

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

- A contract has been awarded to Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust to deliver a newly-created [Integrated Child Psychology Service \(ICPS\)](#). The ICPS brings together a range of separate services into one integrated model providing specialist psychological services to support children who are identified as being vulnerable or at high risk and their families or carers.
- The County Council's Children and Family Services were inspected by Ofsted from 18 February to 8 March under the new [ILACS framework](#) (inspection of local authority children's services). Initial feedback has been received and accepted, with officers starting work on addressing areas for improvement. The outcome of the inspection will be published by Ofsted in the final report, expected in May 2019.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Richard Burrett

- In recognition of the good work being done locally the County Council was represented at the [Royal Foundation Mental Health in Education Conference](#). The Duchess of Cambridge spoke at the event, which explored the benefits of collaborative working and looked at what more can be done to create a culture of wellbeing in schools and colleges.
- A recent government [announcement](#) confirmed that the County Council will receive an additional £1.51m Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision capital funding. This will enable the creation of additional specialist places in mainstream schools, colleges and special schools, giving more children and young people access to a good school or college place that meets their individual needs.



A PROSPEROUS PLACE

Leader & Cabinet Member for Economy – Louise Goldsmith

- Following the call for proposals for the [Future High Streets Fund](#) in December to make town centres and high streets fit for the future, the County Council has been supporting the bidding district and borough

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

councils to prepare their expressions of interest. This has included engaging with a national expert, who was co-author of the [Grimsey Review*](#) 1 & 2, who has provided them each with a 'win strategy' and a narrative to give them the best opportunity for a successful bid. In addition, the Leader attended a meeting with Chichester District Council, Chichester City Council and leading retailers to discuss collaborative working.

- The Leader will be hosting a West Sussex [English Tourism Week](#) reception on 2 April, to provide an opportunity for key figures involved in tourism in the county to network and hear from industry speakers, including experts from Expedia and Gatwick Airport who will update on consumer trends and opportunities for growth in West Sussex tourism. The event will also showcase the work of the countywide [Experience West Sussex](#) Partnership
- On 27 February the Leader participated in an annual stakeholder event hosted at the University of Chichester's new Tech Park. The event [Delivering Prosperous Urban Centres](#) aims to bring together Coast to Capital, local businesses, local authorities and industry sector experts to refine the plans for future development. A number of principles were set out for delivering strong urban centres including great civic governance, wide public support and a clear vision.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure – Roger Elkins

- Additional capital from the Department for Transport's Roads Fund has enabled West Sussex Highways Services to accelerate the [delivery of works*](#) across a range of infrastructure. This has already seen improvements to bridges and safety barriers, surface treatments to carriageways and footways and helped to tackle areas prone to potholes.

Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations – Bob Lanzer

- The total number of apprenticeships currently underway in the [County Council's Apprenticeship Scheme](#) is 104. Forty are based in schools and 64 are in other organisations across the county. This is an increase of 14 since February this year.



A STRONG, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE

Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities – Debbie Kennard

- An annual grant of £206,070 has been awarded by the County Council to support [Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Services](#), in West Sussex from April 2019 for a period of three years. This is in support of the Council's objective in the [West Sussex Plan](#) to recognise the role played by an active voluntary and community sector in enabling the building of stronger communities.
- A new mobile app, '[Free Forces Connect](#)', has been launched by the County Council to help members of the armed forces community in West Sussex. The app is aimed at serving personnel, veterans, and their families as well as public

sector organisations, linking them to local services and organisations offering support.

- [The West Sussex Record Office](#) has been awarded a \$100,000 (£75,000) grant for its new Transatlantic Ties project by the US based Andrew W Mellon Foundation. The project will promote the historical resources held at the Record Office connecting West Sussex and the US, which includes the 'Sussex Declaration', a rare copy of the US Declaration of Independence.

Cabinet Member for Environment – Deborah Urquhart

- The County Council's Energy Team has secured £103,000 from the Heat Network Delivery Unit of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to investigate the feasibility of a business district heating system in Manor Royal. This is part of the [Business Clusters Integrated Sustainable Energy Packages](#) project.
- The Council has adopted an [Action Plan on Pollination](#), with the ambition to increase flower-rich habitats in our local environment, helping support sustainable pollinator populations and making places more attractive for people to live and work in.



INDEPENDENCE FOR LATER LIFE

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – Amanda Jupp

- In response to the ageing demographic in West Sussex and the need for more people to work in adult social care, the County Council's Care Recruitment Team has launched a new website called [Proud to Care](#). The new website is intended to support the external care market to increase staff recruitment and retention.
- At its meeting on 25 April the [West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board](#) will work with its partners to finalise the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2019-24. The Strategy will support improvement of the health and wellbeing experienced by all West Sussex residents and the reduction of health inequality gaps between communities.
- [The 2018 Annual Public Health report](#) has been published by the Director of Public Health. The report outlines a joined up approach for the Council, the public, voluntary, community and private sector to realise positive health and wellbeing outcomes for the population of West Sussex.
- [A Tobacco Control Strategy for West Sussex \(2019-24\)](#) was launched on 13 March, National No Smoking Day. The strategy details the West Sussex ambition to lead on tobacco control actions with the aim of reducing health inequalities and yielding economic benefits. The strategy supports the quit smoking goals set out in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#).



A COUNCIL THAT WORKS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations – Bob Lanzer

- The County Council's Customer Service Experience Team has been recognised by the Local Government Association for its achievement in supporting the [West Sussex Special Education Needs Assessment Team](#) (SENAT) to meet its assessment timelines. The Customer Team used its experience in digitising information and advice and its customer focus expertise to significantly improve the SENAT timescale compliance for assessments delivered to West Sussex residents.
- The County Council's 2016-18 Transformation Programme 'Step Up' has concluded and reported to the Cabinet Member. The Programme cost of £7.5m and subsequent projects has saved the Council an estimated £25.2m. The achievements of 'Step Up' are being built upon to develop the next phase of the Council's transformation programme: 'Whole Council Design', which has been the subject of a recent Member Day.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources – Jeremy Hunt

- The [Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2020/21*](#) included £50m for Investment Property Opportunities to seek a revenue return for the County Council. In November last year the purchase of the first investment property was completed: Churchill Court, Manor Royal, Crawley. In March the purchase of the second Investment property was completed: 2, City Park, The Droveaway, Hove, BN13 9LU (decision [FR21\(18/19\)](#)). This follows a disappointing outcome to the proposed purchase last November of Gresham House in Crawley (decision [FR13\(18/19\)](#) where, due to irreconcilable issues that arose during due diligence work, the acquisition did not proceed. Work continues to identify further opportunities that meet the agreed criteria for acquisition.
- Following decision in May 2018 and formal consultation in November 2018 it was agreed to [transfer the pension administration function*](#) to Hampshire County Council. Work commenced to align and test the required processes and procedures and the transfer of all data was completed as planned by 4 March.
- The [Pension Fund](#) has maintained a strong funding position despite the market volatility and it was recognised by the [Government Actuary Department](#) as the best funded open Local Authority Local Government Pension Scheme in the country. In addition, a recent survey ranked West Sussex eighth for investment growth (based on 2017/18 accounting disclosures).

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Background Papers

None