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## 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

- As part of the [Crawley Growth Programme](#), more than £3m partnership funding from the County Council's agreed Capital Programme is being directly invested in a **highways improvement scheme for the Manor Royal Business District**. A construction contract for Phase 2 of this scheme [has recently been awarded](#) to Landbuild Limited. The Phase 2 works, which are expected to start in the next few months, include:
  - Construction of an eastbound bus and cycle lane along Manor Royal
  - Improvement to crossing facilities along County Oak Way
  - Improvement of crossing facilities and regulation of traffic speed along Metcalf Way

Further information is available on the Manor Royal webpage [www.manorroyal.org/cgp](http://www.manorroyal.org/cgp).

- The County Council's [Recover and Rise programme](#), delivered in partnership with district and borough councils, continues to support businesses on the adoption of digital technologies. A series of webinars were delivered between September and January which enabled over 300 small businesses to learn how to transform their business through digital adoption and to access intensive [Digital Champion support](#) via the Coast to Capital Growth Hub. The delivered webinars are now available on the County Council's [YouTube channel](#).

### Adults Services - Amanda Jupp

- Since the beginning of the pandemic the restrictions and pressures placed on people's daily lives have led to a rise in domestic abuse. The [West Sussex County Council's WORTH Domestic Abuse Service](#) has responded by providing qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisors to deliver emotional and practical support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse. The service has supported over 1,500 high-risk victims with advocacy, safety planning, support through the criminal justice system and help and advice with housing. Anyone affected by domestic abuse can also call the freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247.
- [West Sussex County Council's Connect to Support](#), working in partnership with [Carers Support West Sussex](#), are offering family and friend carers from ethnic minority communities the opportunity to receive up to six free and confidential counselling sessions over the phone. Their diverse team of counsellors are culturally sensitive and will understand and respect people's ethnicities. A full list of languages covered, and further information about how to refer people to the service, is available on the [website](#) or on 0300 028 8888.
- In line with [Our Council Plan](#) (PDF, 60.9MB) the **Adult Social Care Budget 2022/23**, agreed at full Council on 28 February, will invest to protect market sustainability of care and support, to make sure people can get help when they

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need it. This includes £7.5m to support changes in population and the increasing complexity of care required. There is also a total of £16.7m to reflect the increase in costs, for both the County Council and its providers, due to increases in the National Living Wage, the new National Insurance rate and general costs of inflation.

- [The West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board \(WSSAB\)](#) aims to ensure wherever possible that arrangements are in place to prevent abuse and neglect from happening. The Board has recently launched a [safeguarding resource pack](#) (PDF, 888KB) to support learning and understanding of safeguarding. This is for use by community groups and organisations to support formal safeguarding training but is also a useful resource for anyone who would like more information about adult safeguarding.

### **Children and Young People (Lead Member for Children) – Jacquie Russell**

- The County Council is working with health and local authority partners in an ongoing campaign to ensure young people, parents and professionals across West Sussex know where to get help with their emotional wellbeing and mental health. The [Your Mind Matters website](#) contains advice, information and resources to support children and their families, encouraging them to recognise that looking after their mental health is just as important as focusing on physical health.

### **Learning and Skills – Nigel Jupp**

- Over 97% of pupils will be attending one of their three top preference secondary schools this September following [secondary school offer day](#), on 1 March, with all 9,280 pupils who applied being offered a place at a West Sussex school. Leaving primary and starting secondary school can be both an exciting and nerve-wracking time for pupils and their parents or carers, so obtaining a place at a chosen school can help ease this transition.
- The County Council is [seeking views](#) on a **new Education and Skills Strategy**, asking those responding to the engagement survey to identify the top priorities for educational and learning provision over the next three years. The Strategy aims to provide leadership and foster a common vision in West Sussex, ensuring education provision meets children's needs, promotes outcomes and offers greater consistency and inclusivity.

### **Community Support, Fire and Rescue – Duncan Crow**

- In recognition of fraudsters using cold calling phone-scam tactics to deceive vulnerable households out of thousands of pounds, [West Sussex Trading Standards, is offering to install call blocking devices](#) free of charge to help stop such nuisance calls. The call blocking devices are being paid for using money confiscated from rogue traders by the Courts under Proceeds of Crime Act. Residents or their relatives, carers or friends can apply for those who qualify for the devices, which are proven to block up to 98% of nuisance calls.
- The Cabinet Member has supported the [Wellbeing Month at West Sussex Libraries](#) during March, which explored all the ways that books, reading and local libraries can help people stay healthy and well. Libraries issued special [Reading Well](#) booklists on mental health for adults, young people and children,

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long-term conditions and dementia. The County Council's Meals on Wheels provider, *Apetito*, visited several libraries to share information on the importance of good nutrition. Regular [local social events](#) are held in libraries and services are still available for [residents who are unable to visit their local library in person](#).

- The Cabinet Member has praised [West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service \(WSFRS\)](#) for helping to [keep residents safe from Storm Eunice](#) on 18 February. The Service responded to 999 calls from across the county throughout the day and into the weekend, following the rare Met Office red alert, with Joint Fire Control receiving 600 calls between 8 am and 5.30 pm on that day across West Sussex, East Sussex and Surrey. WSFRS attended around 70 emergencies with officers, fire engines and the Technical Rescue Unit mobilised to respond to a variety of incidents including dangerous structures and trees that had come down in the high winds.

### **Environment and Climate Change (and Deputy Leader) - Deborah Urquhart**

- The County Council was invited by 'Lets Recycle' to present the **123 Collection Trial Project**, run in partnership with Arun District Council, at the National Food Waste Conference in March. '1-2-3' is a weekly food waste collection, a fortnightly recycling/garden waste collection and a three-weekly general rubbish collection in new 240ltr wheelie bins. Small electrical items are also collected fortnightly. Resident participation has been excellent resulting in a huge drop in food waste in the general collections and 146 tonnes of food waste collected. A positive change in residents' behaviour and opinion towards the collections was also highlighted.
- The Cabinet Member was invited to attend a roundtable meeting with The Rt Hon Lord Benyon, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Rural Affairs, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), to discuss the [Government's response to the Landscapes Review: National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#) (the 'Glover Review'). The Cabinet Member took the opportunity to request that the Government takes protected landscapes into account when determining the need for new homes to be delivered through the planning system, a point strongly supported by the five other local authorities present.

### **Finance and Property – Jeremy Hunt**

- On 4 November 2021 the County Council and the West Sussex Pension Fund financial statements were awarded an unqualified **audit opinion by external auditors** Ernst and Young LLP. Both sets of financial statements 'gave a true and fair view of the financial position of expenditure and income and had been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom'. The Auditors Annual Report (which is new for 2020/21) has recently been published on the County Council's [Finance page](#) on the website.

### **Highways and Transport – Joy Dennis**

- The County Council's **2022/23 highways programme** (over £32m of works) includes more than 650 individual schemes including road and pavement maintenance and improvement schemes, bridges, drainage, public rights of

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way and road safety schemes. Details of the programme can be viewed as [a list](#) (PDF, 720KB) and an [interactive map](#). Members will be updated as the detailed programme is developed and about when specific projects will start.

- The County Council's **#WestSussBus engagement** starts in April. Parish and town councils will be asked to recommend groups and individuals who may want to take part. This long-term engagement exercise will focus on scoping ideas and views from passengers (and non-passengers), and gathering in-depth responses on the bus services, stops, and network in West Sussex. Look for #WestSussBus on social media.

### **Public Health and Wellbeing – Bob Lanzer**

- Thousands of local people are healthier and more active thanks to the [Wellbeing service which celebrates more than 10 years of supporting people across West Sussex](#), since it was established county wide in 2011. The service is delivered through partnership between the County Council and the seven district and borough councils and is available to anyone who lives or works in West Sussex. Offering impartial, friendly advice and support on a one to one basis through groups and activities, it can help people to make positive choices to tackle risk factors such as excess weight, sedentary behaviour, smoking and drinking too much alcohol.
- [National No Smoking Day](#) took place on 9 March. Together with partners, including the organisations in the Smokefree West Sussex Partnership, district and borough councils, universities and colleges, pharmacies, and local NHS organisations across West Sussex, the County Council raised awareness of the health and financial benefits of quitting smoking for national No Smoking Day and is continuing to promote smoking cessation support following this. Residents can visit the [West Sussex Wellbeing website](#) to find out more information about local Stop Smoking Services available to anyone who lives or works in the county.
- The [latest updates on the vaccination programme in West Sussex](#) have been issued, led by the Sussex Health and Care Partnership. The Government has set out that across the UK, a second COVID-19 booster vaccination (to be given six months after previous booster) will be offered to adults aged 75 and over, residents in a care home for older adults, and people aged 12 and over with weakened immune systems. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advises that an extra dose will help maintain protection from severe COVID in the most vulnerable individuals. More information will shortly be shared across the country, including details of how eligible groups can arrange a vaccination. People are being asked not to contact their GP practice or other NHS services at the current time to ask about this second booster as the service is not live yet – residents will be contacted as soon as the vaccination is available.

### **Support Services and Economic Development – Steve Waight**

- Partnership working has led to two local applicants gaining **Kickstart job placements** with the Crawley [Eastern Gateway Scheme](#). Partners working on the [Crawley Growth Programme](#) and contractor, VolkerFitzpatrick, have provided the opportunities. The two roles are Trainee Site Engineer and Trainee Social Value Co-ordinator. Both placements will provide the applicants with

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insight into a working construction environment and give opportunities to work within the wider team and learn new skills.

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**Background papers**

None