

## West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

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**15 December 2017**

At an Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 15 December 2017, at County Hall, Chichester, the members present being:

Mr L H Barnard (Chairman)

Mr W E Acraman	Mr A C Lea
Mrs P A C Arculus	Ms K Lord
Lt Cdr N A Atkins, RD	Mr G T Markwell
Mr A N Baldwin	Mr P A Marshall
Mr D H Barling	Mr S A McDonald
Mr A J Barrett-Miles	Mrs M E Millson
Mr K Boram	Mr C R Mitchell
Mr D Bradford	Mr J A P Montyn
Mrs H A Brunson	Mrs S R Mullins
Mr I R J Buckland	Mr R J Oakley
Mr R D Burrett	Mr S J Oakley
Mr P C Catchpole	Dr K F B O'Kelly
Mr M A Cloake	Mr F R J Oppler
Mr D Crow	Mr C G Oxlade
Mrs J A Dennis	Mr A Patel
Dr N P S Dennis	Mrs J A Pendleton
Mrs J E Duncton	Mr C J Petts
Mr R C Elkins	Mr D M Purchase
Ms H A Flynn	Mr B J Quinn
Mr P D High	Mrs J E Russell
Mr S R Hillier	Mrs B A Smith
Mr J C Hunt	Mr R J Smytherman
Mrs A F Jones, MBE	Mrs C E Sparkes
Mr M G Jones	Mr B W Turner
Mrs A J Jupp	Mrs D L Urquhart
Mr N P S Jupp	Mr S G Waight
Ms D M K Kennard	Dr J M M Walsh, KStJ, RD
Mrs L Kitchen	Mr D R Whittington
Mr R A Lanzer	Mr L S Wickremaratchi

### **Visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Chichester**

**72** The Chairman reported that, together with the Chief Executive, he had been privileged to meet Her Majesty the Queen when she visited Chichester Festival Theatre on 30 November, and to welcome Her Majesty to West Sussex on behalf of the County Council.

### **Avril Wilson, Executive Director Children, Adults, Families, Health and Education**

**73** The Chairman reported that, after two years with the County Council, Avril Wilson, Executive Director Children, Adults, Families, Health and

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Education, would be leaving the Council shortly. Members expressed their sincere thanks to Avril for her contribution to the organisation and its partnerships over the last two years and wished her the very best for the future.

### Apologies and attendance

- 74** Apologies were received from Lt Col Barton, Mrs Bennett, Mr Bradbury, Mrs Bridges, Mr Edwards, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr Parikh, Mrs Purnell and Mr Simmons. Mr Markwell left at 12.10 p.m. and did not return for the remainder of the meeting. Mr Cloake and Mrs Smith gave their apologies for the afternoon session. Mr Quinn gave his apologies and left at 4.15 p.m. Ms Flynn was absent for the afternoon session. Mr Buckland left at 3.00 p.m., Mrs Brunsdon at 3.15 p.m., Mr Lea at 3.30 p.m., Mr Oppler at 4.10 p.m. and Mrs Pendleton at 4.15 p.m.

### Interests

- 75** Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

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- 76** It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 20 October 2017 (pages 185 to 209) be approved as a correct record.

### Committee Appointments

- 77** The Council approved appointments as set out below.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Change</b>
Children and Young People's Services Select Committee	Mrs Dennis to replace Mr Markwell
Corporate Parenting Panel	Mrs Sparkes to replace Mr Markwell

### Appointment of an Independent Member to the Independent Remuneration Panel

- 78** The Council approved an appointment to fill a vacancy for an Independent Member to the Independent Remuneration Panel in the light of a report by the Chairman of the Standards Committee (page 210).

- 79** Resolved -

That Mrs Pexton be appointed as independent member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for an initial period of four years.

**Notice of Motion by Mrs Mullins**

- 80** The following motion was moved by Mrs Mullins and seconded by Dr Walsh.

'This Council remains extremely concerned about the lack of adequate funding for West Sussex schools for 2018/19, which has led to schools taking action to reduce budgets, including reducing teaching staff and other staff and reducing the curriculum offer. The Government's new funding formula will not solve this problem in its current form and this Council is concerned that this will lead to worsening educational, social and emotional outcomes for students across West Sussex.

This Council therefore calls on the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to:

- (1) Continue lobbying efforts with central government to secure additional funding for schools for April 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- (2) Ask the Government to explore the possibility of introducing a new council tax precept to raise additional funds for High Needs from April 2018.'

- 81** A statement by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills was circulated (copy appended to the signed minutes).

- 82** An amendment was moved by Mr High and seconded by Mrs Dennis.

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This Council therefore calls on the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to:

- (1) Continue lobbying efforts with central government to secure additional funding for **West Sussex** schools for April 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- (2) Ask the Government to **urgently carry out a review of the National Funding Formula to ensure a fairer and more transparent formula that provides appropriate benefits for West Sussex children** explore the possibility of introducing a new council tax precept to raise additional funds for High Needs from April 2018.'

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**83** The amendment was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 36(1).

(a) For the amendment - 57

Mr Acraman, Mrs Arculus, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradford, Mrs Brunson, Mr Buckland, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Cloake, Mr Crow, Mrs Dennis, Dr Dennis, Mrs Duncton, Mr Elkins, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mr Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Ms Lord, Mr Markwell, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mrs Millson, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mrs Mullins, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mr Purchase, Mr Quinn, Mrs Russell, Mrs Smith, Mr Smytherman, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Dr Walsh, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the amendment - 0

(c) Abstentions - 0

**84** The amendment was carried.

**85** An amendment was moved by Ms Lord and seconded by Dr O'Kelly.

'This Council remains extremely concerned about the lack of adequate funding for West Sussex schools for 2018/19, which has led to schools taking action to reduce budgets, including reducing teaching staff and other staff and reducing the curriculum offer. The Government's new funding formula will not solve this problem in its current form and this Council is concerned that this will lead to worsening educational, social and emotional outcomes for students across West Sussex.

This Council therefore calls on the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to:

(1) Continue lobbying efforts with central government to secure additional funding for schools for April 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter ***in order to ensure the continued financial viability of all of our schools, including small primary schools in rural communities***; and

(2) Ask the Government to explore the possibility of introducing a new council tax precept to raise additional funds for High Needs from April 2018.'

**86** The amendment was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 36(1).

(a) For the amendment - 17

Mr Acraman, Mr Buckland, Dr Dennis, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mr McDonald, Mrs Millson, Mrs Mullins, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Petts, Mr Purchase, Mr Quinn, Mrs Smith, Mr Smytherman and Dr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment - 36

Mrs Arculus, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradford, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Mrs Dennis, Mrs Duncton, Mr Elkins, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Markwell, Mr Marshall, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Russell, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 3

Mr Barnard, Mrs Brunsdon and Mr High.

**87** The amendment was lost.

**88** The motion, as amended and set out below, was carried.

'This Council remains extremely concerned about the lack of adequate funding for West Sussex schools for 2018/19, which has led to schools taking action to reduce budgets, including reducing teaching staff and other staff and reducing the curriculum offer. The Government's new funding formula will not solve this problem in its current form and this Council is concerned that this will lead to worsening educational, social and emotional outcomes for students across West Sussex.

This Council therefore calls on the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to:

- (1) Continue lobbying efforts with central government to secure additional funding for West Sussex schools for April 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- (2) Ask the Government to urgently carry out a review of the National Funding Formula to ensure a fairer and more transparent formula that provides appropriate benefits for West Sussex children.'

### **Notice of Motion by Dr Walsh**

**89** The following motion was moved by Dr Walsh and seconded by Mrs Millson.

'This Council has been seeking for some time to increase the funding from government for the provision of adult Social Services. It also recognises that part of the problem is the interface between the NHS and adult Social Care, including delayed transfer from hospitals, and the provision of longer-term care for the elderly, which is increasingly a worrying financial burden for the older person, and for their carer and or family.

Recognising that this is a national problem, this Council resolves to ask the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health to seek a meeting

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with government ministers to press for a Royal Commission to examine the provision of and funding of longer-term care for the elderly, to report as urgently as possible with sustainable and deliverable solutions.'

- 90 An amendment was moved by Mrs Arculus and seconded by Mr Turner.

'This Council has been seeking for some time to increase the funding from government for the provision of adult Social Services. It also recognises that part of the problem is the interface between the NHS and adult Social Care, **which has an impact on** including delayed transfer from hospitals, and the provision of longer term care for the elderly. **This Council is putting in place measures to address these challenges, but the situation** which is increasingly a worrying financial burden for the older person, and for their carer and or family.

Recognising that this is a national problem, this Council resolves to ask the Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults and Health to **continue to work with other local authorities and MPs and with the Orchid View Relatives Action Group to urge** ~~seek a meeting with~~ government ministers to ~~press for~~ **use the planned Adult Social Care Green Paper a Royal Commission** to examine the provision of and funding of longer term care for the elderly, ~~to report as~~ **and deliver as** urgently as possible with sustainable and deliverable solutions.'

- 91 The amendment was carried.

- 92 The motion, as amended and set out below, was carried.

'This Council has been seeking for some time to increase the funding from government for the provision of adult Social Services. It also recognises that part of the problem is the interface between the NHS and adult Social Care, which has an impact on delayed transfer from hospitals, and the provision of longer term care for the elderly. This Council is putting in place measures to address these challenges, but the situation is increasingly a worrying financial burden for the older person, and for their carer and or family.

Recognising that this is a national problem, this Council resolves to ask the Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults and Health to continue to work with other local authorities and MPs and with the Orchid View Relatives Action Group to urge government ministers to use the planned Adult Social Care Green Paper to examine the provision of and funding of longer term care for the elderly, and deliver as urgently as possible sustainable and deliverable solutions.'

### **Budget Savings 2018/19 and 2019/20, Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2022/23 and Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19**

- 93 The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources moved the report on the savings proposals for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and the Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2022/23 (pages 211 to 229).

- 94** The Cabinet Member also moved the report on the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 (pages 230 to 261).
- 95** An amendment was moved by Mrs Mullins and seconded by Mr Jones.

**'Table of proposed budget amendments**

	<b>£m</b>
Reverse budget reduction re: Cost of Apprenticeship Levy for 2018/19 on Schools.	+0.750
Reverse part of the budget decision to reduce the media fund, begun in 2016/17, and with a further £25,000 proposed in 2018/19. This would overturn the operational decision to reduce or no longer stock paper copy daily newspapers in some libraries for 2018/19.	+0.012
Overturn the operational decision to cancel the paper copy versions of three Asian language newspapers available in Crawley library and four religious newspapers (two of which are currently available in Chichester library and two are currently available in Worthing library) for 2018/19.	+0.001
Funded by: an allocation from the corporate contingency fund (would leave £2.441m in contingency).	-0.763
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>0</b>

This proposed amendment would ensure that schools which are already under immense financial pressure are spared the additional cost of the apprenticeship levy in 2018/19 being passed onto them.

It would also ensure that tier 6 libraries will continue to have a paper version of a national daily newspaper available for residents to read, whilst others will continue to have a choice. Furthermore, residents in Crawley, Worthing and Chichester will still be able to access the paper version of specialist newspapers.

The amendment means reducing the current £3.204m base contingency budget in 2018/19 by £0.763m, taking the budget down to £2.441m.

However, it is noted that there is a remaining sum of £0.383m unspent in 2017/18 which is part of the total set aside for school counselling services. If this remains unused at the year-end we would propose it can be used to top-up the contingency budget in 2018/19 thereby offsetting, to a degree, the above use of £0.763m from this contingency. It would represent a one-off amount only, but it would mean the 2018/19 contingency budget would be £2.824m (i.e. the current base budget of £3.204m, less £0.763m used as above, plus £0.383m unspent from the counselling sum, as a one-off amount).'

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**96** The amendment was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 36(1).

(a) For the amendment – 4

Mr Jones, Mrs Mullins, Mr Oxlade and Mr Quinn.

(b) Against the amendment - 40

Mr Acraman, Mrs Arculus, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradford, Mrs Brunson, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Mrs Duncton, Mr Elkins, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mrs Russell, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 10

Mr Buckland, Dr Dennis, Mrs Kitchen, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Dr O’Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Purchase, Mr Smytherman and Dr Walsh.

**Note:** Lt Col Barton, Mrs Bennett, Mr Bradbury, Mrs Bridges, Mr Cloake, Mr Edwards, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr Parikh, Mrs Purnell, Mr Simmons and Mrs Smith had given their apologies. Mrs Flynn and Mr Markwell were absent. Mrs Dennis did not vote.

**97** The amendment was lost.

**98** Recommendation (1) was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 36(1).

(a) For recommendation (1) - 42

Mr Acraman, Mrs Arculus, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradford, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Mrs Dennis, Mrs Duncton, Mr Elkins, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mrs Russell, Mr Smytherman, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against recommendation (1) – 11

Dr Dennis, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Mrs Mullins, Dr O’Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchase, Mr Quinn and Dr Walsh.

(c) Abstentions – 2

Mrs Brunson and Mr Buckland.

**99** Recommendation (1) was carried.

**100** Recommendation (2) was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 36(1).

(a) For recommendation (2) - 41

Mr Acraman, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradford, Mr Buckland, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Dr Dennis, Mrs Duncton, Mr Elkins, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mr Purchase, Mrs Russell, Mr Smytherman, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Dr Walsh, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against recommendation (2) - 4

Mr Jones, Mrs Mullins, Mr Oxlade and Mr Quinn.

(c) Abstentions - 9

Mrs Arculus, Mr Baldwin, Mrs Brunsdon, Mrs Dennis, Mr Lea, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Mr S J Oakley and Mr Waight.

**Note:** Lt Col Barton, Mrs Bennett, Mr Bradbury, Mrs Bridges, Mr Cloake, Mr Edwards, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr Parikh, Mrs Purnell, Mr Simmons and Mrs Smith had given their apologies. Mrs Flynn and Mr Markwell were absent. Mrs Jones did not vote.

**101** Recommendation (2) was carried.

**102** Recommendation (3) was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 36(1).

(a) For recommendation (3) - 46

Mr Acraman, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Boram, Mr Bradford, Mrs Brunsdon, Mr Buckland, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Dr Dennis, Mrs Duncton, Mr Elkins, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Ms Lord, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mr Purchase, Mrs Russell, Mr Smytherman, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Dr Walsh, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against recommendation (3) - 4

Mr Jones, Mrs Mullins, Mr Oxlade and Mr Quinn.

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(c) Abstentions – 4

Mrs Arculus, Mrs Dennis, Mrs Millson and Mr S J Oakley.

**Note:** Lt Col Barton, Mrs Bennett, Mr Bradbury, Mrs Bridges, Mr Cloake, Mr Edwards, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr Parikh, Mrs Purnell, Mr Simmons and Mrs Smith had given their apologies. Mrs Flynn and Mr Markwell were absent. Mr Barling did not vote.

**103** Recommendation (3) was carried.

**104** Resolved –

That, taking account of Council priorities, the finance strategy, the expected Local Government Finance Settlement, the following items be approved:

- (1) Saving proposals as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report covering 2018/19 and 2019/20, to help achieve a balanced budget;
- (2) Capital expenditure and proposed method of financing for the core programme and the income generating initiatives (which will be subject to their own business cases) for the period 2018 to 2023, as set out in Appendices 3(a) and 3(b) to the report; and
- (3) Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

**105** Resolved -

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018/19, as set out at the Annex to the report, be approved.

### **Proposed Modifications to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan**

**106** The Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure moved the report on proposed modifications to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan (pages 262 to 266).

**107** Resolved –

- (1) That the Proposed Modifications to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan (Appendix A to the report) be approved for public consultation on their soundness, followed by submission to the Inspector; and
- (2) That the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan with proposed modifications (Appendix B to the report) be approved for development management purposes.

### Corporate Parenting Panel

**108** The Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel moved the report of the recent work of the Panel (pages 267 to 269).

**109** Resolved -

That the report be noted.

### Question Time

**110** Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios and asked questions of chairmen, as set out at Appendix 3. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 270 to 282) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 15(2) (set out at Appendix 2).

### Governance Committee: Change of Select Committee name and amendment to Standing Orders re Senior Officer Appointments

**111** The Council considered a change to the name of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee and an amendment to Standing Orders re senior officer appointments in the light of a report from the Governance Committee (pages 283 and 284).

**112** In response to a request from Dr Walsh, the Chairman of the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee confirmed that he would consider whether the Fire Brigades Union might be one of the bodies consulted and asked to give evidence when operational Fire issues were considered by the Select Committee.

**113** Resolved -

(1) That the name of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee be changed to the 'Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee and that the Constitution be amended accordingly; and

(2) That Standing Order 44 be amended to refer only to the use of an Appointing Committee for Executive Directors and a Chief Executive.

### Performance and Finance Select Committee: The Select Committee Work Programme January 2018 to December 2019

**114** The Council considered the Select Committee work programme for January 2018 to December 2019 in the light of a report by the Performance and Finance Select Committee (pages 285 to 294).

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**115** Resolved -

That the Select Committee work programme for January 2018 to December 2019, as attached at the Appendix to the report, be approved.

### **Standards Committee Annual Report**

**116** The Council considered the Standards Committee Annual Report on its activities for the period May 2016 to April 2017 (pages 295 to 297).

**117** Resolved - That the report be noted.

### **Chairman**

The Council rose at 4.25 p.m.

### Agenda Item No. 1 – Interests

Members declared interests as set out below. All the interests listed below were personal but not pecuniary or prejudicial unless indicated.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Unspecified	Mr Boram	Employee of EDF Energy and member of Adur District Council
Item 5(a) – Notice of Motion on School Funding	Mr Buckland	Governor at an SEN school
	Dr O’Kelly	Governor of Rake Primary School and Midhurst Rother College
Item 6 – Budget Savings, Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy	Mr Hunt	Member of Chichester Harbour Conservancy, which precepts on the County Council
	Mr S J Oakley	Member of Chichester District Council and Tangmere Parish Council
	Mr Smytherman	Member of Worthing Borough Council, Trustee of Coastal West Sussex MIND and Chairman of Local Governing Committee – St Mary’s Catholic Primary School Worthing (Part of Bosco Catholic Education Trust)
	Dr Walsh	Member of Arun District Council
Item 7 – Proposed Modifications to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan	Dr Walsh	Member of Arun District Council
Item 8 – Corporate Parenting Panel	Mr Cloake	Foster carer and spouse employed by the County Council as a social worker
Item 9 – Question Time	Mr S J Oakley	Member of Chichester District Council and Tangmere Parish Council

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Item	Member	Nature of Interest
Item 9 – Question Time: Written Question 4 – West Sussex Business Rates Pool	Mr Lanzer	Member of Crawley Borough Council

**15 December 2017**

- 1.** Written question from **Mr Smytherman** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Adults and Health**

### **Question**

Following a number of written questions to your predecessor Mr Catchpole about the County's Tele Care contract, please could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the much delayed re-tender of telecare services in the county, including what progress has been made in relation to working with our district and borough colleagues in the delivery of this service?

### **Answer**

The County Council has previously had in-depth discussions with local district and borough councils to explore a workable model that would enable the councils to work together to deliver sustainable telecare services. However, late last year Chief Executives from the councils and representatives from the West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups agreed that this was not an option.

The County Council is keen to secure a sourcing option that enables it to keep pace with the ever changing nature and development of digital technology. The County Council also wants to ensure that ongoing investment of the Better Care Fund in technology enabled care provides improved benefits to customers as well as representing on-going value to the County Council and NHS colleagues.

The County Council has considered a range of sourcing options to achieve these goals whilst building on its existing respected Telecare service provision. The complexity of the nature of the work has meant that a final decision on the approach has taken longer than expected. However, it is anticipated that a decision on how the Council will source a new technology enabled lives service will be made by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health in December 2017.

- 2.** Written question from **Ms Lord** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

### **Question**

Following the school funding discussion at Children and Young People's Services Select Committee on 8 November 2017, which highlighted the minimal increase in per pupil funding and the loss of a significant proportion of the lump sum payment for small schools if the WSCC local funding formula remains the same, could the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- (a)** Provide a table of the following information for every small school in West Sussex:
  - (i)** Name of school;

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- (ii) Electoral division;
  - (iii) Number of pupils currently on roll;
  - (iv) Total budget for financial year 2016/17 and financial year 2017/18 including inter alia any and all lump sum payments, per pupil funding etc.;
  - (v) Proposed total budget for financial year 2018/19 if there are no changes to local funding formula; and
  - (vi) Whether the school is currently in licenced deficit.
- (b) Confirm whether he or any officer has carried out or is planning to carry out any analysis looking at the long term financial viability and/or possible closures of any of our small schools, whether individually or as a whole, and provide details of which schools any such analysis has considered for closure?

### Answer

- (a) Although West Sussex schools will attract additional funding in the order of £18.8m under the new National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2018/19, the majority of our small primary schools (150 or fewer pupils) benefit less well than other schools, largely due to a reduction in the lump sum for fixed costs (headteacher, bursar, caretaker, broadband etc.) from £150,000 to £110,000. The lump sum forms a significant proportion of total funding for small schools.

The County Council is not required to apply the NFF to the Schools block in the distribution of funding to mainstream schools for at least the next two years. All councils are required to develop a local formula for the distribution of Schools block funding until at least 2020/21. The table attached at page 13 sets out the budgets of our small primary schools over the last two years, together with indicative budgets for next year (based on October 2016 census data) under each of the various local formula scenarios that schools have been consulted on during November 2017. Please note that the table shows which district or borough ward the schools are located in rather than which County Council electoral division. A formal Cabinet Member decision about the actual formula arrangements to be applied in 2018/19 will be taken in January 2018.

Information about schools with licensed deficit budgets in 2017/18 is not currently in the public domain. The table also shows small schools in budget deficit at the end of the financial year 2016/17. This information has been published on the West Sussex website through the statutory Section 251 Budget Outturn Statement 2016/17.

- (b) The Education and Skills Directorate constantly reviews all of our West Sussex schools, taking account of a number of criteria, and regularly briefs the Cabinet Member. The Director of Education and Skills is in the process of scoping a review for 2018/19.

### 3. Written question from **Mrs Millson** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

#### Question

The Cabinet Member will be aware of:

- (1) The recent reply from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to a FOI request by the Liberal Democrats that over 2.5 million disposable coffee cups have been purchased by the Department over the last five years (equivalent to 1,400 cups a day), with a further 4 million such cups being used in the House of Commons; and
- (2) The fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the budget that he would consider introducing charges on single use plastic items in order to reduce waste.

Can the Cabinet Member please inform the Council:

- (a) How many single use cups this Council uses in a year, including the restaurant facilities, in all the council's buildings;
- (b) What efforts are being made currently to encourage the use of reusable cups; and
- (c) What contingency plans he is making in readiness for any charge that the Chancellor may introduce?

#### Answer

- (a) The Council, and its catering contractor partners, purchased a total of approximately 111,000 single-use cups over the 12-month period December 2016 to December 2017. These cups are used in County Hall Chichester, Parkside Horsham, Durban House Bognor and Centenary House Durrington.
- (b) Customers are encouraged to bring their own cup to be filled, avoiding the requirement for a single-use cup to be used. There are various discount schemes in place to encourage this, such as 20p off each drink at the point of sale, or double loyalty stamps that then give free drinks. At some outlets reusable cups are on sale at cost-price for customers to purchase and then reuse. However these cups, although only a few pounds, have not proved popular. The observation is that customers have this style of cups at home, as well as mugs in their workplace, and will bring those to the restaurant in order to avoid the single-use cup, rather than purchase another reusable cup.

The discount and loyalty stamp schemes are clearly advertised and proactively encouraged at point of sale, and have become popular with some staff. Currently, however, the need for a blend of 'bring your own cup', and the ability to buy a drink in a cup to take out is required, to give the flexibility to meet with our customers' requirements.

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- (c) The Council will continue to monitor the opportunity to increase incentive schemes, and the rates of those schemes, to encourage customers to use reusable cups, rather than single-use. Any additional single-use cup charge introduced by the Chancellor is likely to need to be passed on to the customer and as a result may make the existing cup reuse loyalty schemes more attractive. The County Council will continue to actively encourage restaurant visitors to partake in its existing schemes, while continuing to offer what its customers require from the service.

**4. Written question from Mr S J Oakley for reply by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

### Question

In relation to the West Sussex Business Rates Pool, could the following information be provided:

- (a) Since its formation, how much additional Business Rates have been retained for use within West Sussex via this pool;
- (b) To date, on what have these proceeds been allocated and spent;
- (c) What have been the outcomes from expenditure (including what evidence has been obtained);
- (d) What projects are currently being considered for funding from this pool; and
- (e) What outcomes (and means of evidencing) are being sought for the projects referred to in d) above?

### Answer

- (a) The additional business rates retained within West Sussex amounts to £7.2m, which includes the estimated business rates from the current year. The sum for this year will only be confirmed after the year-end. A contribution made by the County Council in 2015/16 of £0.5m makes the sum available £7.7m.
- (b) The allocations made are provided in the table below:

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<b>TABLE: PROCEEDS AND EXPENDITURE/COMMITMENTS</b>				
	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Expenditure and Commitments to date</b>				
1 Local Enterprise Partnership subscriptions from West Sussex authorities	0.196	0.196	0.306	<b>0.698</b>
2 Visitor Economy	0.345			<b>0.345</b>
3 Maximising EU grant funding	0.095			<b>0.095</b>
4 Devolution project contribution	0.050			<b>0.050</b>
5 Gigabite Project (to improve digital infrastructure for public services): feasibility work		0.400		<b>0.400</b>
6 Local Enterprise and Apprenticeship Platform (micro grants to small businesses)		0.500		<b>0.500</b>
7 100% business rate Pilot Bid costs			0.007	<b>0.007</b>
8 Administration costs	0.015	0.015	0.025	<b>0.055</b>
<b>Recently agreed</b>				
9 Journey to Work (support for those furthest from the labour market)			0.290	<b>0.290</b>
10 Local Enterprise and Apprenticeship Platform (micro grants to small business)			0.500	<b>0.500</b>
11 West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board (support for work on planning and investment issues across local authorities)			0.450	<b>0.450</b>
12 Training and Support Programme for Retail Business (retail training to independent high street businesses and shop front improvements)			0.384	<b>0.384</b>
13 University of Chichester project for EU funding for economic priorities (in principle agreed, but subject to further work)			0.405	<b>0.405</b>
14 Local Government Association Legal costs re: NHS appeal on business rates charitable status (contribution held pending an invoice from the LGA)			0.010	<b>0.010</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.701</b>	<b>1.111</b>	<b>2.377</b>	<b>4.188</b>
<b>Submitted for consideration</b>				
15 Support for West Sussex cycling strategy			0.500	

(c) Where spent on a project, the authority leading the project submits the outcome. Outcomes from spending to date (items 1 to 7) have included:

- Continuing support for the work of the LEP and its economic development activities by local authorities;
- A digital marketing campaign and web platform that is targeting people from outside the area to visit the county. Evaluation last year from the project indicated that for £0.1m of investment there was a return of almost £1m to the local economy from visitors;
- A high-level product development plan that will help West Sussex authorities bid for external funding to improve local tourism products;
- The procurement of external EU Funding expertise which is being used to identify, scope and develop EU projects which support the economic priorities of the County Council and the West Sussex district and borough councils. This includes an upcoming European Regional Development Fund opportunity worth potentially up to £10m;

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- Improved IT connectivity by securing high capacity and future proof connectivity for the County Council to all its sites for a long term (20 years) as well as other public sector bodies;
  - Small-scale grant support provided to small business to help them grow and expand. Each £1 of grant has helped generate £1.63 of matched funding. It is quite early to be specific on success stories with this support, but there is anecdotal evidence for instance around the grant helping a small business acquire premises and take on three staff and an apprentice; and
  - Project costs for the West Sussex 100% business rate retention pilot area bid which may secure a gain of up to £20m in business rates retained locally, if agreed by the Government.
- (d) These are listed in the above table.
- (e) Outcomes sought from the further projects (9 to 15) listed are as follows:
- Assistance to those furthest from the labour market to help in overcoming barriers as part of their journey back to employment;
  - Further provision of micro grants to support small businesses;
  - Funding to help the work of the West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board in considering planning and economic issues across multiple authorities;
  - Offering retail training support to independent high street businesses as well as funding assistance towards physical improvements to shop fronts;
  - Match funding to help the University of Chichester in a series of bids for different EU funding streams worth potentially £12m; and
  - A bid yet to be considered that (if supported) would help fund the West Sussex cycling and walking strategy and a cycleway between Littlehampton and Arundel.

Those authorities leading on each project will be asked for a report on the outcomes, which can be used to report to the county-wide Chief Executive's group. As these projects are only recently agreed this will be expected next year.

### 5. Written question from **Mr Quinn** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

#### Question

Just three years ago, 'to build safer and stronger communities', the Chief Fire Officer also became the Executive Director Communities and Public Protection. In 2014/15 that cost the Council £153,590.

This year, the Cabinet decided that this role now required two people at a combined cost of £372,000 (Chief Fire Officer - £179,000 and Executive Director - £193,000).

Not only has the total cost more than doubled, but the two posts represent a 17%

and 26% increase on the cost of the single post, despite each new post having less responsibility.

Can the Cabinet Member explain why the combined post was considered such a failure and why less responsibility for each post justifies such significant salary increases, especially at a time when the vast majority of other Council staff are restricted to 1% pay increases?

### **Answer**

The costs that are being compared are not on a like-for-like basis. The figure quoted as the 2014/15 cost does not include all on-costs such as National Insurance (NI) contributions. The £372,000 includes all on-costs such as allowances for NI. The actual salary costs for the now separated posts are £130,000 for the Chief Fire Officer and a maximum of £150,000 for the Executive Director.

The decision to appoint to a combined post was largely driven by the skills and experience of the individual in post at that time. Once that person decided not to take up the role it was necessary to rethink the balance of responsibilities and the reversion to the original model of a separate Chief Fire Officer was also informed by the desire to re-emphasise the position of the Fire and Rescue service within the Council – an issue that was recently the subject of a report to the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee.

The change has not led to an overall increase in the senior management costs as adjustments have been made across the whole of the senior management team and the replacement of interim arrangements with permanent appointments.

### **6. Written question from Mr Jones for reply by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure**

#### **Question**

I have been contacted by a local constituent who lives in a controlled parking zone within my division. The lady in question recently attempted to pay for her permit by direct debit but has been informed it is no longer possible for her to do so, as the County Council will be migrating to a new on-line system and direct debits are not compatible.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that those customers who do not have access to facilities to pay for their parking permits on-line, or indeed do not wish to apply and pay on-line, will still have the option to pay by direct debit in the future?

#### **Answer**

In Crawley, applicants for parking permits can currently pay by cash, cheque or over the telephone. From the beginning of the next financial year an online payments system will be added. Crawley Borough Council (CBC) will not be reverting to direct debit (previously one annual payment) in the near future.

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All applicants will now receive a permit renewal letter and it will give the option of coming in to the CBC Offices, e-mailing, telephoning or renewing online.

### 7. Written question from **Mr Jones** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities**

#### Question

I was dismayed to learn that with effect from 1 January 2018 the only printed newspaper available in the 12 tier one to four libraries will be the Times newspaper, for the 11 tier five libraries it will be the 'I' newspaper, and in the 13 tier 6 libraries their daily national newspapers will no longer be available. In addition the three Asian language newspapers in Crawley libraries are to be cancelled along with four religious newspapers currently available in Chichester and Worthing. I understand the total annual saving as a result of these changes amounts to just over £13,000 per annum across the whole county.

Whilst I note there has been a survey of existing users and there is an on-going pilot to support and encourage customers to access newspapers on-line, I remain concerned about the impact this change will have on customers, particularly given the relatively small saving it will deliver.

Indeed, for some residents this change could be a step too far and result in them no longer visiting the library, potentially further exacerbating their social isolation.

- (a) Can the Cabinet Member provide me with what evidence she has to demonstrate the savings to be gained outweigh the social value benefits of this resource for our residents?
- (b) Given that libraries are supposed to be a place where people seek knowledge and up to date information, surely a fair range of recent print newspapers, immediately accessible to everyone who attends the library, is an integral part of our county's Library service offering?
- (c) Surely the libraries serving towns with the population sizes that they currently have, should benefit from free at the point of access print newspapers? What about the need to recognise that there may well be a range of perspectives across the mainstream British media, and that our residents may appreciate some choice?
- (d) Moreover, does the Cabinet Member agree that a damaging message is being made publicly with this cut, and surely as a Council we should be promoting the principle of paid-for, quality print journalism and recognise that such things are necessary to help support decent standards in news reporting?
- (e) Surely this action by the Council just adds to the decline of print media when even public institutions such as ours are failing to support paid for content, which it surely has been up until now, if it is now no longer made available for an entire community to enjoy?

### Answer

The use of printed newspapers in libraries has fallen dramatically over the last five years and continues to fall as digital options increase. Last year West Sussex libraries received six million visits, of which three million were to library sites and three million were digital. The Library Service is focused on maintaining access to information for citizens irrespective of the medium and to make sound decisions based on value for money for all of our council tax payers.

Thus, the recent decision to reduce the number of paper copies of national newspapers from our libraries has been developed from a review of extensive evidence around real time use including a customer survey.

An important consideration in this decision was the growing usage of the library service subscription via digital application [PressReader](#), an online newspaper service which gives library customers access to digital editions of 5,000 titles from 120 countries in 60 languages. This also includes a wide range of British daily papers including The Express, The Guardian, The Mail, The Mirror and The Star. The County Council is currently exploring the possibility of making this available to customers from home – not just in the library as part of the Digital Library Plus project.

The survey and usage trends around PressReader has helped guide the County Council to retain key titles, those most used by residents and to cancel those with very little usage. At the same time, proactive work to encourage customers to access the PressReader service, to access newspapers online utilising tablets and 121 supports has been delivered in tandem to reduce the impact on individuals.

- (a) I absolutely agree there is a social benefit to both using libraries and accessing the news, but we have to balance the requirement to make savings with the likely impact on customers. Reducing book stock impacts on many more people than reducing the number of printed papers and we are doing all we can to mitigate that reduction while also encouraging digital access.
- (b) We are offering access to a huge range of news sources to all residents via PressReader, along with support to access them on digital devices and library computers and we are maintaining a national paper and the local paper in hard copy.
- (c) The Times is one of the few national dailies not available on PressReader and was the most popular in our month-long survey. Residents can access a whole range of daily papers online. By Christmas we intend that library members will have the added advantage of being able to access PressReader from anywhere on their own device.
- (d) It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the standards and quality of journalism.
- (e) Print journalism has been in decline for some years. The digital versions available to West Sussex residents via PressReader give everyone access to an ever increasing range of news sources from this country as well as abroad.

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### 8. Written question from **Ms Lord** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities**

#### Question

At full Council on 15 October 2017, the amended motion on libraries was carried. This specifically stated that "This Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities while working on the forthcoming '21st Century Libraries' programme to guarantee that there are no plans for West Sussex County Council to reduce access to library services for the residents of West Sussex, continuing to be delivered from 36 hubs."

Less than a month later, on 13 November 2017, a meeting was held between West Sussex County Council officers and a local developer. At this meeting the developer stated that they have considered the possibility of purchasing the library from West Sussex County Council. West Sussex County Council officers stated that there were no plans to sell the library site but that the Council would consider details of any proposal that the developer may put forward.

The Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities has since clarified in writing that "The only reason the County Council might enter into further discussions with the developer concerning Hassocks Library is if they could offer us the opportunity, at no additional cost, to move to suitable alternative premises in a favourable location for residents"

In the light of these discussions around the future of Hassocks library, can the Cabinet Member confirm:

- (a) That the future of all 36 libraries across West Sussex, not just Hassocks, is secure in line with the motion carried on 15 October;
- (b) That the Council's response to any inquiry about the availability of library sites will be that there are no plans to sell any of our libraries, and that the Council will not make any statement to developers or other interested parties which suggests that such proposals will be considered; and
- (c) That the Council will not make an assessment of any proposal to sell a library site, other than where the opportunity involves a relocation, at no additional cost to the Council, to suitable alternative premises within the same community?

#### Answer

- (a) In line with the County Council's published Notice of Motion I am happy "to guarantee that there are no plans for West Sussex County Council to reduce access to library services for the residents of West Sussex, continuing to be delivered from 36 hubs."
- (b) & (c) The only reason the County Council might enter into discussions with any developer concerning a library building is if they could offer the opportunity, at no additional cost, to move to suitable alternative premises in a favourable location for residents. I am sure you would join me in wishing

to keep an open mind in seeking the best possible access to library services for West Sussex residents.

**9. Written question from Mrs Mullins for reply by the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities**

**Question**

I was dismayed to read the background and context that led to the need for the County Council to terminate the leases and site management contracts relating to nine West Sussex Gypsy, Roma and Travellers sites on 6 November 2017. Particularly given that the need to take such action quickly has meant that residents of the sites were denied the opportunity to be consulted on the changes and members were denied the opportunity to scrutinise the proposed course of action.

I am pleased that the County Council has resumed direct management responsibility for them, but am extremely concerned about the impact this situation has had on the residents of the sites in question who appear to have been very poorly treated over the past few years as a result of the outsourcing of these arrangements, both in terms of their liaison with the contractor and the dilapidation of the sites they live on.

I would be grateful if the Cabinet Member could tell me:

- (a) When due diligence checks were carried out in respect of the contractor prior to the leases having been signed and contracts let and how soon after the leases and contracts were let issues with the contractor arose?
- (b) Whether any re-payments have been forthcoming since the Cabinet Member decision was published in respect of either the income due from the sites or indeed contributions to the West Sussex Pension Fund?
- (c) About the findings of the site surveys conducted so far?
- (d) How many complaints to the County Council about the way the sites were being managed and maintained have been made by residents of the sites since 2014; and
- (e) Whether the Council has continued to fulfil its obligation under Article 8 of the Human Rights Convention (the duty to have regard to the right to private life home and correspondence, in particular as it relates to the quality and nature of the accommodation provided), and the general anti-discriminatory obligation in Article 14 in respect of the residents on these sites during the period 1 October 2014 to 6 November 2017.

**Answer**

- (a) The County Council undertook a comprehensive procurement process, as per Standing Order requirements, ahead of letting the contract in 2014.

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This included consultation with residents, discussions with other Local authorities who had contractual arrangements and location visits to sites run by the contractor elsewhere in the country. Gypsy and Traveller Support organisations were engaged as part of the consultation process and participated in the interview panel.

The County Council was in on-going discussions with HSSA, the previous provider of the site management contract, to ensure that any issues raised about the performance of the contract were resolved. Since the early part of 2017 Council officers have worked more closely with HSSA to try to ensure that there was a sustainable site management operating model that delivered against all contract requirements. The Council will not know the level of dilapidations until the site reports have been completed. The financial issues have been a growing problem and were addressed through the formal contractual processes, but it only became clear recently that these could not be resolved through discussion.

- (b) County Court proceedings have been issued and served in respect of monies due to the Council and the Court process is ongoing. Further proceedings may be necessary following the findings from the dilapidations surveys which have been commissioned on each site.
- (c) The County Council has commissioned a number of surveys across each of the nine sites which will include detailed recommendations regarding electrical, drainage and building condition. Council officers are currently working with property and Facilities Management teams to ensure this work is prioritised and completed in a planned and managed way.
- (d) Council officers are not aware of any formal complaints made by residents in respect of the running of the sites between 2014 and July 2017. They would have been dealt with by HSSA. Since the start of July 2017 the Council has received correspondence from residents, residents' associations and councillors about the future management of the site that were responded to as far as the Council was able in line with the clauses in the site management contract.
- (e) The County Council's site management arrangements and the contract with HSSA cover the provision of affordable and accessible pitches and communal facilities, including power and water, at the nine sites the Council currently provides. Each tenant then individually secures the property they actually live in, for example a caravan. The County Council believes that its current arrangements do provide a level of security and certainty for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities on the sites and, by securing and maintaining these facilities for this community and by intervening in the way the Council has done recently to take back responsibility for the sites, the Council's Human Rights and Equality obligations are to the fore in the factors taken into consideration.

### **Agenda Item No. 9 - Question Time**

Members asked questions of members the Cabinet and chairmen as set out below. In instances where a Cabinet Member, the Leader or a chairman undertook to take follow-up action, this is also noted below.

#### **Best Start in Life**

Paragraph 1, Improvement in Ofsted Inspection Outcomes (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills), from Mr Turner.

Paragraph 2, Unicef 'Baby Friendly' accreditation in West Sussex (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), from Mrs Arculus, Mrs Jones, Mrs Millson and Ms Lord.

In response to a question from Ms Lord, about the breastfeeding initiation rate, the six-month rate and what plans there were to increase the numbers, the Cabinet Member said he would respond after the meeting.

Paragraph 3, Improvements within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), from Mr Wickremaratchi.

Social Mobility State of the Nation Report (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills), from Mrs Mullins.

Children Looked After (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), from Mr Marshall.

#### **A Prosperous Place**

Paragraphs 7, Winter Resilience and Mobilisation, and 8, Highways Termed Maintenance Contract (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure), from Dr Dennis.

Dr Dennis asked about the reduction in the salting network from 41% to 28% and how the included network would be determined. The Cabinet Member agreed to consider an idea that a minimum of one route for every village in the county should be salted.

Dr Dennis also asked about the storage of salt, particularly at the Midhurst depot where it was claimed that salt had been stored in the open and washed away in periods of heavy rain. The Cabinet Member said he would find out and respond to Dr Dennis.

Paragraph 8, Highways Termed Maintenance Contract (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure), from Mr Jones, Mr S J Oakley and Mr Patel.

Desk-top studies in response to planning applications as strategic highways authority (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure), from Mr Purchase.

Mr Purchase raised a question about the potential detrimental effect of reliance upon desk-top studies by the Council as highways authority in response to

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planning applications and, in particular, a recent application in Sea Lane, Rustington where it was claimed site visit requests from the Parish Council and local residents were ignored. The Cabinet Member said he would look into the specific case raised and what could be learned for the future and respond to Mr Purchase.

West Street, Chichester resurfacing (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure), from Mr Quinn and Mr S J Oakley.

In response to a question from Mr Quinn about problems with the quality of materials used in the recent resurfacing of West Street, Chichester, whether samples had been tested and if there were any stock piles of the material, the Cabinet Member said he would respond on whether and how materials had been checked and also whether there were any stocks of the material held at depots.

In response to a question from Mr Oakley about recent resurfacing at St Pancras in Chichester and whether the material used in that resurfacing involved the same batch of material, the Cabinet Member said he would check and let him know.

### **A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place**

Paragraph 10, Trading Standards (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities), from Mr Oxlade.

In relation to a question from Mr Oxlade about the effectiveness of the service given the reduction in locality officers, the Cabinet Member agreed to supply him with comparative figures.

Paragraph 15, Fly-tipping Pilot (Cabinet Member for Environment), from Mr Barling, Mr Jones and Mr S J Oakley.

Future plans for West Sussex grants (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities), from Mr Oppler.

In response to a question from Mr Oppler about future plans for West Sussex grant funding, the Cabinet Member said she would send him a copy of the questions that had been asked at the recent members' day and County Local Committee chairmen's meeting.

### **Independence in Later Life**

Central co-ordination for support for older people (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health), from Mrs Jones.

Ambulance response and pressure on NHS supplies (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health), from Mrs Millson.

In response to a question from Mrs Millson in relation national reports of shortages of drugs within the pharmacy network, particularly for those with epilepsy and mental health problems, the Cabinet Member said she would investigate to see if there was an issue in West Sussex and respond to Mrs Millson.

### **A Council that works for the Community**

Paragraph 22, One Public Estate (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities), from Mr Jones.

In response to a question from Mr Jones about whether the possibility of repositioning the Crawley Fire Station had been considered, the Cabinet Member said she would find out and respond to him.

Paragraph 25 and Written Question 4, West Sussex Business Rates Pool (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources), from Mr S J Oakley.