

Member Information Service

Committee Meetings

Please note that all meetings are virtual meetings and start times vary, as detailed below.

The revised Programme of Meetings approved at Council on 30 September 2020, sets out the schedule of Council meetings for the remainder of the municipal year. Meetings for March and April are listed below:

MARCH 2021

30 March – Licensing Sub Committee A @ 4pm
31 March – Council @ 6pm

APRIL 2021

8 April – Planning Committee @ 4pm
15 April – District Planning Committee @ 2pm

Public access to the meetings is via a live stream video through the Council's official [YouTube channel](#). A link to the live stream is also provided on the Council's Facebook page in advance of each meeting. Owing to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, regular updates on the status of meetings in the forthcoming period will be provided to Members and the website will be continually updated.

Democratic Services has updated your O365 calendar with the revised dates and times, including the links to join the Zoom meetings.

We have also sent you tentative outlook calendar placeholders for the Programme of Meetings 2021 – 2022. The Programme of Meetings is still subject to change and is due to be presented to Council on 31 March.

In the meantime, these placeholders will allow you to see when we are planning to hold these meetings.

Agendas – Items to be Considered

Scrutiny Committee for Community, Customer Services and Service Delivery – 24 March 2021 @ 5pm

Equality and Diversity Progress Report 2020

Council – 31 March 2021 @ 6pm

Haywards Heath Town Centre Masterplan – Supplementary Planning Document.

Programme of Meetings 2021/22.

Standards Committee Annual Report 2020.

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24.

Member Development Learning

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:

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

If you have any problems with accessing the Learning Pool, please contact Member Services.

Information and News

COVID-19 News

Covid levels in Mid Sussex remain under 25 cases per 100,000 and therefore Mid Sussex has a similar infection rate as it had in mid - September 2020. Covid rates have fallen in Worthing and Arun over the past week but increased in Chichester and Crawley. The average Covid rate in West Sussex is steady and still slightly below the South East average of about 36 cases per 100,000.

This rapid fall from very high Covid levels at the start of 2021 is reflected across England. A majority of authorities in Sussex now have Covid rates well below 50 cases per 100,000 which means the

Sussex average is well below the England average of about 50 cases per 100,000. However, Crawley still has Covid levels around the England average.

The first stage of the roadmap started on Monday 8th March 2021 with schools re-opening . In addition, appropriate political campaigning for the May elections is now permitted. Lateral Flow Tests are being used to identify people who have Covid but have no symptoms to try to maintain the low current Covid rates.

Both hospitalisations and Covid death rates continue to fall in Sussex from the very high levels seen in late January and are now similar to those seen last October.

The expanding local Covid vaccination programme will assist in bringing hospitalisations and Covid deaths down but there is a risk that new variants and the “Kent” variant of the Covid virus will push these figures in the opposite direction as restrictions start to be lifted with the second relaxation on 29th March 2021 to be confirmed this week.

People aged 50 and over are eligible for their first vaccination. The vaccination of more medically vulnerable people aged 16 to 64 also continues alongside the second vaccination for those people first vaccinated in January/February 2021 also proceeding in April. People aged 40 and over will be invited to book a Covid vaccination in April as vaccine supplies permit.

Please see information on Covid-19 vaccination progress in West Sussex [here](#).

The latest public data for Covid rates in West Sussex can be found [here](#). Further advice and information on the current restrictions from West Sussex County Council can be found [here](#).

Electoral Review of Mid Sussex District Council is Live

Yesterday, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) launched its Electoral Review of Mid Sussex District Council. It begins with a period of public consultation on council size and warding patterns. This is the first of two substantial consultation periods and it is open from 23 March 2021 until 31 May 2021. Residents, community groups and political stakeholders are encouraged to engage with the Review.

There is advice on [LGBCE's website](#) about how to get involved with the consultation. The website features [technical guidance](#) that explains the process and LGBCE's policies, as well as guidance on how to take part at each stage. They have set up a [webpage](#) dedicated to the Review of Mid Sussex, where all the relevant information is available.

Interactive maps of the current ward boundaries across Mid Sussex are available on LGBCE's [specialist consultation portal](#). The portal allows participants to comment and upload documents directly to the site.

Regulated election period begins on Monday 29th March 2021

Members will be aware that scheduled local elections and the deferred Police & Crime Commissioner election are due to take place on Thursday 6 May 2021. The regulated election period starts on Monday 29th March 2021. Attached for Members and Officers to note is important advice from the Monitoring Officer, Tom Clark, explaining restrictions on the Council's public activities during this period of heightened political sensitivity.

2021 Census Follow-Up Process

We have just passed the official Census date of Sunday 21 March. Census reminders will start to be sent out to households across the district that have not returned their questionnaire. Field officers from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will begin their work on Tuesday 23 March, following up non returners.

Whilst the Council's main approach is to continue to direct residents to www.census.gov.uk or the national helpline: 0800 141 2021, members should be aware that there are reports of long waits to access the national helpline. If members are contacted by distressed elderly or infirmed residents who require a paper form and are without internet access and unable to get through to the helpline, they can be advised to call the District Council Contact Centre on 01444 458166. The Contact Centre staff will be able to order a household form for them using the online process, which will be delivered by post.

With field officers now out and about, ONS have provided clear guidance on what a member of the public should do if they are concerned that the person on their doorstep is not a genuine census official:

- Census officers will carry an ID card with their photograph and name
- Census officers will work through the day to make contact with residents but will not call before 09:00 or after 20:00
- Census officers will never ask for money or bank details
- Census officers will never need to enter someone's home
- Census officers will have census leaflets and paper questionnaires with them
- If the householder is still concerned, they can ring the contact centre for further advice: 0800 141 2021

Compliments and Complaints

For February 2021 the following Compliments and Complaints were received by this Council

Compliments = 49

Customer services = 26

Waste and Outdoor = 7

Planning = 6

Revenues = 4

Housing = 5

Corporate Estates & Facilities = 1

Complaints = 9

Waste = 3

Revenues = 3

Planning = 2

Community Services, Policy & Performance = 1

Each Complaint and Compliment is shared with the relevant Business Unit Leader on receipt to embed best practise. Should you wish to see details of any of these compliments or complaints please contact Karen Spiers in the first instance

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/>

22 March 2021 - [Council to introduce more meadow areas](#)