

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 [Exceptional People in Care](#) (EPIC) awards event has taken place to celebrate the achievements and highlight the development of Children and Young People Looked After in West Sussex.
- The County Council is taking positive steps to address the increased demand for children's social workers by creating additional posts and a [competitive pay and retention scheme](#). This is proving successful with new staff already filling the vacancies.
- Acting on a recommendation contained in the [Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge report*](#), the County Council has established a voluntary Improvement Board for Children's Services. The appointment of an Independent Chair to lead the Board will enable robust, objective assessment of current practice in Children's Services and identify where opportunities for improvement exist. The first meeting of the Board will take place in March.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Richard Burrett

- The additional £3.69m [high needs funding](#) the County Council will receive in the period to 2020 will contribute to easing pressures on the budget that funds provision of education for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- A Schools Access Initiative budget has been created to fund small adaptations and improvements at mainstream school sites and help ensure that more children with SEND can be educated within their local area, meeting a key aim of the [SEND strategy*](#) (PDF, 12 MB).



A PROSPEROUS PLACE

Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy – Louise Goldsmith

- The details for the Government's £675m [Future High Streets Fund](#) were announced in December. The County Council will work with the district and borough councils to look at how these funds can benefit the high streets in West Sussex following the successful [Let's Talk About Our Towns Event](#) in November.

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

Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure – Roger Elkins

- The Department for Transport recently announced [the creation of a major road network](#) which will provide new funding opportunities for routes included in the network and inform the County Council's Strategic Transport Investment Programme due to be approved in February.
- The procurement of the new highways term contract is underway having been agreed following [scrutiny at the Environment, Fire and Communities Select Committee](#). There will be a new contract or contracts in place by March 2020.
- Details of [changes to support for non-commercial bus services](#) are now available. These changes will not be made until the Easter school holidays.



A STRONG, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE

Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities – Debbie Kennard

In March 2019 the County Council will bid for [the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme \(ERS\) Gold Awards](#). This is the highest badge of honour for organisations which have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and demonstrated outstanding support for those who serve and have served.

- Worthing Library is leading the pilot on the [County Council's Community Hub Strategy](#) which aims to combine services 'under one roof' for the benefit of our communities.
- The County Council's Community Safety and Wellbeing Team is promoting a [Safe Digital Life](#) to help keep young people safe online. This includes their general online safety, online grooming, online gaming, cybercrime, serious organised crime, cyber bullying and mental health.

Cabinet Member for Environment – Deborah Urquhart

- The Government recently published '[Our waste, our resources: a strategy for England](#)' which covers a wide range of topics, including the reduction and recycling of more plastic and food waste. Government consultations will be undertaken early in 2019 to inform the development of the strategy.
- The [Tree Council](#) is launching its [Ash Die Back](#) action plan with an event at County Hall. There are concerns that the disease will have an increasing impact on West Sussex, posing a risk to people, property, biodiversity, air quality and service delivery. An action plan is being put in place, which will include reactive and proactive tree removal and replanting.

Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy – Louise Goldsmith

- The Leader was interviewed for Radio 4's 'The World Tonight Programme' on the leading work that the County Council is doing in [solar farm development](#) to create secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply in West Sussex and help power thousands of local homes. The programme is due to be aired shortly.



INDEPENDENCE FOR LATER LIFE

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – Amanda Jupp

- Falls and fractures can be a major health issue for older people in West Sussex. The County Council has allocated £1m of central government [winter pressures funding](#) to lead on the delivery of a winter pressures falls prevention programme within the current financial year.
- The [West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) is under review. The new strategy, due in April 2019, will be used to inform local commissioning and delivery plans and determine what actions the County Council, NHS, and other partners need to take to meet health and social care needs, and to address health inequalities.
- [Delayed Transfers of Care \(DTOCs\)](#) attributable to the County Council's Social Care have reduced over the last two years and continue to be on a downward trend. During November 2018 the County Council had the lowest level of DTOCs attributable since April 2015, meeting national targets.
- The Chief Executive of [Public Health England](#), Duncan Selbie, visited the County Council's Public Health team on 21 January. Following his visit he praised the work of the team and the joint working with the County Council, District and Borough Councils and the NHS.



A COUNCIL THAT WORKS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations – Bob Lanzer

- The [West Sussex Gigabit Programme](#) is ongoing in all scheduled locations. Information about which roads are affected can be found on the County Council's [streetworks register](#). In addition the national [Gigabit Broadband Voucher](#) scheme is available to small and medium enterprise businesses to support a gigabit-capable broadband connection.
- A new cohort of recruits joined the County Council's [Apprenticeship scheme](#) in January, bringing the total number currently underway to 90. The top three most popular apprenticeships in the organisation are supporting Teaching and Learning in schools, Business and Administration and Infrastructure Technician.
- The County Council as a [Fairtrade Supporter](#) will be running events and promotions across corporate catering outlets during [Fairtrade fortnight](#), 25 February until 10 March, to raise awareness amongst staff and visitors.

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

Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy – Louise Goldsmith and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Paul Marshall

- The County Council has been shortlisted for awards in two categories at this year's [Local Government Chronicle Awards](#). The ambition to transform Children and Family Services holistically, through cultural change, altering social work practice and building on relationships with partners led to being shortlisted for the Children's Services award. For its work in setting up the [Build a Better A27](#) community group to inform the improvements in Chichester the County Council has been nominated for the Community Involvement Award. The Leader and officers provided presentations on the work to judges in January and the winners will be announced at the Award Ceremony on 12 March.

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Background Papers

None