
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

- A new [Children Looked After and Care Leavers' Strategy](#) (PDF, 718KB) has been published. The Strategy, developed in collaboration with children, staff and practitioners, sets out the principles and priorities to deliver improved outcomes for children looked after and care leavers. It provides the strategic direction of the County Council in terms of meeting its obligations as Corporate Parents.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Nigel Jupp

- Parents and carers have been kept updated on the latest position via the [Schools and Education webpage](#) following the range of government announcements related to the national lockdown for schools. This has helped provide clarity during the rapidly changing situation experienced since the start of term and has proved popular, receiving over 4,000 hits during the first week of January alone.



A Prosperous Place

Leader – Paul Marshall

- At **regular meetings with the county's MPs**, Cabinet Members have continued to highlight the challenges faced in setting the 2021/22 budget as well as the pressure and potential impact on services to residents. In addition, the Leader and Cabinet Members continue to raise specific issues with relevant Ministers as and when they arise and have, for example, recently written to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, Vicky Ford, about the funding of early years provision. The County Council is working with organisations such as SE7 and the County Councils Network to promote a collective voice for West Sussex on these challenging issues.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure – Roger Elkins

- The County Council has received an **additional £2,351,250 from the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund** (ATF) in support of various active travel schemes and improvements across the county. The Cabinet Member has made a [decision](#) to deliver the A24 Findon Valley to Findon Village shared cycleway/footway; consult on a permanent cycleway scheme for Shoreham, with design proposals for Upper Shoreham Road (with a view to securing funding for construction from a future ATF phase); develop a programme of 'school gate' travel improvements aimed at promoting active travel, reducing reliance on cars and helping to protect school bus travel; and a programme of small-scale active travel improvements, such as footway widenings or enhanced crossing points.
- **Bus pass rules have been relaxed** to help pensioners and vulnerable people get to early-morning COVID-19 vaccination appointments - concessionary bus pass holders can travel for free in West Sussex before 9.30 am. The [relaxation](#) will continue until schools fully reopen.

Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources – Bob Lanzer

- Experience West Sussex, in partnership with the County Council, launched the **#SummerInWestSussex campaign** on 27 December. It features an [inspiring one minute film](#) as part of the ongoing commitment to support the tourism and hospitality industry so hard hit by COVID-19. The focus is on the summer season to encourage early bookings for businesses, whilst being mindful of the on-going restrictions due to the pandemic. The work of Experience West Sussex has been highlighted with the news that West and East Sussex have been named number two in the UK and number 11 worldwide as inspirational places to visit in 2021, by the respected Conde Nast Traveller Magazine.
- **Digital connectivity in the county** via mobile data networks is becoming just as important as broadband in some areas but can be constrained by a lack of 4G coverage. An innovative approach is being taken to explore and understand existing mobile coverage across the 'big four' mobile network operators using a tracking device and antenna fixed onto refuse vehicles to collect data and identify mobile 'not-spots'. This is complete in Adur & Worthing; Chichester. Horsham, Crawley and Mid Sussex will soon follow. The aim is to reduce the digital divide and add public value by increasing mobile coverage in 'not-spot' areas and increase internet connectivity in areas also affected by poor broadband.



A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place

Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities – Duncan Crow

- A grant of £1,989,591.80 has been awarded to the Council by the Government's [COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme](#) to support children, families and the most vulnerable across West Sussex with the cost of food, utilities and

other essentials during the winter period of the pandemic. The County Council's [Community Hub](#) is available to anyone needing support or experiencing hardship due to COVID-19. Residents can contact the Hub in confidence by calling 033 022 27980 or by completing the [online form](#).

Cabinet Member for Environment – Deborah Urquhart

- **'Who Loves a Pollinator?'** is a webinar being hosted by the County Council on 18 February (7.00 pm to 9.00 pm). Presenters include Professor Dave Goulson (founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, author) from the University of Sussex, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Wilder Horsham and Youth Cabinet members. Residents, community groups and other organisations will gain useful information and advice about how they can support pollinators locally. This event supports the Pollinator Action Plan and the launch of the highways-led 'Improving your Local Places and Spaces. To attend - register on this [website](#).
- The **national census** happens every 10 years and the next one takes place on Sunday, 21 March 2021. The resulting population estimates underpin the planning and provision of public services and getting the best possible response rates is vital to many areas including planning and development, public health and social care, education, transport, housing, emergency services, libraries, waste collection and disposal. The aim is that [Census 2021](#) will be the last of its kind, given the digital data currently available and likely to be available by 2031.



Independence for Later Life

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – Amanda Jupp

- A new commitment to housing has been launched at an online [West Sussex County Council Housing Conference](#). A Memorandum of Understanding has been written in partnership by the County Council, district and borough councils and the NHS. It will build on recent collaborative work to understand how best to support the wellbeing of people in West Sussex by developing the types of housing services required to address their needs and reduce health inequalities.
- As the local job market faces continued uncertainty due to the impact of the pandemic many local people are looking for jobs in new sectors. The County Council's [Proud to Care](#) team are experts in care recruitment offering a 121 service where candidates are matched to jobs in their local area based on their skills and experience. The Proud to Care website enables a [search for local jobs](#) and features information and advice about care work including [case studies](#) of local care workers.
- [The Working Together annual report for residents of West Sussex setting out how adult social care services performed during 2019/20](#) has been published. Developed in partnership with people who use the County Council's services, family and friend carers and other stakeholders, the Local Account details the

Council's work during the year and demonstrates its achievements, priorities and challenges. It also explains how the budget was spent and outlines current activities and plans for the future.



A Council that works for the Community

Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources – Bob Lanzer

- **Keeping residents informed** during the COVID-19 pandemic has been of paramount importance to advise on the status of the County Council's services and to promote the Keep West Sussex Safe campaign. The weekly residents' e-newsletter now has more than 195,000 residents signed up to receive it ([registration](#) is available on the County Council's website), with numbers increasing weekly. Feedback from residents has been positive with a number of compliments received.

Cabinet Member for Finance - Jeremy Hunt

- No update due to the revenue and capital budget being considered at the full Council meeting.

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Background papers

None