
Supplementary 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

- Earlier this month the Leader attended the [LGA Conference 2023](#) in Bournemouth. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to network and learn from members and officers from across the country, as well as lobby on key areas of concern for the County Council, including highways investment, planned changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy and local government funding. Speakers at the conference included Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education, and Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP - Deputy Leader, Labour Party, and Rt Hon Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader, Liberal Democrats.

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

- Proposals to amalgamate two schools are being progressed as part of a plan to [reduce surplus pupil places in Worthing](#). The amalgamation of Lyndhurst Infant and Chesswood Junior schools will create a new all-through primary school with fewer primary places together with a new Special Support Centre to increase provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities. In combination with the previously agreed reduction in admission numbers at other schools in the borough these proposals will help secure a sustainable future for primary education in Worthing.
- The County Council is working with over 50 clubs across the county to offer the [biggest Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme to date](#) during the school summer holiday. The scheme enables children and young people aged four to 16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to enjoy a range of activities and a nutritional meal free of charge during the holiday period. The Council is also providing a £60 supermarket voucher to cover the six-week holiday period, meaning further support for these eligible children at a time when financial pressures continue to affect many.

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

- In March, the Government consulted on the new **Infrastructure Levy**, which is being introduced to replace the current system of developer contributions secured through S106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy. The County Council's consultation response expressed disappointment and concern that upper-tier authorities would not have a statutory role in the process and that it would result in worse outcomes for those authorities and other service providers. The County Council therefore responded that the new Levy should not be introduced, and the Government should focus on reforming the existing system. The Authority's position reflects that of over 30 organisations (including the County Councils Network) that wrote to the Secretary of State calling on him to not implement the proposed Levy because

it could result in less infrastructure being delivered and fewer affordable homes being built, and there could be an adverse impact on housing delivery.

Highways and Transport – Joy Dennis

- The County Council is [investing a further £4.5m](#) into maintaining the county's highways and roads. This means a **boost of £14.5m funding for highways operations** with the rest being made up of the £7m increase in funds for road maintenance from the County Council's capital budget and £3m from central government for pothole repairs. The funding will provide resources to repair potholes including additional gangs working on the road network, procurement of an additional road patching machine, drainage works and refreshing of signs and lines across the county to improve visibility and safety.

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Background papers

None