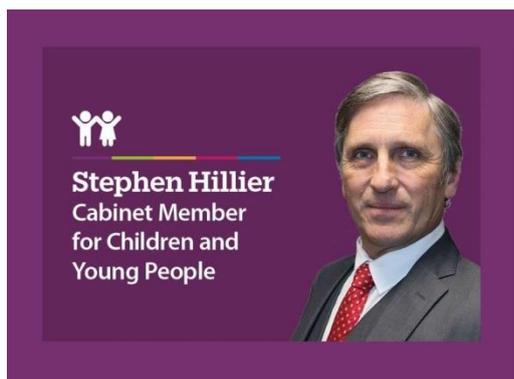


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Cabinet Report: Delivering the West Sussex Plan 2017-22



BEST START IN LIFE



All children and young people are ready for school and work

1 Education Select Committee Inquiry into support for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

The County Council submitted written evidence to the Education Select Committee's Inquiry into support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Inquiry aims to review the success of the Government's reforms to the SEND system, how they have been implemented and what impact they are having in meeting the challenges faced by children and young people with SEND. The County Council's response highlighted the challenges that the reforms have brought for meeting timescales for transferring statements to Education, Health and Care Plans and the need to address increasing demands with diminishing funds. The issue of the considerable pressure on the High Needs Block and the £6m funding gap which the County Council is facing over the next three years was also raised. The County Council emphasised that it has embraced the spirit of the SEND reforms and has focused on working with families to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.



Families and children have a healthy family, home and work life

2 Oral Health in Children and Young People (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)

Oral health is an important contributor to overall health. Having strong teeth and healthy gums enables a person to eat, speak and socialise without distress or embarrassment. These daily functions also impact on general health and wellbeing and can affect children and young people as they develop. The National

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Institute of Health and Care Excellence has outlined key [recommendations*](#) to help local authorities to improve oral health in their areas. Although West Sussex has a lower prevalence of dental decay in five-year-old children compared to the national average (15.1% and 23.3% respectively), the Public Health Directorate has developed an Oral Health Needs Assessment for Children and Young People to identify the standard of oral health of children and young people across the county and discover whether variation exists between districts and boroughs. It will also review the risk factors associated with poor oral health, including any barriers to accessing dental services. The final report will highlight priority areas to inform a strategy to improve oral health for the residents of West Sussex.

3 Healthy Eating (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)

Obesity is a major public health problem costing the County Council and partner agencies approximately £415m annually. With over 100 factors contributing to obesity, as outlined by the [Foresight Report](#), the role of local authorities in tackling this is crucial. These factors include everyday habits and behaviours, such as eating too much unhealthy food, not being active enough and environmental factors that may affect individuals' nutrition and physical activity. Over 60% of adults in West Sussex are overweight or obese, as are 20% of children starting school and 30% starting secondary school. The County Council supports the national Public Health England campaigns of [Change4life](#) and [One You](#) which provide free information advice and 'apps' to support families and working age adults to make healthier choices about what they eat and how to be more active. Over the summer months residents will be encouraged to take up the 'Active' 10 challenge, downloading the Active 10 app assesses walking pace, whilst children and young people will have the opportunity to 'Train Like a Jedi' with the summer Change4life campaign. Information will be arriving in schools shortly.



Access to education that meets the needs of our community

4 Home Education – Call for Evidence (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

The County Council has responded to the Government's [call for evidence](#) on Elective Home Education. This seeks views on whether the current arrangements for oversight of elective home education are adequate in ensuring the aspiration that all children are safe and receive a good education. In its response the County Council explained that the current guidance makes identification and engagement with home-educating families difficult. The response suggested improvements to the current arrangements which would bring clarity to the role of the local authority and its duty to home-educated children. For example, requiring all home-educating families to register with the County Council, with clear expectations on the nature of engagement for both the County Council and the families and a definition of what a child's home educating experience should encompass. It is hoped that the Government's response will acknowledge the need for a change to the current arrangements and ensure that there is a choice of education that meets the needs of the whole community.

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5 Expanding Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

The County Council has welcomed the recent [government announcement](#) that £50m of funding will be made available nationally to create additional school places and 'state-of-the art' facilities for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), helping to meet increasing demand. The County Council will receive over £750,000 of additional funding, bringing the total monies allocated to invest in SEND provision in West Sussex for the next three-year period to just in excess of £4m. The Government requires local authorities to complete and publish a short plan that sets out how they intend to invest their allocation. This has been achieved in consultation with schools, parents and partners, through creation of the [West Sussex Special Provision Capital Fund Plan*](#). The priorities identified in the Plan include expanding existing or opening new Special Support Centres and extending or adapting provision at existing Special Schools. Delivery of these projects will contribute to meeting the increasing demand for places and assist in fulfilling the aim that all children and young people with SEND have access to good quality education within West Sussex.



Children and young people are able to thrive

6 Education Select Committee: Life Chances Inquiry (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

The County Council submitted written evidence to the Education Select Committee's Life Chances Inquiry. The Inquiry aims to understand the impact that early years education and social policy have on determining children's life chances. The Committee will use the evidence gathered to make recommendations to the Government to promote social justice. The County Council's response highlighted the West Sussex approach to giving children the best start in life and the way in which services have been redesigned into an Integrated and Earliest Help Service which brings all relevant services together into one system. The way in which the County Council is proactively identifying additional needs and risk and managing demand was emphasised. This will lead to cost reduction and will ensure outcomes are improved and problems tackled before they become more difficult to reverse. This will avoid expensive, acute and specialist services by meeting families' needs and building their resilience. The need for certainty around 'Think Family' funding beyond 2020 was also highlighted in the response.

7 Annual Performance Data for the West Sussex Youth Offending Service (YOS) 2017/18 (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Recent results show that the County Council is performing well in preventing and tackling youth offending. The three national performance indicators evaluated are reducing first time entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system, reducing the use of custody and reducing reoffending. The County Council's rate of FTEs has continued to decline from 235 to 197 per 100,000 of the age 10 to 17 population. This demonstrates the impact of the YOS Out of Court disposal work and increased use of Community Resolutions, which act as diversionary interventions for children who have admitted an offence, and does not result in a criminal record. Custodial sentences have remained low with one young person sentenced

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to custody, replicating the previous year. West Sussex YOS has also continued to improve performance in reducing reoffending. Only 35% of the children working with the YOS reoffend which compares with 38.4% for the County Council's statistical neighbours and 42.1% nationally. There is a drive to further reduce current reoffending of children by developing a 'single front door' to ensure consistent and high quality assessments which enable the early identification of those children most likely to offend and cause harm in the community.

8 Recognition for the Young Carers Service Volunteers (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Volunteers who provide support to young carers have received the prestigious [Queen's Award for Voluntary Service](#), the highest award given to volunteer groups, which recognises the outstanding contributions they make to local communities. The volunteers who received the honour enhance the support offered by the County Council's [Young Carers Service](#) and make a huge difference to the lives of the young carers. Some volunteers become mentors, working with the young people to help develop their life skills, for example by offering advice on how to create a CV. Other volunteers offer a transport service, driving the young people to a support group where they can meet up with other young carers, have a much needed break and an opportunity to have fun. The invaluable service offered by the volunteers can make the difference that enables these young people to thrive, whilst they dedicate so much of their time to supporting members of their family who rely on them.

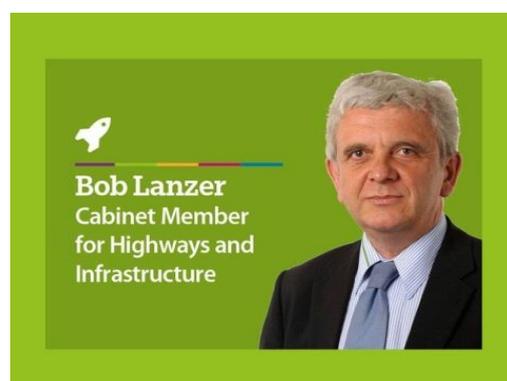
9 Social Mobility in Shire Counties Inquiry: A Joint Inquiry by the County All Party Parliamentary Group, County Councils Network and Localis (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Social mobility was identified as a major issue facing parts of the county in the [Social Mobility Commission November 2017 report*](#). Although Mid Sussex was identified as being in the top 50% of local authority areas, Chichester and Arun were placed in the bottom 20% and Crawley in the bottom 10%. In May 2018 the County Council submitted evidence to the Social Mobility in Shire Counties Inquiry and, in early July, the Cabinet Member attended a roundtable event at the Houses of Parliament to present oral evidence. The joint Inquiry aims to assess what opportunities are available to young people in county areas. The current school funding criteria presents West Sussex with a major obstacle to addressing social mobility, being the lowest funded county council and the fourth lowest funded local authority nationally. Affordable housing is another obstacle to social mobility with all West Sussex local government areas within the bottom 50% on the affordable housing index. The Inquiry will highlight the issues impacting social mobility in counties and propose solutions to the Government.

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A PROSPEROUS PLACE



A place where businesses thrive

10 Bognor Creative Digital Hub – MP visit (Leader/Economy)

On 22 June the Leader and MP Nick Gibb visited the Bognor Regis creative digital hub to hear an update on progress and look at detailed plans for the fit-out of the building's interior. The hub will provide a creative, flexible workspace for emerging creative and digital businesses and on completion will accommodate a membership of approximately 150 businesses at any one time. The hub is an initiative led by the County Council, and is being delivered in conjunction with Hemingway Design, Town Square Spaces and Arun District Council. The hub is a key project to help grow the local economy in and around Bognor Regis and is expected to open later this year.



Infrastructure that supports a successful economy

11 Bus Strategy Consultation Results (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)

An eight-week public consultation has been undertaken to seek views on the draft Bus Strategy 2018-26 identifying priorities for future County Council support and funding. The results, including wide-ranging comments, will be analysed by the Executive Task and Finish Group (TFG) set up to help determine the future direction and to review existing bus services support. Approximately 1,300 responses were received either online or on paper from bus users, local councils and many interested groups. Non-bus users also had the opportunity to comment. 42% of responses were from older people and 22% identified themselves as having a disability or illness. A long list of priorities was ranked for importance to help the TFG with the top three being:

- Prioritise investment in good accessible bus infrastructure for bus users;
- Give buses priority over other travel modes when congestion occurs; and
- Work with all tiers of local government in seeking funding for prioritised local bus and community transport services.

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The main concerns raised were:

- Isolation of rural communities;
- Infrequency/unreliability of buses;
- Need for integrated travel system; and
- Bus fares too expensive

The TFG will consider the responses and, if needed, recommend amendments to the draft strategy. Then all supported bus services will be reviewed to see how they align with the strategy and a further consultation will take place in the autumn to assess the impact of any planned changes.

12 A27 Chichester: Submission to the Government's Roads Investment Strategy (RIS) (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)

The Cabinet Member has written to the Chief Executive of Highways England following the conclusion of the current stage of the 'Build A Better A27' initiative. The aim of the initiative has been to build local consensus for improvements to the A27 at Chichester. The Cabinet Member has decided to promote the Mitigated Northern Route to Highways England as the County Council's preference for an A27 Chichester scheme in RIS2 but also requested that the Full Southern Route should be developed as a reasonable alternative. Following the 2019 Spending Review, the Government will decide whether to include a scheme for Chichester in RIS2 and, if appropriate, set the budget range.

13 Govia Thameslink Railway – timetable disruption (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)

The Cabinet Member has written to the Chief Executive of Govia Thameslink Railway and the South East Route Manager Director for Network Rail to express serious concerns about ongoing disruption to rail services affecting passengers in West Sussex following the introduction of the new rail timetable on 20 May. The letter highlighted concerns about the impacts on residents, visitors and businesses resulting from high levels of service cancellations and delays affecting thousands of journeys every day. The Cabinet Member has also met Network Rail to express these concerns and request that lessons are learnt and that passengers are adequately compensated.



A Place that provides opportunity for all

14 Care Worker Recruitment (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)

The County Council is working actively to encourage more people to consider a job in care. A campaign has been running across the County since 2016. This has been based on targeting six communities with promotions and events held across the county. From those 250 people expressed an interest to work in care, 33 people applied for interviews and 11 people were recruited which led to approximately 11,300 additional hours in the care market per annum.

Recognising the importance of this area of work, further investment has been made for a further two years to focus on a range of priority areas including working directly with care providers on their own priorities around training, recruitment and retention; working with the NHS; promoting career pathways including apprenticeships; and continuing to run more community campaigns in

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Chichester, Billingshurst and Pulborough, Worthing and a county wide campaign aimed at students. The Chichester campaign has been running over the last six weeks with an event to be held on 17 July in the area. Prospective job seekers were contacted in advance of the event using postcard door-drops, social media advertising, display banners and advertisements in local publications.



A skilled workforce for West Sussex

15 Developing a skilled workforce through the Apprenticeship Levy (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

The County Council continues to work with West Sussex schools and its corporate services to increase the number of apprenticeships. There are currently 66 active apprentices, 33 of these are in schools. There is a focus on converting existing qualifications or development training, resulting in a 50/50 split between new recruits and those studying apprenticeships as part of their continuing professional development. In addition to working with directorates to develop a three-year plan for apprentices, a 'sponsored qualification' scheme has recently been launched where staff can apply to undertake an appropriate qualification as part of an apprenticeship. Forty applications are now under consideration under this arrangement. The County Council has recently become an Approved Employer Provider for apprenticeships, which will allow it to deliver apprenticeship qualifications to its own employees. Work is progressing towards delivering Social Care Apprenticeships (levels 2 and 3) in the new financial year. The County Council continues to work with other local authorities and the Local Government Association to share learning and expertise.



A STRONG, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE



Strong communities

16 @WSCCLibraries (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)

Following its very popular Facebook page the West Sussex Library Service has launched its own Twitter account. It went live on 7 June with the aim of raising

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awareness of the range and variety of library services and activities available to West Sussex residents. In the opening two weeks 45 tweets were sent gathering 200 followers. A mixture of community news and book reviews was shared. Tweets tied in with relevant world-wide news (e.g. the World Cup) and promoted different areas of the library service such as the new [press reader](#) offer. Residents were particularly engaged with tweets concerning a dementia support event at Bognor Library and also an audio book event at Horsham Library. It is hoped that this additional method of communicating library news and event information will help residents to engage with the whole range of services West Sussex libraries have to offer. The libraries twitter feed can be followed @WSCCLibraries.

17 Registration Service (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)

The General Register Office (GRO) has congratulated the West Sussex Registration Service on service achievements documented in its Annual Performance Report stating "it is pleasing to note the high level of service achieved by the local authority during the past year". The GRO report highlighted the excellent achievements in customer service and both the statutory delivery and operational standards. It also reported on the high assurance level that the County Council provides in relation to the Public Protection and Counter-fraud Framework. The GRO also noted that the public highly values the West Sussex Registration Service, with 98% of surveyed customers stating they were 'very satisfied' with the service they received. In 2017/18 the West Sussex Registration Service carried out over 2,900 ceremonies, took 6,150 notices of intent to marry, welcomed 900 new citizens to West Sussex, registered 8,600 births, over 9,600 deaths and issued over 6,800 copy certificates. The Service will continue to build on its recognised achievements.

18 Blue Badge Scheme (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)

The County Council has been working to improve the delivery of the Blue Badge scheme which enables disabled people with severe mobility problems to park close to services or facilities that they need. Improvements are aimed at ensuring that the service is fair and robust and not to the detriment of genuine users. Blue Badge misuse is estimated to be at one in five of all badges nationally. To tackle this, the Internal Audit team has financed a series of on-street Blue Badge enforcement operations. As a result of these, four individuals have been successfully prosecuted for the misuse of Blue Badges and with the support of [Community Resolutions](#), 42 others have been educated and formally warned. In addition to this improvement work, the Department for Transport has begun investigative work on widening the eligibility criteria for Blue Badges issued in England. This would lead to an amendment of the legislation in order that people with non-physical disabilities are included. The County Council already welcomes applications from disabled people with non-physical disabilities, which are assessed on a case-by-case basis in line with legislation.

19 Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club (Leader)

In June the Leader attended the Littlehampton Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club (AFVBC). The AFVBC began as a local initiative in 2007 and is now a national network, set up to provide an opportunity for veterans, serving members of the Armed Forces and their families to meet up in an informal setting and provide a network of support. The Littlehampton branch has gained

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72 members since its opening four months ago, showing the importance and the value of the club to veterans. The County Council was one of the first councils in the South East to sign up to the Military Covenant and is a silver award holder, demonstrating the County Council's on-going commitment to supporting and helping veterans into civilian life.



Sustainable environment

20 Westminster Energy Environment and Transport Forum (Leader)

In June the Leader gave a presentation at the Next Steps for Localised Energy Policy and Community Energy Keynote Seminar in London to outline the County Council's plans to ensure that West Sussex is a green and clean county. The Leader highlighted the significant role that local authorities have in influencing the energy market to ensure that energy remains affordable, reliable and sustainable for residents and businesses, and the steps that the County Council has taken to achieve this. This includes the County Council's renewable energy programme which includes the development of subsidy-free solar farm and battery storage sites. Westhampnett solar farm is due to go live in 2018 and will generate enough green electricity to power 2,400 homes. Twenty West Sussex schools are benefitting from solar photovoltaic systems installed under Solar Power for Schools Programme, saving the schools between £1,500 and £2,000 per annum. A further 40 systems are scheduled for installation by the end of the financial year. The Leader also spoke about the launch of [Your Energy Sussex](#), the council-supported energy supplier that aims to encourage residents to switch and save money on their energy bills. The County Council has prioritised a sustainable environment as a key priority within its [West Sussex Plan](#) and will continue to drive this forward to ensure the very best for its residents.

21 Electric Vehicle Chargers and Cars at County Hall, Chichester (Cabinet Member for Environment)

The County Council's pool car fleet now includes four new Renault Zoe Electric cars. The cars have a range of 170 miles which is more than sufficient for the majority of journeys undertaken in County Cars. To enable their use, three new electric charging points have been fitted at County Hall, Chichester. There are two 7Kw fast charger points and one 50Kw rapid charger point. Benefits of the electric vehicles and charging points include:

- Reducing the revenue cost of the fleet as low-emission vehicles are less costly to maintain and cheaper to run and exempt from road fund licensing;
- Reducing the County Council's carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels;
- Directly reducing air pollution in the county by removing six petrol/diesel fuelled vehicles from the road; and
- Providing significant and essential data to inform future investment and potential income generation opportunity both for the County Council and for the district and borough councils.

22 Air Quality Plan (Cabinet Member for Environment)

The County Council has been working in partnership with the borough and district councils on an Air Quality Improvement Plan for West Sussex. Following feedback

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from the members briefing on 25 April, the Air Quality Plan has now been finalised and will be reviewed and updated regularly. A new Inter-Authority Member Group is proposed to oversee governance of the Plan and future developments. This approach will enable the County Council to work together with the borough and district councils more effectively, increasing efficiency, improving outcomes and helping to meet the West Sussex Plan target of improving air quality in Air Quality Management Areas.



INDEPENDENCE FOR LATER LIFE



A good place to grow old

23 Rural Services All Party Parliamentary Group – Adult Social Care Inquiry (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)

The County Council has submitted written evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services' Adult Social Care Inquiry. The Inquiry aims to gain insight into the challenges of delivering social care in rural areas and asked for views on the key issues trailed as components of the Social Care Green Paper which is expected in the autumn. In the response the challenges in relation to the care workforce, both in the way it is viewed and also the variation in approach to training and the lack of professional development, were highlighted, all of which impact on recruitment and retention within the care workforce in West Sussex. The response also noted the challenges in bringing staff and services together across a wide rural area to achieve truly integrated services, and emphasised the need for a sustainable funding model for social care supported by a diverse, vibrant and stable market. The West Sussex Shared Lives services was also presented as an example of good practice. This service gives an opportunity for individuals to receive care in a more local setting, rather than relocating to a residential care placement if they live within a more isolated rural area.

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A COUNCIL THAT WORKS FOR THE COMMUNITY



Value for money

24 Review of Pension Fund Investment Strategy (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

Following the 2016 Valuation of the West Sussex Pension Fund, the funding level increased to 105%. As part of the De-Risking Policy, the Panel reduced its allocation of growth-focused assets to those more aligned with the underlying liabilities, with the objective to protect the strong funding level and to stabilise employer contributions. Following the re-alignment of the assets, the Pension Panel is currently undertaking a review of the investment strategy. The review will also consider our investment options in the light of having to transfer our funds into the ACCESS pool over the next two years. During the review the Pensions Panel is being supported by both its Actuary and Investment Advisers (Hymans Robertson), the Independent Adviser to the Fund and the Operator to the ACCESS pool (Link Asset Services). As part of the review the Pensions Panel has agreed to a further reduction in growth assets, by moving some of those assets into those which are income generating, with the additional objective of targeting a reduction in employer contribution over the next two valuation cycles (to 31 March 2026).



Works in partnership

25 Government and Parliamentary Engagement (Leader)

Following the Question Time discussion at County Council in June on support for ex-servicemen and women suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) the Leader has written to the Minister for Housing and Homelessness and the Minister for Defence and Veterans. The letter reinforces the County Council's commitment to the Military Covenant and asks Ministers to ensure that the new cross-government Veteran's Strategy, which is currently being developed, not only acknowledges PTSD but goes further by providing clear recognition of the

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impact of the condition and firm guidance in terms of the support that needs to be provided to those suffering with the condition. The Leader has also written to Ministers setting out the financial challenges for the County Council in the coming years. All West Sussex Leaders have written jointly to the Secretary of State for Education, highlighting the ongoing challenges in relation to school funding in the county. The Leader will continue to lobby the Government to provide the best outcomes for West Sussex residents.

Contact: Helen Kenny, 033022 22532

Background Papers

None