
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 – Jacquie Russell

- The Government has [announced](#) up to £165m new funding for the **Troubled Families programme** to enable a range of public services to continue providing intensive support for some of the most vulnerable families. The County Council has led the field across England in the numbers of successful outcomes it has achieved since the programme's inception, intervening early with families to help them regain stability.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Nigel Jupp

- A [consultation](#) has commenced to seek views on **proposals for change to some small schools** in the county. Following assessment of the feedback from the consultation a decision will be taken as to whether proposals should be implemented. All interested parties are encouraged to take part and [submit](#) their views.
- The County Council is awaiting the outcome of a survey at **Woodlands Meed** to assess the condition of the existing building and suitability to meet the needs of the College's students. As improvement works to the school are likely to require a significant amount of public funding, a full review of the report, in conjunction with the school governors, is essential before any recommendations are made in relation to proposals for the school.



A Prosperous Place

Leader – Paul Marshall

- On 17 January the Leader, Cabinet and senior officers met **West Sussex MPs**. The meeting provided an opportunity to build relationships following the recent General Election, and to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. Topics covered in the meeting were: the A27, climate change, budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, corporate improvement, Children's Services improvement and Fire and Rescue Service improvement.

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- The Leader and Chief Executive attended a meeting of the **SE7 Leaders' Board** on 11 January. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss how SE7 authorities can collaborate to tackle a number of key challenges, including climate change. Leaders also discussed how the SE7 authorities can work together to influence the new Government on issues of importance to local government in the region, including sustainable local government funding and adult social care.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure – Roger Elkins

- [The A285 safety improvement project](#) has won the prestigious **Green Apple Gold Award** for environmental best practice. An innovative construction method, utilised by Balfour Beatty Living Places, for the County Council scheme was central to 6,375 tonnes of materials being recycled and re-used in the improvement project, instead of being sent to landfill. Compared to typical schemes, this method prevented more than 60 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources – Bob Lanzer

- In December 2018, the Government announced an [Industrial Strategy](#) to boost productivity by backing businesses to create good jobs and increase the earning power of people throughout the UK with investment in skills, industries and infrastructure. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) were asked to lead a process to produce **Local Industrial Strategies** (LIS) on behalf of local areas through negotiation with the Government. The Coast to Capital LEP will engage with stakeholders to develop draft LIS proposals, to form the basis of negotiation with the Government. The Leader is a member of the Coast to Capital Board, which considered progress on the LIS and the draft proposals at its meeting in January. Further information is available on the [Coast to Capital website](#).



A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place

Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities – Duncan Crow

- The County Council's Staying Safe Online team are delivering **free 'digital online safety sessions'** for parents and carers in schools across the county throughout February and March, to learn how to keep their children safe online and raise awareness for [Safer Internet Day](#) (11 February).
- West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has established a new model to allow the continuation of **school Firebreak courses** for year 8 and 9 pupils. Students attend a fire station for a week, taking part in a structured, disciplined programme of events that combine practical training with classroom-based workshops. The new arrangements will come into effect from April and will be accessed via West Sussex Service for Schools.

Cabinet Member for Environment – Deborah Urquhart

- The Cabinet Member Environment was very pleased to note the [recommendation](#) of Mid Sussex District Council's (MSDC's) Scrutiny Committee for Community, Customer Services and Service Delivery that a trial scheme, delivered in partnership with the County Council, for separately collecting **food waste** and absorbent hygiene products, should proceed in Mid Sussex from April. If approved by MSDC's Cabinet on 10 February, the trial - which is funded and jointly overseen by the County Council - aims to demonstrate the viability of a new '1-2-3' service model to boost recycling and reduce waste for disposal.
- The County Council is completing the [solar power for schools programme](#) which is saving money and reducing carbon emissions at more than 80 West Sussex schools. The next step will be a business case to begin a pilot project to understand whether batteries can be installed in schools to reduce energy costs further by storing cheap, surplus energy.
- [Your Energy Sussex](#), run by the County Council in partnership with Robin Hood Energy, is currently offering a very competitive 24-month fixed **energy tariff with 100% renewable electricity**. The supplier funded free energy for a small number of vulnerable pre-payment tariff customers at Christmas and is working with Citizens Advice to distribute [emergency fuel vouchers](#) for residents facing a financial crisis this winter.



Independence for Later Life

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – Amanda Jupp

- To encourage physical activity in schools, the Public Health Directorate has been working with colleagues in district and borough councils on the delivery of the [Daily Mile Programme](#). Following engagement with schools, the number of West Sussex primary schools registered to implement the Daily Mile in 2019 rose from 50 to 63.
- A pioneering programme [supporting children with alcohol dependent parents](#) is already making a difference. This was the view from Public Health England and Department for Work and Pensions officers funding the programme who recently visited the County Council's Public Health project team, frontline workers and service users. The two-year programme includes children's therapy and midwifery pathways, a digital offer and measures to reduce parental conflict.

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Background papers None