



COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023



12 September 2023

Unless a majority of the Council resolve to extend the meeting before 10.00 pm it will automatically end at 10.00 pm in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.2.

NOTE: There will be limited public access to observe the meeting. Those wishing to do so must reserve a seat by completing a [Registration Form](#) by 4pm on the working day prior to the meeting. Access is also available via a live stream through the [Mid Sussex District Council's YouTube channel](#).

To all Members of the Council,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL** to be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** on **WEDNESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2023** at 7.00 pm to transact the following business:

Yours sincerely,

KATHRYN HALL
Chief Executive

Pages

1. Opening Prayer.
2. To receive questions from members of the public pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 9.
3. To be agreed by general affirmation the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 July 2023. **7 - 16**
4. To receive declarations of Interest from Members in respect of any matter on the Agenda.
5. To consider any items that the Chairman of the Council agrees to take as urgent business.
6. Chairman's Announcements
7. Recommendations from Cabinet held on 11 September 2023. **17 - 18**

8. Standards Committee Annual Report.

19 - 22

9. To receive the Leader's Report.

10. Report of Cabinet Members, including questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10.1.

11. Motions on Notice.

Motion A – Active Travel

Proposed by: Councillor M Cornish

Seconded by: Councillor A Eves

This Council,

Recognising, as declared in its Net Zero Carbon Emissions Report prepared for Council by Ricardo in September 2022, that vehicular transport accounts for 36% of all carbon emissions in this district;

Noting that 46% of short trips in towns and cities should be walked, wheeled or cycled by 2025 (Active Travel England 2023-2025);

Having declared, in Objective 6 of its Sustainable Economic Strategy, that it will “promote sustainable travel options and initiatives, including green travel plans, to businesses, schools and residents;”

Recognising that modal shift is essential to reduce carbon emissions and to ease congestion and air pollution, and that people are far more likely to use bicycles if cyclists are as far as possible separated from main roads, making walking, wheeling and cycling an attractive choice for everyday trips;

Noting that a multifunctional network to facilitate active travel between Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill is included in the Site Allocations - Development Plan Document under section SA37: “The Council continues to support the delivery of a dedicated multifunctional network, within the lifetime of this plan and will work with key stakeholders to ensure opportunities to deliver the scheme are prioritised and maximised”.

Recalling the report commissioned by MSDC: BH-HH Greenways Options Appraisal by CJ Founds: <https://burgesshill.net/images/msdc-pnc-options-appraisal-report-v04.pdf> and noting that, of the 16 routes identified, 12 were found to be unfeasible, and the remaining four depended on agreement with a private landowner through which part of the route may have to pass;

Noting that a secondary school is being built between the two towns for 900 pupils and 70 staff, with cycling/walking access available from the south but not from Haywards Heath;

Recalling that a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) study, ref 05136 by PJA, was signed off on 7th March

2023;

1. Asks MSDC's Leader to write to WSCC to urge them to work with developers, as part of the District Plan review, to identify on-site and financial contributions to deliver active travel routes between towns, and connecting towns to villages;
2. Asks MSDC's Leader to report back to MSDC Full Council on the response from WSCC;
3. Commits to participate in the forthcoming WSCC Active Travel Strategy Consultation taking account of the foregoing studies.
4. Urges Members and residents to contribute to the eight-week WSCC Active Travel Strategy Consultation.
5. Encourages landowners to engage with Highways Authority and Planning Authority to make land available to deliver sustainable travel opportunities, such as the routes between Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath.

Motion B – Support for West Sussex Care Leavers

Proposed by: Councillor J Russell

Seconded by: Councillor J Belsey

The Care Leavers service in West Sussex supports young people to exit care successfully as they move towards independence, and operates under a clear legislative framework provided by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The most recent Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee held on the 13th September 2023, included a paper on 'Leaving Care in West Sussex' which was in direct response to the recent comments in the full inspection by Ofsted back in March 2023 with respect to meeting the needs of care leavers.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduces corporate parenting principles which comprise seven needs that local authorities in England must have regard to. The West Sussex Care Leavers service and increasingly our partners, operate in line with these principles which centre around the promotion of physical and mental health and wellbeing of those children and young people; to encourage those children and young people to express their views and to take those views into account; to help children and young people gain access to and make the best use of services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners; to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people; for those children and young people to be safe and have stability in their homelives, relationships and in education or work, and ultimately to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Whilst it is accepted that corporate parenting is not the statutory responsibility of the District Council, as District Councillors we should acknowledge that we are all corporate parents,

particularly given that the West Sussex House Project Partnership Agreement was recently signed by all seven of the District and Borough Council partners, endorsing this view.

But as Mid Sussex District Councillors, we could be the first to go further and support the further aspirations of the West Sussex Care Leaver service through initiatives such as;

- Providing a shopfront facing community base for our Care Leavers – providing a communal space to meet, laundry facility, life skills, WiFi and a place to meet Leaving Care Personal Advisors
- Linking to the above objective, a space for the County Council's Youth Emotional Support Service for meeting with children from across the county.
- To offer free access to local gym/leisure centre/swimming pool to support young people's health and wellbeing.
- An apprenticeship or work based opportunity provided by the District and Borough for any Care Leaver who wanted to explore this as an alternative Employment Education and Training option.

This Council therefore calls upon the Leader and Cabinet to instruct officers to explore these initiatives, by engaging directly with the West Sussex Care Leavers Service, to proactively help the service move towards Good and onto Outstanding status through the implementation of these initiatives for the benefit of our young people leaving care.

12. Questions from Members pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10.2.

To: **Members of Council:** Councillors R Jackson (Chairman), J Henwood (Vice-Chair), M Avery, A Bashar, R Bates, J Belsey, M Belsey, A Bennett, K Berggreen, P Brown, G Casella, L Carvalho, P Chapman, C Cherry, R Clarke, AM Cooke, M Cornish, J Dabell, J Edwards, D Eggleton, R Eggleston, S Ellis, A Eves, L Farren, I Gibson, S Hatton, S Hicks, J Hitchcock, T Hussain, C Hobbs, M Kennedy, P Kenny, J Knight, P Lucraft, G Marsh, M Miah, J Mockford, D Pascoe, A Peacock, A Platts, E Prescott, C Phillips, A Rees, J Russell, D Sweatman, R Whittaker, C Wood and G Zeidler