

If you would like to know more about any items in this newsletter please contact the officer shown (✉ address is the name shown with a stop between followed by @westsussex.gov.uk) or access the links via the [County Council's website](#). Significant decisions to be taken in the next four months are included in a [Forward Plan](#) of key decisions. If you would like to receive free [e-mail alerts](#) for the Forward Plan, please register via the [County Council's website](#).

Decisions Published in the Past Week

The following proposed decisions have been published during the past week and will come into effect at the end of the call-in period unless the call-in procedure is activated

Call-in Deadline	Decision-Maker	No.	Proposal	Officer Contact
05/01/17	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	HT27(16/17)	Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund Applications – November 2016	Matthew Evans 033022 22538
06/01/17	Cabinet Member for Children – Start of Life	CH9(16/17)	Procurement of a Service to support Children and Young People at high risk of or experience of Child Sexual Exploitation	Laura Johnston 033022 22536
06/01/17	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	HT28(16/17)	Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy	Matthew Evans 033022 22538

Urgent Action

Members are asked to note the following urgent action taken by the Director of Law and Assurance, in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council, the relevant Cabinet Member and Select Committee Chairman or the Chairman of a non-Executive or County Local Committee

Electoral Division	No.	Decision	Officer Contact
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Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee

All in Central Mid Sussex CMS9(16/17) [Nominations for Local Authority Governors to Maintained Schools and Academy Governing Bodies](#)

Contact: Rachel Allan (033022 28966) ✉

The Director of Law and Assurance, in consultation with the Chairman of the County Local Committee, has used his

delegated powers under Standing Order 61(2) to approve the following governor nomination:

Balcombe CE Primary

Mr G Lester for a four-year term

The urgency of the matter was due to the fact that the next meeting of the Committee is not until March 2017, which would have left the Governing Body short by one member for some time.

Decisions Called-in

The following decisions have been called-in during the past week

Electoral Division	No.	Proposal	Select Committee/ Date	Officer Contact
All	ASCH7(16/17)	Procurement of Community Reablement Service	Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee 10.30 a.m. on 18 January 2017	Rob Castle 033022 22546

Decisions Confirmed

The following decisions have been confirmed in the last week

Decision-Maker	No.	Decision	Officer Contact
Cabinet Member for Children – Start of Life	CH7(16/17)	Future Arrangements for Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service	Laura Johnston 033022 22536
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	HT26(16/17)	Fees and Charges 2017/18 – Highways and Transport Portfolio	Matthew Evans 033022 22538

Answers to Written Questions

Officer replies to questions submitted under Standing Order 15(3) as part of the preparation for the County Council meeting on 16 December 2016

- Written question from **Mrs Mullins** for reply by the **Executive Director Children's, Adults', Health and Education**

Question

I would be grateful if the Cabinet Member could:

- Provide an update on progress with achieving the following objectives in the Future West Sussex Plan:

- Ensuring the County Council knows what skills businesses and industries need in order to grow and work with universities and further education providers to ensure they are providing relevant and appropriate courses for young people and future workforce;
 - Working with and encouraging schools/colleges and employers to provide valuable and relevant work experience opportunities for young people to increase their employability
 - Prioritising support to schools in order to develop incentives to find the best outcomes for children and enhance their careers training including the promotion of apprenticeships and vocational training;
 - Extending the Find it Out service and integrating robust employment support advice;
- (b) Describe how she perceives the provision of careers advice currently for young people across the County;
- (c) Comment on what action she intends to take following the publication of the Final report of the Sussex Area review given the commitment provided in July that local members would certainly be involved in the debate about 16+ education and how soon given that some colleges are already consulting on merging as a result of the recommendations;
- (d) Outline what action she intends to take to retain focus on driving the changes and assessing how implementation of recommendations is contributing to local economic performance;
- (e) Confirm she is confident that all the recommendations in the Sussex Area Review will benefit the young people of West Sussex.

Answer

- (a) The County Council supports a number of strands of work that link West Sussex Future Plan with the skills needs of the Districts and Boroughs. The Council is currently working on major projects associated with the Health and Life Sciences sector and the Creative Digital sector. For health and life sciences, the Council is progressing a range of initiatives to support the skills and workforce issues our companies have reported, including hosting an event with Cogen Skills on the apprenticeship levy, and conducting a survey on workforce needs with local businesses. The development of a creative digital hub in Bognor Regis has a firm focus on skills development, and subject to appropriate County Council approvals, the hub's work will include linking with local schools, colleges and the University on skills activities, including the promotion of STEM skills with young people.

Work experience is documented as good practice in Guidance to Schools but it is not mandatory. Post-16 Study Programmes should include work experience. The County Council is supporting the Enterprise Adviser Programme, to support the recruitment and retention of Enterprise Advisers (EA) into the Enterprise Adviser Network. EAs are senior business people from private, public and community sectors who volunteer to work with Headteachers and Principals to support the creation of Careers Education strategies in schools and colleges. The Enterprise Adviser Network started in Sussex along the Coastal strip and Mid Sussex, is now expanding in the Crawley/Horsham area from January 2017 and plans to cover almost all Coast to Capital area next year.

All mainstream schools have had some kind of input on vocational opportunities apprenticeships from the County Council during 2015/16. Careers Advisers work with vulnerable Year 11s and Children Looked After and some NEET. Education and Skills employs an Apprentice who is an Apprenticeship Ambassador and visits schools to promote Apprenticeship opportunities as well as attending Apprenticeship matching events(with

local employers and providers). This term, between September and December 2016, there have been 26 information sessions, assemblies or careers activities in schools as well as Careers Fairs and Apprenticeship job fairs.

The County Council continues to support and refine the work of the existing Find It Out (FIO) Centres as part of its 0 to 25 year offer. FIO Centres are within Family Operations Early Help which is an area currently undergoing transformational change towards a more integrated way of meeting needs. Following this, more detailed plans will be made to develop FIO to improve the take up of support and advice to young people at risk of not being in employment Education and Training.

- (b) The provision of Careers advice is the responsibility of Schools and is part of the Ofsted framework. The delivery of this advice varies by school and this was one of the drivers that led the County Council to support initiatives such as the Enterprise Adviser Programme and the vocational support outlined in the reply above.
- (c), (d) The County Council was a stakeholder in the Sussex Further Education Review with a role to input on the & (e) economic needs of the county. The Council will maintain this involvement within the newly formed Implementation Group. The Review has a number of recommendations and individual Colleges, as independent organisations are in the process of going through their own due diligence with regards to their specific outcomes. Members will be updated as information becomes available, though this matter is essentially a conversation between the funding bodies, the EFA and SFA and the Colleges. The Council supports the aims of the Review 'To ensure that we have the right capacity to meet the needs of students and employers in each area, provided by institutions which are financially stable and able to deliver high quality provision'. The County Council will continue to work with Colleges and all learning institutions to shape provision in line with emerging local needs.

2. Written question from Mrs Millson for reply by the Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and Environment

Question

The Leader will be aware of the atrocious service currently being received by the County's rail users. Our MPs have been making significant efforts to hold the Train Operating Company to account, but since the wellbeing of our residents is being affected, the Council also has a role.

Will she therefore please raise the following issues with the Department for Transport, the Department of Health and the Department of the Environment:

- (a) The cost to business and the economy due to late arrivals at work, missed meetings and the need to allow additional time to travel to meetings in case trains are delayed, all of which are leading some companies to say enough is enough and threaten workers with dismissal;
- (b) The stress levels that many residents are now living with, due to the additional stress of unpredictable journey times, delayed meals, childcare problems etc, on top of their jobs and other life issues - not to mention the irritation of filling in endless forms to reclaim the cost of the delayed journeys and the new threat of disciplinary action by employers. These levels of stress can affect people's physical and mental health, and could lead to increases in heart attacks and strokes as well as bouts of depression and anxiety;

- (c) The stress on families when parents are late home, and don't see the children as frequently as they want to, grandparents providing childcare are left literally holding the baby etc and the consequent risk of family breakdown;
- (d) The additional costs in terms of fuel and air pollution, as thousands of extra car journeys are made to try and get commuters home, and the risk of increased accidents in the chaos surrounding the larger rail stations?

Answer

The County Council understands the impact that the rail disruption is having on residents and local businesses and does not underestimate the stress and inconvenience caused by the ongoing dispute.

The County Council is continuing to strenuously express its concerns about the Southern rail disruption crisis, which is being driven by the ongoing industrial relations dispute between Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR - Southern's parent company), the ASLEF Union and the RMT Union. County Council Cabinet Members, along with the Leader, Louise Goldsmith, have been regularly speaking to our local MPs who are liaising with the relevant ministers in Government to continue to press this issue. This message is being heard directly by the Rt Hon Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport, and we have impressed upon him the impact this is having, in particular on local residents. Our members and MPs are continuing this dialogue directly with the Government.

Most recently, the Leader has written to the Rt Hon Chris Grayling to directly express these concerns and ensure that the Government is doing all it can to bring this ongoing industrial relations dispute to an end. This letter highlights the economic impacts of the rail strikes which have been estimated by the University of Chichester to cost just under £396m to the local economy.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport also wrote to Southern, the RMT Union and the ASLEF Union on 29 November to express the significant concerns of the County Council about the ongoing disruption to rail services and its impacts on residents and businesses of West Sussex.

This meeting follows on from various letters sent to Southern, Network Rail and the Department for Transport in February, July and August about the performance of rail services over the last year, and a meeting between the previous Cabinet Member and Southern Railway in late September about these issues.

Aside from concerns raised about the current industrial relations crisis, concerns have also been raised over the last year about the general reliability of rail services; the poor quality of information provided to passengers during disruption; problems with the previous temporary reduced timetable and regular reductions in services due to staff shortages and resultant overcrowded services; and concerns about whether passenger delay compensation arrangements are fair, particular for those making shorter journeys.

Reasons for the industrial relations dispute

The dispute is about the future role of train conductors. Southern plan to give operational responsibility for closing train doors (on trains where technology allows this) to the train driver, freeing up on-board staff to provide improved customer service as part of a new on-board supervisor role. The changes will provide greater flexibility to operate services during periods of disruption when on-board staff are displaced.

The RMT Union and the ASLEF Union oppose this due to concerns about safety because conductors would no longer close train doors from the platform. These safety concerns have been refuted by Southern.

The County Council will continue to monitor these issues and put pressure on the rail industry to resolve issues, if improvements are not forthcoming.

3. Written question from Mr S J Oakley for reply by the Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and Environment

Question

In the last two years, on how many occasions have:

- (a) Enforcement works been carried out directly by, or on behalf of, the County Council to achieve compliance by landowners with their statutory Riparian Duties?
- (b) Landowners carried out works in compliance with final warning/notice to carry out works letters in relation to enforcement of Riparian Duties?

Answer

The County Council has an agreement in place with its Borough and District Council partners for ordinary watercourse consenting and enforcement. Consent for works to ordinary watercourses is required if the work, temporary or permanent, is likely to effect the flow of water in the watercourse.

With regards to enforcement the County Council has an agreed process where having been made aware of an issue on an ordinary watercourse the Borough or District Council land drainage engineer will:

- (i) Contact the land owner and make them aware of the issue and ask them to carry out the necessary work.
- (ii) If work is not carried out as discussed, the Borough or District Council land drainage engineer will write to the land owner stating that since they last visit no work has been carried out. The letter will outline their responsibilities as landowner and ask them to carry out the work as detailed within a set time period. The letter will also state that legal action could result if the work is not carried out.
- (iii) If still no work has been carried out, the Borough or District Council land drainage engineer will write to the land owner stating that the work remains outstanding and that unless the work is undertaken immediately the matter will now be past to WSCC for legal action to be undertaken.
- (iv) The County Council's legal department then write to the land owner stating that the work must be carried out within eight weeks or it will start legal action.

Unfortunately, this is a drawn out process. But, we are finding in most cases the first call or letter from the Borough or District Council land drainage engineer has the desired effect. We do not have figures for the number of visits/letters that the Borough or District Council land drainage engineers have issued in the last two years but, having worked closely with them over the last two years, it is likely to be in the hundreds.

The County Council has itself issued over 20 letters in the last two years to landowners requiring compliance with their statutory riparian duties.

Committee News - Committee Meetings

Electoral Division	Item Subject	Committee Officer
	Joint meeting of the Environmental and Community Services and Performance and Finance Select Committees (11 January)	 Lisa Etchell (033022 23597)

Please note that there will be a joint meeting of the Environmental and Community Services and Performance and Finance Select Committees at 1.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 11 January 2017.

Communications

County Council Press Releases up to 23 December

16/12/16 - [Firefighters issue smoke alarm warning following one family's lucky escape](#)

Firefighters are urging people to take extra care this Christmas after being called out to a fire in a property that had no working smoke alarm

19/12/16 - [West Sussex residents to benefit from new diabetes scheme](#)

A new scheme will see people at risk of type-2 diabetes being offered healthy-lifestyle support

19/12/16 - [County Council calls for government to set up task force to tackle adult social care crisis](#)

Notice of Motion was carried unanimously at Full Council meeting

20/12/16 - [Reminder to protect birds from avian flu](#)

Poultry keepers across the country have now been required by DEFRA to keep their poultry separated from wild birds

21/12/16 - [Proactive pothole repairs pay dividends](#)

Gangs called to fix potholes identifying and repairing more while out on the job

22/12/16 - [Leader calls for transparency over A27 consultation](#)

The Leader of the County Council has called for the results of the A27 consultation in Chichester to be made public

22/12/16 - [First district deal in West Sussex aims to drive economic growth](#)

The County Council and Crawley Borough Council have signed an agreement to work on key projects

22/12/16 - [Bus operator discounts help lessen the loss of 3in1 cards](#)

A range of discounts are on offer from January 2017 which means most pupils and students (aged 16 to 19) will not have to pay a full adult fare

23/12/16 - [Children's keyworkers receive overwhelmingly positive praise](#)

The independent West Sussex Parent Survey collated feedback from 90 families currently receiving support from the County Council

23/12/16 - [Major scheme to install new traffic signals in Worthing](#)

Motorists can expect more reliable traffic signals at a junction in Worthing

23/12/16 - [Mutton dressed up as lamb](#)

West Sussex Trading Standards have been advising restaurants and takeaways that mutton is not interchangeable with lamb in menu descriptions

For further information on or copies of the press releases listed please contact the Communications and Engagement Team on (033022 28090) or ✉ pressoffice@westsussex.gov.uk

Planning Applications registered in the week ending 23/12/16

COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSALS (REGULATION 3, 4 and 13)

Applications submitted under the Town & Country Planning
(Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Application No Applicant Grid Ref	Proposal/Location	Date Registered	Provisional Decision Method	Local Member
WSCC/063/16/CR Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and Environment GR: 527888 136888	Single-storey extensions to provide classrooms, changing rooms and breakout areas, new car park and extension of existing hall. At Three Bridges Junior School, Gales Drive, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1PD	21/12/16	Delegated	Mr Lamb

Comments on of the above planning application should be made by 18/01/17 to planning.applications@westsussex.gov.uk or if you require further information, please contact County Planning on (01243) 642118

Strategic Planning Business Unit - Planning Applications

There were no applications received

For further information about the Members' Information Service please contact Clare Jones on 033022 22526 or ✉ clare.jones