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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

- The Leader attended the **Coastal West Sussex Partnership** board at Ricardo Centenary Innovation Centre on 9 June. Thirty decision makers representing both public and private sector organisations joined the meeting to discuss current opportunities and challenges for the coastal economy. The meeting highlighted the need for economic readiness by providing the space, skilled workforce and infrastructure for growth, all underpinned by responsible sustainability and working collaboratively. The audience welcomed presentations from the University of Chichester and Wired Sussex on the emerging coastal West Sussex creative technologies opportunity which could give a significant boost to the coastal economy and which the County Council fully supports.
- The Leader attended the [Transatlantic Ties Symposium](#) at the University of Chichester on 11 June to mark the end of a three-year learning and outreach project by West Sussex Record Office. The project was funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation in New York as a result of the discoveries surrounding the Sussex Declaration in 2017-18. The Sussex Declaration is one of only two known of parchment manuscripts of the American Declaration of Independence. A [new website](#) has been launched to share these findings and provide access to a range of new digital learning resources. An exhibition is currently on display at the Record Office until 22 July and will tour County Council Libraries over the coming year. The Sussex Declaration and Transatlantic Ties now provide a firm foundation to promote these connections, generate tourism and benefit the local economy.
- [The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#) (DEFRA) has announced that **Sussex wine** is to be designated as a UK Geographical Indication (GI). Wine produced in Sussex will join **Protected Designation of Origin** and the Protected GI registered products, such as Champagne. With a number of vineyards in the South Downs National Park producing wines of provenance, it is an important part of the West Sussex visitor economy offer.
- Last month the Leader attended the [LGA Conference 2022](#) in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to meet councillors from local authorities across the country to discuss the latest issues affecting local government, including the cost-of-living crisis, adult social care, services for children and young people and climate change. Key-note speakers at the conference included Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP, Secretary of State for Education. The conference also provided an opportunity to lobby for essential funding for the County Council.

### Adults Services - Amanda Jupp

- Backed by the County Council, the NHS and charity [Carers Support West Sussex](#), Carers Week ran from 7 to 13 June. Over 100,000 people are thought

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to be regularly caring for a friend or family member in West Sussex. A programme of carer-focused workshops was offered, where attendees had the opportunity to learn something new or improve knowledge; virtually meet others in a similar situation and have a chance to socialise and have a break from caring roles. For anyone that was unable to attend the workshops, there is year-round Carers Support including the offer of a [free Carers Discount Card](#), which gives family and friend carers in the county a range of exclusive offers and discounts.

- The Cabinet Member attended the official opening of an [Extra Care housing](#) development in West Sussex. The facility supports independence while offering round-the-clock assistance to people with care needs, disabilities or limited mobility. The County Council invested £960,000 in the redevelopment of the site on London Road, East Grinstead. Feedback received by the Council revealed that most people want to stay in their own home wherever possible, even when they might need some extra care or support and so creating this opportunity is one of the key priorities in the new [adult social care strategy](#).

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

- A [film](#) highlighting the [positive impact of services available across West Sussex to support LGBT+ children and young people and their families](#) has been created by the County Council and the Allsorts Youth Project. Allsorts offers in person and online youth groups, one-to-one support and peer support groups for LGBT+ children, young people and their families. These are funded by the County Council as part of a programme of new initiatives to ensure all young people are supported with their emotional wellbeing and mental health.

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

- The County Council is working with a range of providers to offer a [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme during the school summer holiday](#). This enables children and young people aged 4 to 16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to enjoy enriching activities and a nutritional meal free of charge during the holiday period. The programme aims to build on the positive impact of the summer 2021 HAF which saw over 2,000 children attending over the holiday period.

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

- West Sussex Library Service is running its annual [Summer Reading Challenge](#) from 9 July with this year's theme, 'The 'Gadgeteers'. Libraries are teaming up with the Science Museum Group for a special science-themed Challenge that will inspire children to use their imagination and creativity. Gadgeteers is free for families to take part in, and will feature amazing books, rewards, and plenty of ideas for experiments and activities to discover science. [Volunteers are being sought](#) to help deliver the challenge to families in libraries until September.
- The West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has been supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) **Safety Campaigns** with messaging including [Summer Season alerts](#) around the safe disposal of BBQs, [Water Safety](#) and [Home Fire Safety Week \(13 June to 19 June\)](#). The aim is to reduce fires and preventable

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deaths by aligning West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service messaging with a calendar of Safety Campaigns.

- The West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has marked a special anniversary as it celebrates [10 years of Community Volunteers](#) within the service. The milestone was celebrated during [Volunteers Week](#), which is an annual event that takes place between 1 and 7 June to thank those who give their spare time to help others. Since the launch of a volunteer pilot scheme in 2012, the volunteers have completed more than 8,500 hours of activity, which is equivalent to 354 days. Community Volunteers support the service with community engagement activities, such as helping at events, generating Safe and Well Visits and carrying out Heart Start first aid training.

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

- The County Council has agreed funding for a **£7.7m programme to install solar panels and/or battery storage facilities** at a further 31 corporate buildings and 65 schools. This will reduce electricity demand, contribute to achieving carbon reduction targets and help meet the agreed priorities in the recently adopted [Energy Strategy](#) (PDF. 2.5MB). A [procurement exercise](#) will take place this year followed by detailed surveys at each site. Installation is currently scheduled to begin in spring 2023.
- [Sussex-Air, a partnership of local authorities across Sussex, has been awarded £876,300](#) from the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs. Retrofitting of around 40 mid-life double-decker buses to super low emissions will help to improve air quality for everyone in Brighton & Hove and parts of East and West Sussex. Taxi operators in West Sussex will also be helped to transition to electric vehicles. In addition, the Sussex network of air quality analysers will be supplemented with additional particulate monitors and a network of sensors.

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

- The Department for Transport (DfT) offered an indicative funding allocation (for 2022/23 to 2024/25) up to £17,401,596 (£11,982,180 capital and £5,419,416 revenue) to commence delivery of the [Bus Services Improvement Plan](#). The [Draft Enhanced Partnership Plan](#) was submitted to the DfT on 30 June and, subject to final approval by the DfT, benefits will include a bus fare discount scheme for young people (16 to 21-year-olds), infrastructure and bus stop improvements, new Littlehampton to Chichester bus services (no. 55) and Demand Responsive Transport services in some rural areas.
- Transport for the South East, the sub-national transport body, has published a [Draft Strategic Investment Plan](#) (SIP) setting out a series of strategic transport investment opportunities for the Government, Local Transport Authorities and transport providers to consider investing in. Once finalised, the SIP will inform future decision-making on investment programmes such as the Government's Roads Investment Strategy. The Draft SIP is being published for public consultation between 20 June and 12 September and local stakeholders are encouraged to respond.
- Significant sections of the A24/A264, part of the major strategic road network, have been resurfaced which has improved the strength of the carriageway

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construction, improved ride quality, reduced road noise and will reduce tyre generated spray in wet conditions. The County Council and the contractor worked collaboratively and made **significant environmental savings** by adjusting the design to reduce the CO2 emissions ordinarily associated with a project of this scope.

- [Community Road Verges](#) (CRVs) around West Sussex are helping to promote the growth of wildflowers and support important pollinators. There are nature-friendly CRVs in 24 neighbourhoods (selected by residents) which are only cut once in the autumn, after which the local community rakes and disposes of the cuttings. This reduces the fertility in the soil and encourages wildflower growth as it allows them to out-compete the grass after a few years.

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

- The Cabinet Member has welcomed County Council [member support](#) for a **Smokefree Fund**. The Smokefree Fund, proposed nationally by organisations including Cancer Research UK and Action on Smoking & Health (ASH), is a fixed annual charge on the tobacco industry to fund work to help reduce the prevalence of smoking among communities. Smoking remains the number one cause of preventable illness and premature death in England and is a major risk factor for cancer, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory illness. Smoking rates have gradually fallen over recent years. However, approximately 70,000 people in West Sussex still smoke. Support is available to anyone who lives or works in West Sussex via [Stop Smoking Services on the West Sussex Wellbeing](#) website.
- The success of the [Children of Alcohol Dependent Parents Innovation Fund](#) in West Sussex was celebrated at a recent high-profile event hosted by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Funding from the DHSC and Department for Work and Pensions enabled the development and implementation of a new service aimed at early identification and support to people drinking alcohol during their pregnancy, as well as the county-wide expansion of an existing specialist therapeutic service for children and young people (CYP) affected by parental alcohol use. Additional funding from NHS partners enabled the scope of the therapeutic service to be extended to children affected by parental drug use. Local evaluation by West Sussex Public Health comprised some positive outcomes, including reduced alcohol use reported by pregnant and new parents, and improved outcomes in CYP receiving therapy. The evaluation's findings and recommendations will contribute to the evidence base for commissioning of services and improving outcomes for children and families affected by alcohol use.
- The West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board has published its draft [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\)](#) in line with its statutory duty, and is seeking feedback from organisations, community groups and residents with an interest in local pharmaceutical services. The PNA is a statement of the current and future needs for pharmaceutical service provision within a local area and is used by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) when considering applications for new pharmacies, dispensing doctors or appliance contractors and changes to existing services. It is also used to inform commissioning of services from community pharmacies by NHSE&I, and local commissioners such as the NHS and local authorities. The [consultation](#) runs from 20 June until 28 August.

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**Contact Officer:** Helen Kenny, Head of Democratic Services, 033 022 22532,  
helen.kenny@westsussex.gov.uk

**Background papers**

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