

Member Information Service

Decisions made by Cabinet Members

The following decisions have been made by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Customer Services and will take effect at 10.00a.m. on Thursday 24 March 2022, unless the call-in procedure is activated. If you wish to request that a proposed decision is called in, please contact Member Services on 01444 477062 or e-mail committees@midsussex.gov.uk, in addition to making a written request to the Monitoring Officer, Tom Clark.

Council Tax Support Hardship Relief - Additional Discretionary Discounts

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Customer Services approved an additional discretionary discount from Council Tax of up to £150.00 per household for working age claimants in 2022/23, with the principles detailed in this report.

Council Tax Support Scheme - Additional Discretionary Discounts

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Customer Services approved the following:

1. That the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2022/23 is approved.
2. That in line with Housing Benefit the one off Test and Trace payment of £500 continues to be disregarded in full for Council Tax Support.
3. That the Energy Rebate payment of up to £150 is disregarded in full for Council Tax Support
4. That the Council Tax Support Hardship Payment of up to £150 is disregarded in full for Council Tax Support
5. That the published Council Tax Support Scheme (Appendix 1) for 2022/23 be approved accordingly.
6. That the Cabinet Member for Customer Services in consultation with the Head of Corporate Resources be given delegated authority to amend the Council's Council Tax Support scheme during 2022/23 to mirror any Housing Benefit changes.

Energy Rebate Payments - Additional Discretionary Discounts

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Customer Services approved the decision for a discretionary energy payment scheme for the Council with payments of £150.00 per eligible household, with all the principles detailed in this report whilst funds last.

A copy of the reports are attached to this email. In due course, the reports will be Executive Decisions which can be found [here](#).

Committee Meetings

The Programme of Meetings for 2021-22 was considered and approved at the Annual Council meeting.

Please note that meeting start times vary. All meetings are in-person unless otherwise stated.

Meetings for March and April are listed below:

MARCH 2022

~~16 March – Scrutiny Committee for Housing, Planning and Economic Growth @ 6pm (virtual) – Please note that this meeting has been postponed to allow more time to consider the District Plan in the light of the recommendations agreed by the Committee at the meeting in January.~~

17 March – District Planning Committee @ 2pm

21 March – Cabinet @ 4pm

22 March – Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Finance and Performance @ 6pm (virtual) – **Please note that this has been rescheduled from 9 March.**

23 March – Scrutiny Committee for Community, Customer Service and Service Delivery @ 6pm (virtual)

24 March – Film Licensing Panel @ 10am

30 March – Council @ 7pm (Trinity Methodist Church)

APRIL 2022

11 April – Cabinet Grants Panel @ 4pm

14 April – Planning Committee @ 4pm

21 April – District Planning Committee @ 2pm

27 April – Council @ 7pm (Venue TBC) – **Please note that this is an additional meeting for Council to approve the Sustainable Economy Strategy**

Democratic Services has updated your O365 calendar with the new dates and times. Regular updates on the status of meetings in the forthcoming period will be provided to Members and the Council's public facing website will be continually updated.

Agendas – Items to be Considered

Cabinet – 21 March 2022 @ 4pm

Capital Programme Update.

Centre for Outdoor Sports - Feasibility Study.

To consider whether to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting during consideration of the following items in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

COFS - Exempt Annexe.



Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Finance and Performance – 22 March 2022 @ 6pm

Sustainable Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025.

Performance Monitoring for the Third Quarter of 2021/22.

Scrutiny Committee for Community, Customer Service and Service Delivery – 23 March 2022 @ 6pm

Proposed Community Governance Reviews for the Administrative and Electoral Arrangements of Town and Parish Councils affected by the outcome of the LGBCE's Electoral Review of Mid Sussex District Council.



Equality and Diversity Progress Report 2021.

MSDC Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Transparency Statement.



Scrutiny Committee for Community, Customer Services and Service Delivery Work Programme 2021/22.

Member Development Learning

All Member Development Learning Sessions are held in the Council Chamber unless otherwise stated.

Date & Time	Training Event	Indicator
This session has been postponed and a new date will be arranged in due course.	Planning Training: Decision making & Other material considerations <i>(Essential for Planning Members)</i>	
This session has been postponed and a new date will be arranged in due course.	Planning Training: Highways Matters & S106 <i>(Essential for Planning Members)</i>	



<p>This session has been postponed and a new date will be arranged in due course.</p>	<p>Planning Training: Design & Heritage Assets <i>(Essential for Planning Members)</i></p>	
<p>This session has been postponed and a new date will be arranged in due course.</p>	<p>Planning Training: Planning Enforcement <i>(Essential for Planning Members)</i></p>	

Planning Training – Topics

The Planning Training will cover the following topics over the course of four training sessions:

- Highways
- Heritage Assets
- Design case study
- Decision making
- Other material considerations
- S106
- Planning Enforcement

Learning Pool

For online training that you can do conveniently in your own time, please visit the Learning Pool.



To complete your online learning pool training modules please visit:

<https://stc.learningpool.com/login/index.php>

The modules available for Members to complete are:

- Safeguarding Adults
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- County Lines
- What is GDPR?
- Getting Started with Social Media.
- Business Continuity Management.
- Annotating and Editing Documents.
- Planning Application Decision Making for Members

Safeguarding Adults & Safeguarding and Child Protection

Cllr De Mierre, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Customer Services, reminds Members that there are two safeguarding training modules via the Learning Pool:

MSDC Safeguarding Adults



<http://thewire/training-development/learning-pool/>.

Any Member who has not completed either of these courses is strongly advised to do so.

If you have any problems with accessing the Learning Pool, please email committees@midsussex.gov.uk or 01444 477062.

Information and News

COVID-19 News

Covid levels in Mid Sussex have risen to about 1000 cases per 100,000 in the last week with the very infectious Omicron 2 variant now accounting for most Covid cases. Covid case levels remain high which means caution is needed in indoor settings which should be well ventilated. Hospitalisations of people testing positive for Covid locally and nationally are up across the whole of the UK but are still about 35% less than where they were at the start of January 2022. Positivity rates among those tested are up to about 20% in Sussex which indicates a rise in community Covid infections from last week. Deaths nationally, within 28 days of a positive Covid test are steady and still average about 100 per day. Most adults in hospital are not fully vaccinated.

The average Covid rate across West Sussex has risen to about 900 cases per 100,000 with case numbers rising quickest among those 30+. Similarly, case numbers in the SE have risen to about 900 cases per 100,000. The average Covid figure in England is up to about 650 cases per 100,000 with the more infectious Omicron 2 variant now accounting for most Covid cases across the country. Many areas in the Midlands and the north of England still have Covid case levels under 500 cases per 100,000. In areas south of the Midlands Covid levels are mainly above 500 cases per 100,000 as they are across Sussex.

Case levels in Wales are still mainly below 250 cases per 100,000 but in Scotland and Northern Ireland they are all above 500 cases per 100,000 and in most parts of Scotland case levels are above 1000 cases per 100,000.

Lateral flow tests are available free to collect locally or request online by post so everyone can check their Covid status and isolate if they get a positive test. If going to crowded indoor settings you are advised to do a lateral flow test.

All Covid restrictions were lifted on 24th February 2022 but with mask wearing still advised in shops, theatres, indoor halls, churches and museums and public transport which includes taxis and private hire vehicles and self-isolation if you test positive for Covid or have cold symptoms.

About 85% of the population 12 and over in England and in Mid Sussex are now double vaccinated and about 89% of the population 12 and over have received a first vaccination. There are a significant number of people still being encouraged to come forward for their first vaccination. Covid vaccinations are being planned for the 5 to 11 age group.

Booster vaccinations are being offered to everyone over 12 years of age 3 months after the second vaccination on the booking system. Walk in clinics have been opened where an appointment is not necessary. About 71% of the population 12 and over have now received their booster vaccination in Mid Sussex and England more generally. Having the booster vaccination is thought to provide greater protection against all the Covid variants and to reduce the chance of spreading the virus or being



hospitalised. Second booster vaccinations are being planned for older people and those more vulnerable to Covid this Spring starting this month.

Please see the latest information on Covid vaccination progress and other health matters in West Sussex [here](#).

Please see the latest public data for Covid rates in West Sussex [here](#).

Please note the guidance to remain cautious after 19th July 2021 to help prevent Covid cases putting pressure on the NHS.

Cabinet Portfolios and Service Areas

The Leader has confirmed the following changes to Cabinet portfolios, taking effect from 14 March 2022.

LEADER – Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards

- Overall political management and direction of the Council
- Overall communications and media
- Strategic partnerships
- Cabinet appointments and responsibilities
- Council Budget and Corporate & Financial Planning
- Gatwick Airport
- Burgess Hill Town Centre
- Clair Hall
- The Orchards Shopping Centre

DEPUTY LEADER – Cllr John Belsey

- To deputise for the Leader
- To take responsibility for political leadership of significant and cross cutting policy areas
- Finance
- Corporate Estates and Facilities
- Landscapes
- Waste
- Centre for Outdoor Sports (CfOS)
- Liaison with sports clubs and organisations

CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NET ZERO – Cllr Stephen Hillier

- Economic Development
- Sustainable Economy Strategy and Net Zero
- Burgess Hill Growth Area
- Parking (including Electric Vehicle Charging)



CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES – Cllr Ruth de Mierre

- Leisure Centres
- Customer Services and Communications
- Performance Management
- Revenues & Benefits
- ICT and Digital
- Full Fibre Digital Infrastructure
- Equalities
- Safeguarding

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY – Cllr Norman Webster

- Chairman of Cabinet Grants Panel
- Community Services (including Community Safety)
- Community Facilities Planning
- Emergency Planning
- Voluntary Sector Liaison (including grants)
- Legal Services
- Democratic Services
- Land Charges
- Environmental Health (incl. Licensing)
- Building Control

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING & PLANNING – Cllr Robert Salisbury

- Planning Policy
- Development Management
- Housing Enabling
- Housing Needs, Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation

Collective Responsibility of the Cabinet:

Collective responsibility for delivery against Council agreed Corporate Plan and Budgets, accountable to Council for performance across the service range.

Proposed Community Governance Reviews of Town and Parish Councils

We have published the papers for the [Scrutiny Committee for Customer Services and Service Delivery](#) due to be held virtually on Wednesday 23 March at 6pm. This includes a report and draft Terms of Reference for proposed Community Governance Reviews of Town and Parish Councils affected by the outcome of the LGBCE's Electoral Review of Mid Sussex District Council. These are: HHTC, BHTC, EGTC, Ansty & Staplefield PC, Lindfield PC and Lindfield Rural PC. The committee proceedings can be viewed live at [MSDC's Official YouTube channel](#) and also afterwards.

Digital Mid Sussex – Member Briefing Workshop

All Members will have seen their invitation to the upcoming Digital Mid Sussex briefing being held on Monday 28th March at 6pm and Tuesday 5th April at 6pm.



The briefing will be presented by Simon Hughes, Head of Digital and Customer Services and Simon Jones, BUL Digital and Technology and will include a Q&A at the end.

Members are encouraged to confirm their attendance no later than 22nd March by completing the form included in their email. Attendance can be in person in the Council Chamber or remotely using the Hybrid meeting functionality. By holding the briefing in this style, Members will be helping to develop our digital service.

Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Customer Services, Ruth De Mierre said:

“I look forward to seeing as many Members as possible for what is a very important and significant area for all our residents and the economic success across the District. This is also an excellent opportunity to develop our digital service by giving Members the opportunity to attend both in person and virtually using Hybrid Technology.”

South Downs News

Please find the latest edition of the South Downs News below:

[South Downs News - March 2022 \(mailchi.mp\)](#) (can we remove the mailchi.mp bit in the link title please)

Complaints and Compliments - February 22

Complaints = 11

Waste & Outdoor Services = 3

Community Services, Policy & Performance = 2

Housing Needs = 2

Benefits = 1

Corporate Estates & Facilities = 1

Revenues = 1

Planning (Dev Management) = 1

Compliments = 30

Waste & Outdoor Services = 11

Customer Services = 9

Dev Management (Planning)= 9

Housing Enabling = 1

PREVENT Elected Members Handbook

Please find attached to this email a handbook is specifically designed for elected members on the Government's Prevent programme and safeguarding individuals against radicalisation.

News Releases

For further information or copies of the news releases listed below, please contact the Press Office on 01444 477 387 or use the following link: <http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/my-council/council-magazine-and-press-releases/press-releases/>

10 March 2022 - [Last chance to apply for warmer home support](#)

