

**Cabinet Report: Current and recent Business – Supplementary**

# Start of Life

## Stephen Hillier Children – Start of Life



### **23 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children**

The Cabinet Member is pleased to endorse the work which the County Council is undertaking, in partnership with district and borough councils and the voluntary sector, to support the eight Syrian families now living in the county. A further three families are expected over the next two months and a fourth family will be 'hosted' through an innovative partnership with a local church community. The County Council remains reliant on the availability of suitable housing to be able to bring families into the county. The County Council is already looking after 76 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, mainly from the Middle East and North Africa region, and has responded positively to every request made under the National Transfer Scheme. The County Council will continue to balance its response to a humanitarian crisis with the needs of children from local communities, and supports the Government's intentions to move activity to the refugee camps in Turkey and surrounding region in order to prevent children and young people from undertaking perilous journeys to Northern Europe.

# The Economy

## Louise Goldsmith Economy



### **24 Novartis site development**

Following the County Council's acquisition of the site formerly owned by global healthcare company Novartis, in Horsham, work has commenced to achieve the County Council's ambition to provide a significant boost to the West Sussex economy, through transforming the site into a quality employment and residential development. Over the next six to nine months, the County Council will work with commercial advisors to finalise the vision and proposition for the site, including the health and life sciences proposition and commence work

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(Links marked with an \* are to documents in pdf format)

towards securing outline planning consent. Further detailed work on the delivery plan and commercial arrangements will follow. A business case has been submitted to the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership for a £3.66m Local Growth Fund allocation towards the acquisition of the site and the outcome of the bid will be known later in February.

## Leader

### Louise Goldsmith



#### 25 Industrial Strategy

The County Council is sponsoring a research paper on the Industrial Strategy by the think tank, Localis. The project aims to offer a pragmatic plan to help the Government make decisions on the emergent Industrial Strategy. The County Council has submitted a response to the Localis 'call for evidence', which will form the basis of the report. As project sponsors, the County Council is also engaged in an ongoing dialogue with Localis throughout the drafting of the report and the Leader is a member of the Editorial Board. The Board had its first meeting in January where it highlighted the importance of having an appropriately skilled workforce to enable strong economic growth locally. The Leader will continue to contribute to the Board's work to highlight the economic challenges and priorities of West Sussex.

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#### Background Papers

None