
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

- [The Young Carers Service](#), in partnership with [Your Space Therapies](#), has reached the **finals of the national Children & Young People Now awards 2020** which celebrate those who work to improve the lives of children, young people and families. The partnership has received recognition after the delivery of counselling and therapy to young carers, which would usually take place face to face in schools, was efficiently and safely moved online during the pandemic.
- A new [single telephone number and email address](#) for use by the public and professionals to report all concerns about children and young people has gone live. The single point of contact, termed the **Integrated Front Door**, will simplify the process of reporting concerns and ensure that all enquiries and referrals lead to children's needs being reviewed quickly by a joined up Early Help and Social Care team.
- 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

- A [£20 supermarket voucher](#), funded by the [COVID-19 Winter Support Grant](#), was provided to every child eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) for the February half-term week. The voucher scheme meant those families faced with additional winter cost pressures could continue providing food for their children during the holiday period when the Government-run, term-time only FSM voucher scheme does not operate.



A Prosperous Place

Leader – Paul Marshall

- At regular **Government Engagement** meetings with the county's MPs, Cabinet Members have continued to highlight the financial challenges the County Council faces, 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. The County Council is working with organisations such as the South East Seven Partnership and the County Council's Network to promote a collective voice for West Sussex on these challenging issues.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure – Roger Elkins

- In November 2020's [National Infrastructure Strategy](#) (PDF, 5.2MB), the Spending Review committed £1.125bn of **local roads maintenance funding** in 2021/22, which includes the Potholes Fund, to fix potholes and resurface roads. This is supported by a further £260m within the Integrated Transport Block, which includes public transport and active travel upgrades. A [summary of allocations](#) can be found on the Gov.UK website. The County Council's allocation for 2021/22 is £20,898,000.

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. Publicly owned assets are also being mapped to assess any opportunities for the location of additional mobile equipment by network operators that may help to increase 4G coverage in 'not-spots'.
- In consultation with the Cabinet Member a contract award ([decision OKD62\(20/21\)](#)) has been agreed for a single delivery partner, Muse Developments Ltd., to develop the Council-owned site, **Horsham Enterprise**

Park. The scheme is to regenerate an existing brownfield site to a high-quality mixed-use development comprising up to 25,000 square metres of employment space, (offices and research and development uses) on two thirds of the site and up to 300 new homes on one third of the site. There will also be small-scale community amenities and local shops.



A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place

Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities – Duncan Crow

- The Council's [Community Safety Team](#) has marked [International Women's Day on 8 March](#) by hosting a free webinar; 'Domestic and sexual violence and abuse, COVID-19 and beyond'. The global pandemic has increased the dangers of domestic, sexual violence and abuse and the webinar, attended by partners in West Sussex, explored how their services provide support and how all can [#ChooseToChallenge](#) silence to make West Sussex a safer place for everyone.
- West Sussex residents are spending more time online due to COVID-19 restrictions and so the Council, as part of a [Safer Internet Day 2021](#) campaign, advised residents how they can protect themselves from some of the online dangers. The Council's Community Safety Team has been running a series of free [Staying Safe Online](#) sessions, particularly aimed at parents, carers and businesses. The next session will be held on 6 April and will focus on deciding what can be trusted on line - '[An Internet We Trust: Exploring Reliability Online](#)'.
- [The Council's Library Service](#) has been supporting families who are [educating children at home whilst in lockdown](#). Free resources can be accessed from home with a library card, suitable for all ages and abilities, plus links to a wide variety of online activities and games, carefully selected by library staff to support children's learning.
- Plans for [Horsham fire service training centre and fire station](#) have been unanimously approved by members of the County Council's Planning and Rights of Way Committee. The £21m development will be built on land off the A24 at Highwood Mill, near Horsham. Work is expected to start in May 2021 and will take around 18 months to complete.
- A grant of £1,989,592 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

- A successful and very well attended first meeting of the **West Sussex Tree Forum** was held recently. Attendees included representatives from major

landowning estates, district and borough councils, the County Council, the Youth Cabinet, statutory bodies and third sector groups. The forum offers an important opportunity to co-ordinate the efforts of those who have the greatest influence over trees in West Sussex with the aim of maintaining, protecting and improving the overall tree resource. Under the umbrella of the [West Sussex Tree Plan](#), the meeting focused on tree health, economy and communities, data and policies. Partners agreed to improve co-ordination and working groups will progress the agreed actions.

- The County Council hosted the recent **'Who Loves a Pollinator?'** event which was very ably led by Youth Cabinet members. The event supported the [Pollinator Action Plan](#) (PDF, 1.71MB) and the highways-led '[Improving your Local Places and Spaces](#)' initiative which includes working with local people to create community road verges. Residents, community groups and other organisations gained useful information and advice about how to support pollinators locally. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and for those unable to attend, it can be watched on [YouTube](#).
- The proposal for a **trial booking system for Household Waste Recycling Sites** to help manage the coincidental timing of high seasonal demand, the easing of lockdown measures and the need to maintain sensible social distancing on sites received consideration at the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 3 March. Overall, the committee supported the proposals and recommended that Worthing HWRS is included in the trial. The Cabinet Member for Environment subsequently endorsed the [decision](#) and the trial scheme will start imminently.



Independence for Later Life

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – Amanda Jupp

- The Council's Public Health Directorate and Learning and Development Team, in partnership with [Mental Health First Aid England](#), have launched a programme of Mental Health First Aid training for employees, to support colleagues who may experience a mental health issue. Additionally, a 'Mental Health Knowledge for Managers' digital training programme will equip 800 council managers with the skills to support their staff. Both programmes are a proactive, whole council approach, promoting early intervention and reduction of stigma.
- Due to the pandemic, current numbers of people who are medically ready for [Hospital Discharge](#) is at an unprecedented level and the Council has responded to the pressures on acute and community hospitals by creating additional capacity through a wide range of community based services. Time for a patient to be discharged from hospital reduced from 15 days to four, meeting the Council's strategic objective of increasing the numbers of people supported to be at home.

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- The County Council and its District and Borough, NHS and Voluntary Sector partners on the [Health and Wellbeing Board](#) have teamed up with the [Learning Disability Partnership Board](#) to reduce health inequality by working on improving accessibility and health outcomes for those with Learning Disabilities. Respective partners will incorporate learning disability inclusion into their plans and share at the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 24 June this year.
 - 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 196,000 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

- The Cabinet Member has agreed to a proposal ([decision FIN06\(20/21\)](#)) to regenerate a brownfield Council owned and under-used depot site at **Broadbridge Heath**. The **regeneration scheme** will involve the construction of four retail units on the site thereby creating employment opportunities in the

area. The units include a discount food store, a DIY store and garden centre, a drive through take-away restaurant and a coffee shop. The site will be landscaped to include appropriate parking facilities, vehicle charging points and two access points.

- As part of the County Council's reset of its Corporate Plan the Cabinet Member for Finance, with responsibility for Procurement & Contract Management, has been working on a **Social Value Policy** to ensure the Council's procurement activities demonstrate commitment to Social Value which can bring long-term employment and economic benefit to West Sussex in a number of ways. The document will be available on the [Procurement webpage](#) in due course.

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Background papers

None