
Cabinet Report: Delivering Our Council Plan 2021-25

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.

Leader – Paul Marshall

- [Let's Go! Net Zero](#) is part of the Low Carbon & Green Business Support programme jointly funded by West Sussex County Council and the district and borough councils by an Economic Recovery Fund (pooled business rates) allocation. The County Council is working with the University of Brighton's 'Green Growth Platform' (SE hub of Clean Growth UK) and Sussex-based micro business Low Carbon Leaders to deliver a year-long initiative to inspire and motivate businesses to embrace relevant, meaningful steps toward sustainability. The programme is designed to engage businesses which are yet to 'turn the dial' on sustainability, by encouraging understanding of the wide business benefits of sustainability, from energy cost savings, to attracting customers and securing investment. West Sussex business leaders from a range of sectors have been brought on board as Green Business Champions to appear at business events and share with other businesses their journey towards sustainability, including the successes and learning.
- The County Council has worked with the [Sussex Visitor Economy Initiative](#) Partners to stage a reception to showcase the significant contribution of the visitor economy to the county, the pan-Sussex collaborative approach to achieve our growth ambitions, and the new Sussex Wine Tourism Growth Plan. All the Sussex MPs were invited, along with the Leaders and Chief Executives of the Sussex local authorities. The partnership aims to support sector recovery, resilience and growth, and to raise the profile of Sussex as a national and international visitor destination.

Adults Services - Amanda Jupp

- The County Council has been recognising carers in the community by promoting the help available to family and friend carers for [Carers Week](#) (5 to 11 June). Carers are being encouraged to have a contingency plan so that support will continue should a carer unexpectedly become unable to provide care. It is encouraged that friend and family carers register with [Carers Support West Sussex](#) – a charity that works closely with the County Council and offers unpaid carers information and guidance along with practical and emotional support. There are useful [tips for developing a contingency plan](#) including carrying a [carers emergency contact card](#).
- The County Council has been taking part in the annual [Learning Disability Week/Mencap](#) (19 to 25 June). This year the aim is to recognise the things that people with a learning disability can achieve, avoiding misconceptions and the stigma many still face. As part of the annual event, [Tozer House](#) (learning disabilities residential services) in Chichester, had a celebration garden party which included their own 'Tozer's Got Talent' show. Following this there was a private screening of a film at the New Park Cinema in Chichester that people living at Tozer House had starred in. The idea came from the Tozer House manager after her son's school was involved in a film project that was also screened at the cinema earlier this year.

Children and Young People, Learning and Skills (Lead Member for Children) – Jacquie Russell

- [Children working with the Youth Justice Service](#) as part of their **reparation activity** have successfully developed a mountain bike track and nature trail at [Lodge Hill, Pulborough](#). Reparation aims to reduce reoffending and support children to repair the harm caused to local communities by their offending, as well as helping them to develop valuable skills, knowledge and experience which enable them to fulfil their potential.
- The County Council has taken part in [Foster Care Fortnight](#) to help raise awareness of how foster carers transform lives and to highlight that there are more than 850 children currently seeking a loving home. There is an urgent need for more foster carers and those interested in undertaking this role can be reassured that the County Council provides a comprehensive range of support including extensive training, a competitive financial package and access to a supportive community of carers and social workers.

Community Support, Fire and Rescue – Duncan Crow

- The [West Sussex Library Service](#) is running its annual [Summer Reading Challenge](#) from 8 July with an active theme of [Ready Set Read!](#) The challenge is a free fun activity for families over the summer and helps to keep children reading over the holidays. [Volunteers of all ages](#) are being sought to help deliver the challenge to families in libraries until September. All 36 County Council-owned libraries are [free to join](#) for those who live, work and study in the area. To celebrate and discover all that libraries have to offer, there will be a number of Library [Discovery Days](#) held across the county this year, with the next two in [Littlehampton Library](#) on 17 July and [Willowhale Library](#) on 11 September.
- The County Council has given its thanks to the volunteers who help deliver services and support communities to mark the start of [Volunteers' Week \(1 to 7 June\)](#). More than 1,100 volunteers regularly give their time to assist with roles such as working with young offenders, being a Digital Champion or volunteering with the Fire and Rescue Service, Library Service or waste prevention team. This support contributes towards the priorities of [our Council Plan](#), such as helping people and communities to fulfil their potential and keeping people safe from vulnerable situations. Information on how to get involved is set out on the [Council's Website On Volunteering](#) and available by email via volunteering@westsussex.gov.uk.
- On 5 June the Cabinet Member visited [Littlehampton Library](#) to see the [Registration Service's](#) newly-created **shared partners room**. Formerly situated in Arun District Council the Registration Service's relocation has provided the Council with a cost saving whilst maintaining the local offer. Services using the shared partners room include health visitor clinics, Citizens Advice, the Prevention Assessment Team and Wellbeing health checks. Also included is free internet and Wi-Fi.
- As the Council's [Training Centre and Fire Station for Horsham](#) nears completion, invitations have been extended to key members, MPs and local residents to visit Platinum House to view progress. The site, named in honour of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, will allow firefighters to train in a range of realistic scenarios, such as live fire conditions, working from height and road

traffic collisions. The fire station will also offer community space. The delivery of the new training centre and fire station forms part of one of the key strategic priorities in the service's [Community Risk Management Plan](#). Construction has been underway since November 2021 with a go-live date anticipated this month. A [time-lapse video](#) of the 18-month construction project is available.

Environment and Climate Change (and Deputy Leader) - Deborah Urquhart

- The County Council, as part of the West Sussex Waste Partnership, has been working in collaboration with the Environment Agency and Sussex Police on the [Let's SCRAP fly tipping campaign](#) to stop waste crime by targeting areas with well-known fly tipping problems. Three joint operations have taken place in the Chichester, Horsham and Arun districts which involved stopping vehicles that could potentially be carrying waste. Officers interviewed drivers and examined the vehicles' contents to deter and disrupt fly tipping. Due to the success of the scheme, it has been agreed to roll it out across West Sussex.
- A record number of Sussex residents have signed up for high quality and competitively priced solar panels and battery systems, as well as Electric Vehicle chargepoints, through **Solar Together Sussex**. When new customer registrations closed at the end of May, 10,600 households had signed up for the scheme which helps residents to save money and reduce their carbon emissions by installing renewable energy systems at home. This compares to 7,600 customer registrations under the previous round to autumn 2021. Solar Together Sussex is co-ordinated by the County Council on behalf of local authorities in West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove working with iChoosr, which is an expert in group buying. Residents can [register their interest](#) in future rounds of the scheme.
- The County Council received [a national award](#) for its leading role in creating **Re-Energise Manor Royal** - the county's first, business-led local energy community - in the 'Enabler' category at the Association of Decentralised Energy Awards held in London on 14 June. The award recognised the authority's role in providing expertise and resources, including EU support through the Interreg 2 Seas programme, to help the Manor Royal Business Investment District to create and launch the community. Re-Energise Manor Royal has been established as a Community Benefit Society and it works on behalf of member businesses to invest in clean energy.
- [Local Nature Recovery Strategies](#) (LNRS) are flagship measures in the Environment Act 2021 to encourage more coordinated, practical, and focused action and investment in nature. Public authorities must have regard to the LNRS, which will also link to the delivery of **Biodiversity Net Gain** through the planning system. The [County Council has been appointed as the 'Responsible Authority'](#) to produce a LNRS for West Sussex by March 2025. This will involve continued partnership working with East Sussex County Council (the Responsible LNRS Authority for East Sussex and Brighton and Hove) and collaboration with key stakeholders including district and borough councils, the South Downs National Park Authority, Sussex Nature Partnership, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, High Weald AONB Unit, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Natural England, other government bodies and major landowners.

Highways and Transport – Joy Dennis

- In January the Cabinet Member [approved](#) the capital and revenue budgets for the delivery of ambitions in the Enhanced Partnership Spending Plan. To date, [a new bus service](#) between Littlehampton and Chichester will be funded from summer 2023 and [255 Real Time Passenger Information Screens](#) have been ordered and will be installed at bus stops across the county.
- At its meeting on 9 June, the [Communities, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Committee](#) considered the **draft Active Travel Strategy** for West Sussex. This new strategy was developed by the Active Travel Task and Finish Group (TFG) which was chaired by Cllr Sean McDonald and met almost monthly over the last year. The TFG considered areas of interest, reflecting the Government and Active Travel England's greater emphasis towards 'walking and wheeling' to replace motorised journeys. The next step for the draft strategy is a public engagement exercise that will begin in September and run for eight weeks.

Public Health and Wellbeing – Bob Lanzer

- The County Council has supported the shared interests of strategic population health and care objectives with the NHS, captured within the final version of the [Sussex Shared Delivery Plan: Improving Lives Together](#) (published December 2022). The plan will deliver the objectives of both the NHS Operating Plan and the Sussex Integrated Care Strategy 'Improving Lives Together', following the implementation of the Integrated Care System for Sussex in July 2022. One of the opportunities the plan offers is a focus on prevention across the whole health and care system. Working at the heart of our communities, the Council has welcomed providing input into shaping the plan, drawing upon the beneficial impact and influence that local government has on health and the wider determinants of health, such as housing, education, and employment.
- Following the recently announced [national initiatives](#) to help achieve the Government's Smokefree 2030 ambition, Public Health has developed **a cross-directorate approach to addressing vaping amongst children and young people**. This includes directing educational settings to advice and guidance on managing vapes to inform their policies and 'whole school approach', supplemented by new national teaching resources, and an increased focus with Trading Standards to reduce children and young people's access to these products by tackling underage sales and illicit products. Vaping continues to be an effective tool to aid quitting smoking. However, to ensure clear messages, any future local stop smoking campaigns, which include vapes as a quitting aid for adults, will have clear messaging that vaping is not risk free, and will discourage vaping in adults and children and young people who have never smoked.
- Horsham District Wellbeing (part of the [West Sussex Wellbeing Programme](#)) offers a free, friendly, and impartial service to support people who live or work in West Sussex to make positive improvements to their health and wellbeing. On 1 July, the grand opening of the new high street location of the **Horsham Wellbeing Hub** took place in Swan Walk, Horsham. The central location will enable more residents to access support tailored to their own needs and situation, make positive changes to their habits and support them to stay well. The Hub builds upon a long-standing partnership between the two Councils (West Sussex and Horsham) to improve the health of local residents and reduce inequalities and has been resourced by the County Council and the District

Council as part of the West Sussex Wellbeing Programme arrangements, with an additional one-off contribution from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

Support Services and Economic Development – Steve Waight

- In response to a notice of motion on skills at full Council in December 2022 an **Executive Task and Finish Group (TFG)** was established to provide feedback on the opportunities for the Council as an employer to reset its role on careers and skills in West Sussex. The TFG met twice in May and June of this year and considered the role of apprenticeships and internships in providing career pathways, including training opportunities and skills enhancement options. The TFG also considered the promotion of the County Council as an employer of equal opportunity to further support those with protected characteristics and harder to reach groups into meaningful employment. The Cabinet has endorsed the recommendations of the TFG report which will now be taken forward via a strategic work force plan.

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Background papers

None