It is estimated that the work done by the programme so far has prevented 14 children being taken into care from birth.

(Links marked with an * are to documents in pdf format)



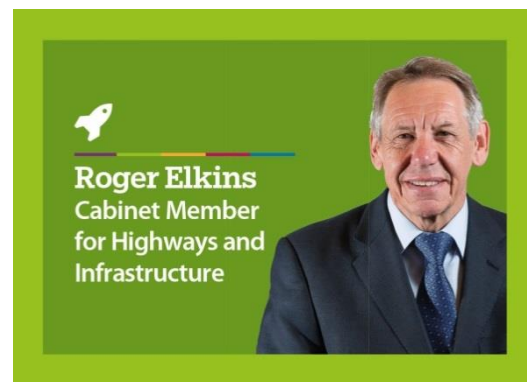
Access to education that meets the needs of our community

5 Pupil Attainment at Key Stage 4 (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Provisional results indicate that secondary schools in West Sussex have maintained their strong standards and performance at GCSE level after pupils sat new, reformed examinations introduced this year. The vast majority of subjects which pupils study now have less emphasis on coursework and more on final exams. When compared with national figures, for [Attainment 8](#), the measure which assesses a student's average grade across eight subjects, performance in West Sussex matches the national average at 46.5. For Progress 8, which measures how well a student has progressed between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 across these same eight subjects, the figure is +0.04 (nationally -0.03). This places West Sussex schools 61st (out of 151 across the country) for Attainment 8 and 50th for Progress 8. Whilst broadly in line with the ranking achieved last year, in both cases this still demonstrates strong performance that is above the national average. The County Council is working with secondary school leaders to build on this solid outcome to further improve the performance of pupils in West Sussex.



A PROSPEROUS PLACE



Infrastructure that supports a successful economy

6 Network Rail Main Line Upgrade (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)

On 5 November, Network Rail opened a consultation on plans to improve two key bottlenecks on the Brighton Main Line. The proposals include plans to improve the capacity of junctions between East Croydon and Selhurst, including major rebuilding of East Croydon Railway Station. Although the scheme is entirely outside West Sussex, the bottleneck constrains the number of services that can use the Brighton Main Line which also affects services on the West Coastway and Arun Valley Lines. The County Council is engaging with Network Rail and will provide a response to the consultation setting out the potential benefits to West Sussex. Network Rail will also be requested to use its experience with previous

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rail upgrade projects to minimise disruption during construction. As part of the response the County Council will also call on the Government to provide funding for implementation of the project to support economic growth in West Sussex and the wider South East.

7 A27 update (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)

Highways England (HE) has made announcements in relation to two schemes proposed for the A27. There is an intention to re-consult in spring 2019 for the A27 Arundel Bypass. Since the 2017 consultation, designs including the preferred route (modified Option 5A) have been significantly revised. More detailed evidence has also been gathered which will be published for public comment potentially alongside additional options and the County Council will consider this information before submitting a consultation response. The Worthing and Lancing scheme is currently under review. A summary of the 2017 consultation has been published setting out that, despite a good response with over 1,700 responses received, only 22% of stakeholders and 15% of public respondents supported the scheme. The County Council will now engage with HE to review the options for the scheme.



A great place to live, visit and work

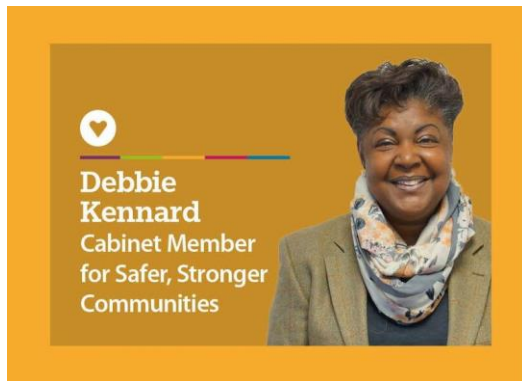
8 Taste of West Sussex Event – Westminster (Leader/Economy)

On 29 November a 'Taste of West Sussex' event took place in the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. The event was sponsored by Sir Peter Bottomley, MP for Worthing West, and had 16 producers showcasing the variety and quality of food and drink produced in West Sussex. The event was attended by the Leader and Kenny Tutt, the 2017 MasterChef winner and Worthing resident, who highlighted the vast diversity of local food and drink on offer in West Sussex and the importance of supporting these businesses to grow and flourish. Over 300 people visited the showcase, including MPs from across the country, Liz Truss MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury and six West Sussex MPs who had a chance to meet their local businesses. All attendees received a 'Passport to West Sussex' which included detail of all the producers in attendance along with promotion of '[Experience West Sussex](#)' and a copy of the [Taste Magazine](#). The event provided a great opportunity to raise the profile of West Sussex food and drink industry and its importance to the local economy.

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A STRONG, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE



A healthy place

9 Air Quality (Cabinet Member for Environment)

The newly-published county-wide air quality plan, 'Breathing Better: a partnership approach to improving air quality in West Sussex' states that governance will be undertaken by a newly created West Sussex Inter Authority Air Quality Group (IAAQ) made up of portfolio holders and senior officers of each of the West Sussex authorities. The inaugural meeting of the IAAQ Group was held on 22 October. Members of the borough and district councils attended, with support from their senior officers. The meeting agreed the terms of reference and action plan for the Group. The Group will meet three times a year. It will receive highlight reports from all partners and will look in detail at specific Air Quality Management Areas and other issues at each meeting. An annual report will be made to the West Sussex Leaders' Board.

10 How libraries in West Sussex are playing a key role in improving the public's health (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)

The County Council's library service and public health staff have worked in partnership to tap into the county's extensive library network, a valuable, non-clinical channel that extends into deprived and harder to reach areas. Libraries have been supporting both core and wider public health programmes, linked to increased health literacy, self-help, and reduction in loneliness and isolation. In January 2017, to support the national launch of the Public Health England (PHE) [Change 4Life Be Food Smart campaign](#), leads from public health and the library service engaged local families by hosting a low cost Be Food Smart quiz and treasure hunt for children and families. This activity inspired PHE to create Change4Life resources specifically for libraries nationwide that will launch in early 2019 with the upcoming nutrition campaign; this will feature the West Sussex case study, which will also be promoted as a best practice example on the PHE Campaign Resource Centre.

(Links marked with an * are to documents in pdf format)



A safe place

11 Be a safe online shopper this Christmas (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)

Free online safety advice for Christmas shoppers was on offer at the County Mall Shopping Centre, Crawley on 1 December. The event was run by the County Council, in partnership with Get Safe Online and other partners, including NatWest Bank, Sussex Police and Sussex Police Cadets. Residents were informed how to be more secure when shopping online and how to stay safe when using a smartphone or tablet. Following on from the event and in support of Safer Internet Day (5 February 2019), a Safe Digital Life conference will be run by the County Council on 7 February 2019 at County Hall North, Horsham. This event will be for professionals working with young people including social workers and school staff and will cover a range of key subject areas in relation to keeping young people safe online. Key speakers and workshops will be provided by organisations including NSPCC, Sussex Police and the West Sussex Youth Cabinet, with more to be confirmed and the Cabinet Member would encourage members to attend.

12 Safeguarding Month (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)

The West Sussex Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards and the Safer West Sussex (Community Safety) Partnership came together in November to celebrate Safeguarding Month. The primary aim was to raise awareness of safeguarding; what it is and how everyone can play a part in helping to keep vulnerable people safe from harm. Events and campaigns across the month highlighted the role that every resident in West Sussex has in keeping communities safe as safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This included encouraging residents to have confidence to report any concerns about a child, young person or an adult who is vulnerable. The month also provided opportunities for staff, volunteers and the general public to engage in a range of learning events aimed at improving knowledge of safeguarding, developing safeguarding skills and understanding, and promoting joint working across services and organisations. Professionals from across, West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove were brought together for a Pan Sussex Safeguarding Adolescents conference.



Strong communities

13 Armistice 100 (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)

West Sussex has been represented at two national events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Following a successful project which aimed to show the impact of World War One on the people of West Sussex, two County Council employees who worked on the project attended the national service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey. The project saw more than 200 people, mainly volunteers, come together to create a book, a website and an exhibition based on photographs, documents and case studies from the period. Sources used came from the Library Service and County Record Office. The County Record Office also displayed over 600 handmade poppies contributed by staff, volunteers, researchers, friends and relatives. West Sussex Fire and Rescue

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Service were also represented at the annual Remembrance Day parade at the Cenotaph in London by one of the Service's Watch Managers, with members of the County Council laying over 30 wreaths at various services of remembrance across the county.

14 West Sussex Crowd (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)

Since launching in May, [West Sussex Crowd](#), the online crowdfunding platform supported by the County Council, has seen more than 20 projects successful in their fundraising campaigns. In excess of £125,000 has been pledged across all projects from just under 700 supporters, one of these being the County Council's Community Initiative Fund (CIF) which has contributed over £34,000 to the total so far. West Sussex Crowd welcomes ideas from individuals, charities, groups and volunteer organisations, with the aim of improving the wellbeing of local communities, attracting small pledges of support from them such as funds, their time, or equipment towards their fundraising target. From supporting a comedy tour that visits care homes for people living with dementia, to backing a children's playground transformation, the Crowd is contributing to the improvement of wellbeing in West Sussex. The Cabinet Member would like to encourage all members to highlight to their communities that the last round of CIF is now open for an existing community project or new idea to get up and running, for consideration at the next round of County Local Committee meetings.

15 Armed Forces and Veteran Breakfast Club (Leader)

In November, the Leader and Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities revisited the Littlehampton Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club (AFVBC). The AFVBC provides an informal setting for veterans, members of the Armed Forces and their families to meet up and provide a network of support. The Littlehampton branch opened in early 2018 and has gained significant membership since it began. Also in attendance were Tom Tugendhat, MP for Tonbridge and Malling and former Serviceman, and local MP Nick Gibb. The County Council currently holds the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme silver award status and, in July 2018, committed to work towards gold award status, which includes looking at the development of further Breakfast Clubs and drop in centres for veterans in West Sussex.



INDEPENDENCE FOR LATER LIFE



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People are healthy and well

16 Delayed Transfers of Care (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)

The County Council and NHS partners collect information on West Sussex Delayed Transfers of Care between hospital and home (DTC) for submission to NHS England. The [figures](#) concern both acute and non-acute patients and include those in mental health and community patient settings. Reduction of DTC is also a performance measure for the County Council and is set out in the West Sussex Plan. The County Council's September Total Performance Monitor published the latest update on DTC figures that are attributed to social care explaining that performance continues to improve and is exceeding the nationally set target (to achieve 2.47 delayed days per 100,000 population per day or less). For August there were 466 delayed days attributable to social care or 2.20 delayed days per 100,000 population, per day. This figure compares with 5.34 delayed days per 100,000 population, per day in August 2017 and illustrates a continued downward trend since this time last year. The County Council continues to work to support efforts to further reduce DTCs and is commissioning increased care and support at home and bed capacity during the winter months as part of winter resilience plans developed with NHS partners.

17 West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board – Strategy Consultation (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)

A public consultation is currently underway to ask for feedback on the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board's revised strategy, setting out the key priorities for health and wellbeing in the county. The draft strategy has been created in partnership by key leaders from the County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Providers, borough and district councils and the voluntary sector around the priorities of Starting well; Living and working well and Ageing well. The consultation will run until 21 January 2019 and a completed West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy will be published in April 2019, which will be used to inform the provision of services across the county. The draft strategy and public consultation survey are available on the [Have your say website](#).

18 Community-Based Social Support (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)

The County Council currently contracts with a variety of service providers who give community-based social support to people with a lifelong disability including those with an autism spectrum condition. The services aim to help people to find or retain paid work, to increase their physical or social activity, to remain living in their own homes and to keep well. The services also provide help with issues such as tenancies, budgeting, life-skills, emotional support and connecting people into other community support. The current contracts will come to an end in March 2020 and have been subject to a recent engagement programme to ensure that the current provision remains appropriate and to assess whether anything different is needed. Having listened to feedback the County Council has developed a new model for the services with additional focus on supporting people into paid work and facilitating greater opportunities for taking part in sport and leisure activities. The procurement model chosen will allow maximum flexibility for new initiatives to be incorporated and for new organisations to join.

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Once a final proposal has been developed the Cabinet Member will make a formal decision in spring 2019.



A COUNCIL THAT WORKS FOR THE COMMUNITY



Customer focused

19 Customer Service Centre (Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations)

The County Council's Customer Service Centre focuses on resolving customers' queries at their very first contact and in the most effective and efficient way. The emphasis in the service is increasingly 'digital by design' to increase efficiency and provide continuous improvement to the customer experience. The service now manages Twitter and Freedom of Information enquiries and also engages with customers via digital correspondence which assists enquiries to reach the right person for response immediately. Additional functions taken on include taking calls to the West Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. The Service also provides support for highways issues where, over the past year, there has been an increase of 58% of customer queries being resolved at the first point of contact. In addition, the highways telephone line now has Interactive Voice Response which signposts callers and reduces misplaced calls. The Service also supports Blue Badge applications and recently an automated payments telephone line has been set up. A new on-line booking system has been introduced for those who need to attend a mobility assessment session, and renewal badges can now be sent direct rather than customers being required to pick them up in person. Improvements to customer service continue as part of the West Sussex Plan pledge for residents to find it easy to access information, services and the support they need.

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20 Commercial Property Acquisitions (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

The County Council's West Sussex Plan sets out the ambition of the County Council to minimise the burden of local taxation and deliver the best outcomes for residents with the money it spends, whilst maintaining a balanced budget. To do this the County Council needs to find new and innovative ways of creating additional revenue to maintain and improve standards in the delivery of essential public services. One approach is to generate sustainable income streams and provide opportunities for capital growth by investing in commercial property. In February the County Council approved the Capital Programme for 2018/19 which included £50m for investment property opportunities to deliver a revenue return as part of its overall Treasury Management Strategy. In line with this approach the County Council has recently acquired the freehold of two commercial properties in Crawley: Churchill Court in Manor Royal and Gresham House in Station Road. These acquisitions will bring economic benefits to the County Council by increasing investment in the local economy.



Listens and acts upon

21 Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge (Leader)

From 29 October to 1 November, the County Council participated in a Local Government Association (LGA) peer challenge. In conducting its review, the Peer Challenge Team considered the following core components of the County Council, which are looked at by all LGA corporate peer challenges: understanding of local place and priority setting; leadership of place; financial planning and viability; organisational leadership and governance; and capacity to deliver. The Team also had a light touch look at the County Council's Adults' and Children's transformation and organisational culture. Initial feedback from the review has been received and shared with all members, and the County Council is working through the initial findings. A formal report of the findings and recommendations will be provided early in the New Year and will be made publically available.

22 County Councils Network Annual Conference (Leader)

In November the Leader attended the County Councils Network's annual conference, along with the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health and the Chief Executive. The conference provided an opportunity to explore the key challenges faced by county councils across the country, including the forthcoming Spending Review, the increase in demand for Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Services, the development of strategic authorities and the county role in housing. The conference included key note speeches from Rt. Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Rishi Sunak MP, Minister for Local Government, in relation to these key challenges.



Works in partnership

23 Government and Parliamentary Engagement (Leader)

Last month the Leader met Lord Agnew, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System, to discuss academisation and the role of local authorities.

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The meeting was instigated as a result of a letter the Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills sent to Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education, following the passing of the motion at July's full council meeting. The County Council has also submitted evidence to the House of Lords Regenerating Seaside Towns Committee Inquiry, highlighting that the development of the coastal economy requires a holistic approach and that the causes of inequality in coastal areas should be addressed in a co-ordinated way, led by the strategic authority. The County Council continues to highlight the need for sustainable local government funding with West Sussex MPs; seeking action from central government as the County Council seeks to address the significant £145m budget gap that is projected over the next four financial years.

24 Budget Announcement (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

The Chancellor made his budget announcement early this year, on 29 October. The key areas for local government included £650m additional grant funding for Adult Social Care in 2019/20. This consists of £410m for both Adults' and Children's Social Care and £240m specifically for Adults, the latter sum being a repeat in 2019/20 of an allocation made for 2018/19 to assist with 'winter pressures' and Delayed Transfers of Care. There was also £84m for children's service programmes, over five years, to be payable to 20 authorities (yet to be named) and targeted at helping more children stay home with their families. The issue of potholes was allocated £420m in 2018/19 for highways authorities, resulting in an additional £6.083m for the county, along with £150m nationally within the National Productivity Investment Fund to help ease road congestion. Schools received a £475m in-year increase in capital funding to each school, averaging £10,000 for primary and £50,000 for secondary schools. An additional £55m was added for Disabled Facility Grant in 2018/19, which is a sum allocated to borough and district councils for home aids and adaptations for children and adults on low income. Further details are awaited on the allocations to the County Council and the conditions set by the Government for the use of the grants.

25 Takeover Challenge Day (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Members of the Youth Cabinet gained insight into the working day of a County Council Cabinet Member at the recent [Takeover Challenge Day](#). The national event, led by the Children's Commissioner for England, offers children and young people the chance to experience the world of work whilst the adult gains a young person's perspective on what they do. The Cabinet Member was accompanied by two young people and spent time working with a Group Manager from Children's Social Care gaining an understanding of how children looked after have their voices heard. Other Youth Cabinet members gained a very different experience on their day, such as seeing democracy in action whilst attending a select committee meeting with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources. Takeover Challenge is one of a number of opportunities provided over recent months to enable closer engagement between members, West Sussex MPs and the Youth Cabinet, offering a chance for young people to see local and national politicians at work. Other events have included a formal debate, held in the Council Chamber, on lowering the voting age to 16.

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26 Growth Deals (Leader/Economy)

In November the [Horsham Growth Deal](#) was signed by the Leader of the County Council and Ray Dawe, Leader of Horsham District Council. The Growth Deal is a partnership that will deliver new homes, create jobs and boost economic prosperity in the area. The key projects outlined in the Deal include the progression of a new town centre vision, west and north Horsham developments to deliver housing and economic growth and the redevelopment of the Horsham Enterprise Park (former the Novartis site). Growth Deals are partnership pledges that have been made between the County Council and the borough and district councils and identify shared strategic growth priorities and projects for those areas to bring about local improvements for residents, businesses and visitors. Growth Deals have now been agreed with all seven borough and district councils in West Sussex and various projects are already progressing including public realm improvements in Worthing, delivery of a £60m growth programme in Crawley and significant development in Burgess Hill to contribute to the economic growth of the areas.

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Background Papers

None