

Summary: Cabinet Report Oct 2023 full council - Delivering Our Council Plan 2021-25

This summary report outlines the strategic decisions, policy initiatives, program developments, consultations, government announcements, and significant events across various Cabinet portfolios aimed at achieving our strategic priorities. It provides an overview of key activities within each area:

Leadership - Paul Marshall

The government has confirmed the transfer of Local Enterprise Partnerships' functions to county councils, unitary councils, and combined authorities from April 2024, with a focus on economic growth and business representation. Funding details for 2024/25 will be announced soon, and the County Council is collaborating with partners to ensure a seamless transition.

A new Careers Hub, serving West Sussex and Brighton & Hove, was launched on September 1st. Hosted by the County Council, it collaborates with schools, colleges, apprenticeship providers, and businesses to enhance career education and improve young people's employment prospects.

Adult Services - Amanda Jupp

In preparation for Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance, the County Council has conducted a baseline self-assessment against nine quality statements, identifying areas for improvement. An adults' improvement program will address most of these concerns, with regular updates provided.

Avila House in Worthing is being transformed into an extra care scheme for adults, enhancing care, support, and housing. Construction started in September 2022, with the first occupants expected in winter 2023.

Children and Young People, Learning and Skills - Jacquie Russell

The annual Exceptional People in Care (EPIC) awards celebrated the achievements of children in care, care leavers, and children in kinship care. Plans for the 2024 EPIC awards are already underway.

The Adult and Community learning Ofsted inspection recognized the Council's vision for education and skills, with plans for further improvements in response to the report's suggestions.

Community Support, Fire and Rescue - Duncan Crow

Six retained firefighters completed training at the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, culminating in a Pass Out Parade showcasing their new skills.

The Fire & Rescue Service is conducting free electric blanket testing sessions to prevent home fires caused by faulty blankets.

Environment and Climate Change - Deborah Urquhart

The County Council is contributing to World Beyond Waste, a digital series promoting a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy.

"Think Before You Throw" is an animated campaign encouraging waste reduction and recycling, supported by the West Sussex Waste Partnership.

Finance and Property - Jeremy Hunt

The audit of the 2022/23 Pension Fund accounts is underway, with the report expected on December 1st.

The Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy highlight a budget gap of £171m over five years, with plans to address this gap discussed in upcoming Cabinet and Council sessions.

Highways and Transport - Joy Dennis

Additional funding secured for Electric Vehicle charge points and infrastructure will make on-street charging more accessible.

The consultation on the draft Active Travel Strategy is open until November 15th, inviting comments on walking, cycling, and wheeling in West Sussex.

Public Health and Wellbeing - Bob Lanzer

The West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board plays a vital role in promoting integration and improving the health and wellbeing of the local population.

Efforts are underway to encourage smokers to quit this Stoptober and seek free support from a stop smoking advisor.

Support Services and Economic Development - Steve Waight

The County Council's Digital Infrastructure Team is collaborating to enhance mobile connectivity, with the BEACH project addressing performance and capacity issues in Worthing.