

## **Cabinet Report: Delivering the West Sussex Plan 2017-22**

This report sets out the key strategic decisions, policy and programme initiatives, consultations, government announcements and key events within each Cabinet portfolio area to deliver our strategic priorities.



## **BEST START IN LIFE**

### **Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Paul Marshall**

- The revised arrangements for safeguarding children, West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, were approved by all partners and [published](#) on 25 June. The three lead local safeguarding partners – the Clinical Commissioning Groups, Sussex Police and the County Council – will hold equal and joint responsibility in forming the most appropriate arrangements to meet local need in West Sussex for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- The [latest](#) data indicates that the County Council is performing well in preventing and tackling reoffending by young people. The implementation of a new service delivery model within the Youth Offending Service, which focuses on identifying those children most likely to offend and delivering more effective interventions, should result in the service having a greater impact on reducing reoffending and repairing the harm caused within communities.

### **Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Richard Burrett**

- The achievements of West Sussex apprentices were celebrated at a recent [graduation ceremony](#), for those who had successfully completed apprenticeships in subjects including social care, management and engineering. The County Council is committed to supporting increases in apprentice numbers and provides [opportunities](#) for apprentice roles in a range of disciplines.
- The County Council has highlighted some of the positive benefits of proposed changes to legislation in response to the consultation '[Children not in School](#)'. If implemented, along with adequate supporting funding, the changes would assist the local authority in fulfilling its duty to ensure all West Sussex children receive a suitable education.



## A PROSPEROUS PLACE

### Leader & Cabinet Member for Economy – Louise Goldsmith

- [Experience West Sussex](#) is one of three websites to have been shortlisted for the Travel/Leisure website of the year as part of the [UK Digital Growth Awards](#). The UK Digital Growth Awards reward and celebrate exceptional agencies, tools, website, campaigns and talent that have driven digital growth and sales across all sectors and can demonstrate real and tangible results. The awards will take place on 17 July.
- At the recent [LGA Conference](#) the Leader was invited to speak at two fringe events. One on Women in Local Government and the other on Climate Change. Both provided an opportunity to highlight the good work being done at the County Council. The Leader also attended a meeting with Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, where a small group of Council Leaders were able to discuss Adults' Social Care and the benefit of IT.

### Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure – Roger Elkins

- The County Council has secured [£558,000 of external funding](#) from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. This will be used to deliver surface improvements to the Downs Link, an off-road route that runs from Guildford to Shoreham. Five sections along the old disused railway will be resurfaced by November 2020 making it more suitable for walking, cycling and horse-riding, including in winter, and boost visitor numbers and the rural economy.



## A STRONG, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE

### Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities – Debbie Kennard

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published the findings of the [inspection](#) of the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service on 20 June. The report found that effectiveness of the service 'requires improvement', the efficiency of the service 'requires improvement' and that the way it looks after its people is 'inadequate'. The County Council had already established an improvement plan and has now set up an improvement board to implement the recommendations.
- At the request of the Prime Minister's Office the [West Sussex County Council Record Office](#) took the historic [Sussex Declaration](#) (a rare copy of the American Declaration of Independence) to Downing Street for the Presidential State visit

in June. The County's Record Office holds a national award putting it in the top 6% of archives in the country.

- The County Council's Littlehampton Library has been chosen to [pilot a Community Fridge](#). The charitable organisation, Fare Divide, will run the project to make surplus food available to all without judgement or stigma, save perishable food from landfill and inspire healthier communities. Volunteers monitor the fridge, collect surplus food and advertise the project on social media.
- In response to comments and feedback from elected members, partners, and the public, the County Council has introduced a Micro-Fund for smaller grants to be made by the Council's Local Committees as part of the [Community Initiative Fund](#). A small group/organisation seeking funding for £750 or less will now be able to apply direct for a grant as an alternative to using the crowdfunding platform.
- [The Our Town scheme](#), successfully introduced in Horsham, will roll out across the county following an official launch for Worthing and Littlehampton on 28 June. The initiative looks to provide informal support, within town centres, for vulnerable people giving them the confidence to remain independent. It will provide a network of locations such as shops and cafes which can be accessed for help if people are feeling anxious, frightened or confused.

#### **Cabinet Member for Environment – Deborah Urquhart**

- The County Council has been supporting local students to learn more about the environment and climate change, and getting some useful feedback and ideas in return. The EYE (Eco Young and Engaged) Worthing [Summit](#) took place at Worthing College on 27 June, attended by over 200 students from 15 local schools. St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bognor Regis, [won a trip to visit the Materials Recycling Facility](#) as part of the recent Green Month on Spirit FM. A parent described their visit as 'valuable and inspiring'.



## **INDEPENDENCE FOR LATER LIFE**

#### **Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – Amanda Jupp**

- The County Council's award-winning [Sugar Smart Dental Toolkit\\*](#) has been rolled out to all high street dental practices across West Sussex, following the success of the four-week pilot in May 2018. Aligned to the national [Change4Life](#) and '[Top tips for teeth](#)' campaigns, the toolkit supports dental teams to promote sugar reduction awareness amongst patients.
- The County Council's Public Health team has launched [Beat the Street Coastal West Sussex](#) with its partners Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils, Arun District Council and the Conservation Volunteers. The exercise initiative is

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

designed to increase activity in a fun way and links with other activity work being delivered in West Sussex such as the [WOW project](#) (walking once a week) and the [Daily Mile in schools](#).



## **A COUNCIL THAT WORKS FOR THE COMMUNITY**

### **Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations – Bob Lanzer**

- Early preparation work is underway to ensure the continuity of services currently delivered through two outsourced contracts providing a number of back office functions. The contracts held with Capita, known as the IT Outsource and Support Services Outsource contract, are due to end in September 2022. As the back office support is an integral part of how the County Council delivers services to residents this work will shape options for how the services could be delivered in future in a way that continues to support the County Council's [wider objectives](#).

### **Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - Jeremy Hunt**

- The Cabinet Member has [endorsed the commencement of a procurement process](#) to select a suitable commercial enterprise to work in partnership with the County Council. The key focus for the enterprise will be to raise value for the County Council by generating additional financial returns from surplus land assets at financial levels above those likely in a straightforward sale of undeveloped land. The funds raised will then be re-invested across West Sussex to support the [wider aims](#) of the County Council.
- The [Financial Statements\\*](#) of the County Council's Pension Fund show that the net asset value of the Fund is £4,371.4m, an increase of £267m compared to 31 March 2018 and £1,754.2m since 31 March 2014 (five years ago). The investment portfolio is reporting returns of 13.1% per annum over the last three years and 12.8% over the last decade, an outperformance versus the market of 1.9% per annum and 1.2% per annum respectively after fees.
- The 2019 Triennial Actuarial Valuation of the County Council's Pension Fund, which will set employer contribution rates from 1 April 2020 onwards, has started. Since the fund's liabilities were last assessed by the Fund Actuary in 2016, the Pension Panel has followed a programme of de-risking its investment with the intention of preserving the strong funding position and providing stability for employer contribution rates. It is anticipated that the 2019 valuation will show that the West Sussex Scheme is fully funded.

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**Background Papers:** None