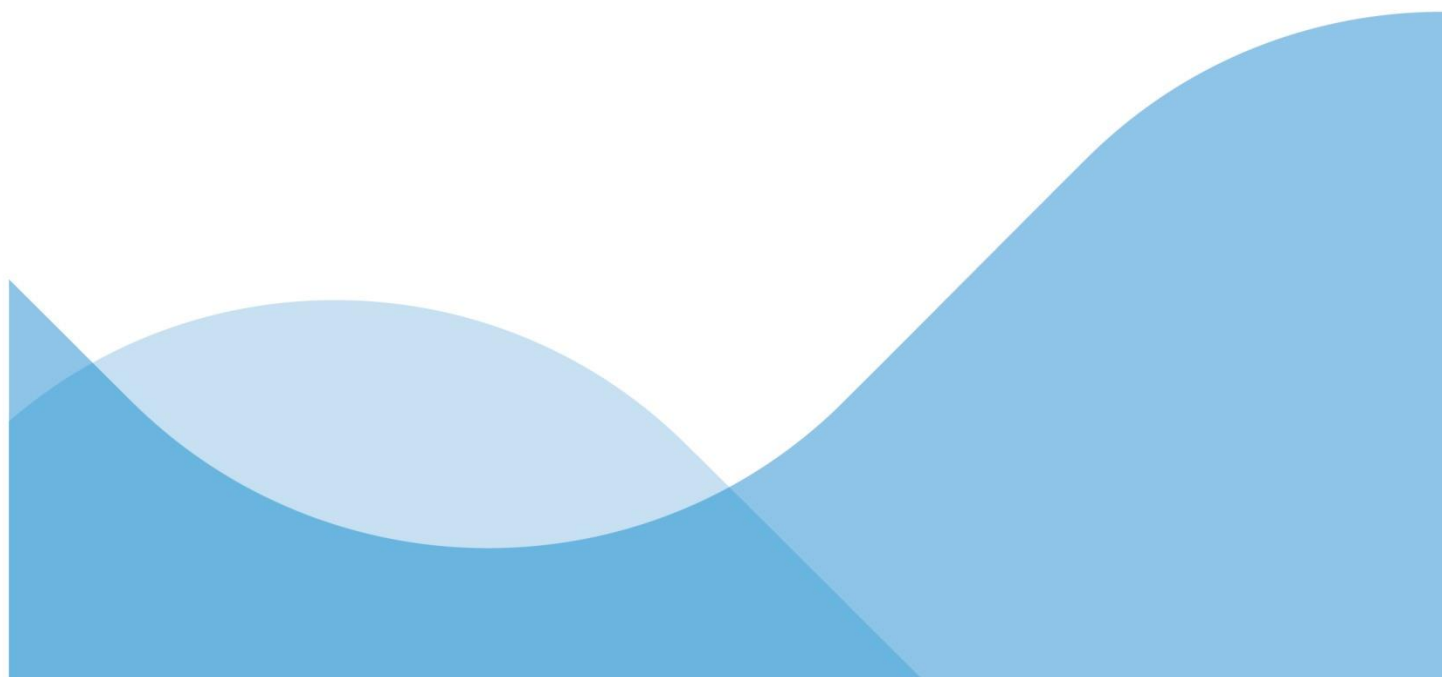


Meeting of  
East Sussex County Council  
on Tuesday, 26 March 2019  
at 10.00 am

NOTE: As part of the County Council's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting will be broadcast live on its website and the record archived for future viewing. The broadcast / record is accessible at:

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/webcasts/default.htm](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/webcasts/default.htm)





# EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

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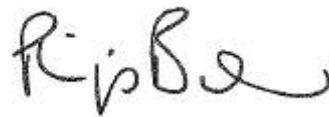
## To the Members of the County Council

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the East Sussex County Council to be held at Council Chamber - County Hall, Lewes, **on Tuesday, 26 March 2019 at 10.00 am** to transact the following business

- 1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2019** (Pages 5 - 22)
- 2 **Apologies for absence**
- 3 **Chairman's business**
- 4 **Questions from members of the public**
- 5 **Report of the Cabinet** (Pages 23 - 26)
- 6 **Report of the Governance Committee** (Pages 27 - 30)
- 7 **Report of the Lead Member for Transport and Environment** (Pages 31 - 34)
- 8 **Questions from County Councillors**
  - (a) Oral questions to Cabinet Members
  - (b) Written Questions of which notice has been given pursuant to Standing Order 44
- 9 **Report of the East Sussex Fire Authority** (Pages 35 - 40)

*Note: There will be a period for collective prayers and quiet reflection in the Council Chamber from 9.30 am to 9.45 am. The Chairman would be delighted to be joined by any members of staff and Councillors who wish to attend.*

County Hall  
St Anne's Crescent  
LEWES  
East Sussex BN7 1UE



PHILIP BAKER  
Assistant Chief Executive

18 March 2019

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## MINUTES

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### EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

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**MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber - County Hall, Lewes on 5 FEBRUARY 2019 at 10.00 am**

**Present** Councillors John Barnes MBE, Matthew Beaver, Colin Belsey, Nick Bennett, Phil Boorman, Bob Bowdler, Charles Clark, Martin Clarke, Godfrey Daniel, Philip Daniel, Angharad Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Deirdre Earl-Williams, Simon Elford, David Elkin, Nigel Enever, Michael Ensor, Kathryn Field, Gerard Fox, Roy Galley, Keith Glazier, Carolyn Lambert, Tom Liddiard, Laurie Loe, Carl Maynard, Ruth O'Keeffe MBE, Sarah Osborne, Peter Pragnell (Chairman), Pat Rodohan, Phil Scott, Daniel Shing, Stephen Shing, Alan Shuttleworth, Rupert Simmons, Andy Smith, Bob Standley, Richard Stogdon, Colin Swansborough, Barry Taylor, Sylvia Tidy, David Tutt, John Ungar, Steve Wallis, Trevor Webb and Francis Whetstone

#### **46 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018**

46.1 RESOLVED – to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the County Council meeting held on 4 December as a correct record

#### **47 Apologies for absence**

47.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bill Bentley, Tania Charman, Darren Grover and Jim Sheppard.

#### **48 Chairman's business**

##### WELCOME

48.1 The Chairman welcomed Councillor Earl-Williams to her first County Council meeting.

##### NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

48.2 On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated all those who live or work in East Sussex who were recognised in the New Year's Honours.

##### CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

48.3 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: holocaust memorial events at Eastbourne, Hastings and Lewes, the Christmas Pontifical Sung Vespers at Arundel Cathedral, the Christian Police Association Carol Service, an event celebrating Bangladeshi history and a National Literacy Trust event.

48.4 The Vice Chairman has also attended a number of events.

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### CHINESE NEW YEAR

48.5 The Chairman reported that the Chinese New Year began today and wished all a happy Chinese New Year.

### PRAYERS

48.6 The Chairman thanked Paul Mann, Leader and Pastor at King's Church, Hastings for leading the prayers before the meeting

### PETITIONS

48.7 The following petitions were presented by members immediately before the meeting:

Councillor Ungar - calling on the County Council to make funding available to improve the junction of Victoria Drive, East Dean Road and Summerdown Road, Eastbourne

Councillor Ungar - calling on the County Council to carry out a safety survey of the highway (road and pavement) of Gore Park Road, Eastbourne

Councillor Whetstone - calling on the County Council to consider the Legal Opinion on the interpretation of the 1974 Ashdown Forest Act

### **49 Questions from members of the public**

49.1 Copies of questions asked by Bob Downing from Seaford, Alice Burchfield from Peacehaven, Patricia Petterson-Vanegas from Forest Row, Ohana Banerjee from Lewes, Emily O'Brien from Newhaven, Zoe Gallagher from Lewes, Philip Rowland from Lewes, John Edson from Bishopstone, Lulah Ellender from Lewes, Arnold Simanowitz from Lewes, Julia Bell from Kingston and Antonia Jewels from Lewes and the answers from Councillor Simmons (Lead Member for Economy), Councillor Standley (Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability), Councillor Stogdon (Chair of the Pension Committee) and Councillor Elkin (Lead Member for Resources) are attached to these minutes. Supplementary questions were asked and responded to.

### **50 Declarations of Interest**

50.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### **51 Reports**

51.1 The Chairman of the County Council, having called over the reports set out in the agenda, reserved the following for discussion:

Cabinet report – paragraphs 1 (reconciling policy, performance and resources), 3 (annual progress report for looked after children's services) and 6 (scrutiny review of schools coping with change)

People Scrutiny Committee report – paragraph 1 (scrutiny review of schools coping with change)

## MINUTES

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### NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

51.2 On the motion of the Chairman of the County Council, the Council ADOPTED those paragraphs in the reports of the Committees that had not been reserved for discussion as follows:

Cabinet report - paragraph 2 (Council monitoring), paragraph 4 (Treasury Management Policy and Strategy) and paragraph 5 (Conservators of Ashdown Forest Budget)

### **52 To receive notice by the Returning Officer certifying the election of a county councillor for the Bexhill West electoral division**

52.1 The Council agreed to receive the Notice of the Returning Officer certifying the election of a County Councillor for the Bexhill West division at the by-election held on 10 January 2019

### **53 Report of the Cabinet**

Paragraph 1 – Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources

53.1 Under Standing Order 23, the Council agreed that the speeches of the Leaders of the five groups (or their nominees) on paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report be extended beyond five minutes.

53.2 Councillor Elkin moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report.

53.3 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Webb and seconded:

*Delete paragraph 1.50 of the Cabinet's report and replace with:-*

*(1) approve, in principle, the draft Council Plan at Appendix 4 and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise the Plan in consultation with the relevant Lead Members;*

*(2) approve the net Revenue Budget estimates totalling £375m for 2019/20 as set out in Appendices 1 (Medium Term Financial Plan) and 2 (Budget Summary) and authorise the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Leader and Deputy Leader, to make adjustments to the presentation of the Budget Summary to reflect the final settlement and budget decisions subject to the following amendments for 2019/20 only:*

- 1. Reverse the proposed saving for SLES high standards of £0.124m*
- 2. Reverse the proposed saving for SLES performance £0.725m*
- 3. Reverse the proposed saving for Home to School Transport of £0.042m*
- 4. Reverse the proposed saving for working age adults of £0.247m*

*To be funded by the following:-*

- 5. Reduce contributions to reserves by £1.138m*

*(3) in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to agree that:*

- (i) the net budget requirement is £375m and the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as its council tax requirement (see Appendix 5) for the year 2019/20 is £287.7m;*
- (ii) the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as the basic amount of its council tax (i.e. for a band D property) for the year 2019/20 is £1,434.78 and represents a 2.99% increase on the previous year;*

## MINUTES

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(4) *advise the District and Borough Councils of the relevant amounts payable and council tax in other bands in line with the regulations and to issue precepts accordingly in accordance with an agreed schedule of instalments as set out at Appendix 5*

(5) *note the fees and charges set out in Appendix 6 that have been increased above inflation;*

(6) *approve the Capital Strategy and Programme for 2018 – 2023 as set out at Appendix 7;*

(7) *note the Medium Term Financial Plan forecast for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1;*

(8) *note the comments of the Chief Finance Officer on budget risks and robustness as set out in Appendix 8; and*

(9) *note the comments from the engagement exercises as set out in Appendix 9.*

53.4 A recorded vote on Councillor Webb's amendment was taken. The amendment was LOST, the votes being cast as follows:

### FOR THE AMENDMENT

Councillors Godfrey Daniel, Scott, Daniel Shing, Stephen Shing and Webb

### AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

Councillors Barnes, Beaver, Belsey, Bennett, Boorman, Bowdler, Charles Clark, Martin Clarke, Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Earl-Williams, Elford, Elkin, Enever, Ensor, Fox, Galley, Glazier, Liddiard, Loe, Maynard, Pragnell, Simmons, Smith, Standley, Stogdon, Taylor, Tidy and Whetstone

### ABSTENTIONS

Councillors Philip Daniel, Field, Lambert, Osborne, Rodohan, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tutt, Ungar and Wallis

53.5 The following motion was moved by Councillor Elkin to adopt paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report

(1) *approve, in principle, the draft Council Plan at Appendix 4 and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise the Plan in consultation with the relevant Lead Members;*

(2) *approve the net Revenue Budget estimates totalling £375m for 2019/20 as set out in Appendices 1 (Medium Term Financial Plan) and 2 (Budget Summary) and authorise the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Leader and Deputy Leader, to make adjustments to the presentation of the Budget Summary to reflect the final settlement and budget decisions;*

(3) *in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to agree that:*

- (i) *the net budget requirement is £375m and the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as its council tax requirement (see Appendix 5) for the year 2019/20 is £287.7m;*



## MINUTES

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- (ii) *the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as the basic amount of its council tax (i.e. for a band D property) for the year 2019/20 is £1,434.78 and represents a 2.99% increase on the previous year;*

*(4) advise the District and Borough Councils of the relevant amounts payable and council tax in other bands in line with the regulations and to issue precepts accordingly in accordance with an agreed schedule of instalments as set out at Appendix 5*

*(5) note the fees and charges set out in Appendix 6 that have been increased above inflation;*

*(6) approve the Capital Strategy and Programme for 2018 – 2023 as set out at Appendix 7;*

*(7) note the Medium Term Financial Plan forecast for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1;*

*(8) note the comments of the Chief Finance Officer on budget risks and robustness as set out in Appendix 8; and*

*(9) note the comments from the engagement exercises as set out in Appendix 9.*

53.6 A recorded vote on Councillor Elkin's motion was taken. The motion was CARRIED with the votes being cast as follows:

### FOR THE MOTION

Councillors Barnes, Beaver, Belsey, Bennett, Boorman, Bowdler, Charles Clark, Martin Clarke, Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Earl-Williams, Elford, Elkin, Enever, Ensor, Fox, Galley, Glazier, Liddiard, Loe, Maynard, Pragnell, Simmons, Smith, Standley, Stogdon, Taylor, Tidy and Whetstone

### AGAINST THE MOTION

Councillors Godfrey Daniel, Philip Daniel, Field, Lambert, Osborne, Rodohan, Scott, Daniel Shing, Stephen Shing, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tutt, Ungar, Wallis and Webb

### ABSTENTIONS

None

Paragraph 3 (annual progress report for looked after children's services)

53.7 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraph of the Cabinet's report.

53.8 The motion was CARRIED after debate

53.9 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 6 of the Cabinet report with the report of the People Scrutiny Committee.

## **54 Report of the People Scrutiny Committee**

### SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SCHOOLS COPING WITH CHANGE

54.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 6 of the Cabinet's report

## MINUTES

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54.2 Councillor Davies moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee report.

54.3 Councillor Glazier moved the adoption of paragraph 6 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate.

54.4 The motion to adopt paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate on the basis that implementation would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet.

### 55 Questions from County Councillors

55.1 The following members asked questions of the Lead Cabinet Members indicated and they responded:

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Shuttleworth	Councillor Standley	Consultation on the English as an Additional Language Service and the future of the Service
Councillor Field	Councillor Bennett	Impact of the introduction of charging for certain items at HWRS and level of income generated
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Maynard	Provision of adult social care services from health hubs in the County
Councillor Webb	Councillor Standley	Consultation regarding the future of the English as an Additional Language Service
Councillor Ensor	Councillor Bennett	Priority road safety infrastructure improvement programme
Councillor Beaver	Councillor Bennett	Update on the progress of work at the eastern end of the Queensway gateway.

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

55.2 There were no written questions from councillors.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2.41 pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
The reports referred to are included in the minute book  
\_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**1. Question from Bob Downing, Seaford East Sussex**

My question relates to the £23m second stage of the Newhaven Port Access Road (NPAR).

ESCC has always insisted that the NPAR would follow the route given planning approval by ESCC in July 1996 (LW/1751/CC), and repeated in the 2018 Business Case.

In April 2014, in commenting upon a proposed variation of the route submitted via Lewes District Council (LDC) as LW/13/0729, ESCC observed (as note HT401, which erroneously states that the road affected is the A259) that:

*The horizontal and vertical alignment of the proposed road has been checked by the ESCC's consultant to ensure the alignment does not affect any future phasing of the Port Access Road. As the levels are nearly identical at Chainage 600 [only 0.05m difference] the next phase of the Port Access Road can be tied in at the Pargut Roundabout.*

and that:

*Therefore the Highway Authority have no objection to the proposed development*

...

The lack of ESCC objection to the route variation implicit in the application and its subsequent LDC approval resulted in the then developer building the “wrong” roundabout. It very obviously has an extra 4<sup>th</sup> arm, pointing not towards where the final stage of the NPAR would run but directly out across the wildlife sanctuary towards the A259. From the comment made, it is clear that ESCC did not examine the route variation with care and so missed the opportunity to prevent the “wrong” Pargut Roundabout being built.

Since the building of Stage 1 (aka Phase 1a) was completed in Autumn 2015, the “wrong” roundabout has lain unused and obviously wrong to any passer by using the public footpaths across the Wildlife Sanctuary, or even casually looking at it via Google Earth.

Evidently at some stage in 2018 ESCC finally realised it was indeed not the route originally given planning permission in 1996 and would (somewhat bafflingly) *not* “tie in with the next phase” – contradicting its own advice. Nevertheless the Council has maintained in response to every enquiry that the NPAR’s final stage would run *exactly* as per the 1996 plan, despite this being clearly impossible given the ESCC-approved design of Pargut Roundabout.

This was the cause of much querying about why the final stage would start off heading across the SDNP, none of which was sensibly answered. ESCC has only conceded in December that the entire roundabout, including drainage, signs and electrical installations, will be dug up again and the new centre rebuilt some 65m away (which means the new roundabout will be barely 3m away from overlapping the old) in order to make Stage 2 (aka Phase 1b) conform to the 1996 route.

Yet it is clear on the ground that the “wrong” design only needs the spurious spur to be closed off – a matter of simply completing the edge kerb. The existing south-pointing arm could clearly be used as the starting point for the remainder of the NPAR, with a minor adaptation thereafter, the initial variation being a matter of a mere 3m or so.

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Why has ESCC decided to spend a significant amount of public money ripping up and relaying some 165m of road, given the high cost of the groundwork required at such a site, at a time when public finances are so stretched, rather than:

- a) admitting its 2014 mistake in not objecting and simply giving itself planning permission to make a route variation, and:
- b) admitting that it did not itself read its own 2014 judgement that "*the next phase of the Port Access Road can be tied in at the Pargut Roundabout*" and proceeding accordingly,

when such simple solutions would clearly reduce the amount of overspend to a minimum?

### **Response by the Lead Member for Economy**

In responding to the questions put by Mr Downing, I would first like to set out some context to the issue he is concerned with.

As Mr Downing correctly points out, planning permission for the full Port Access Road was originally granted in 1996. The permission was renewed in 2002 and in 2007 planning permission was granted to vary one of the conditions from the 2002 permission. Subsequent to this, Lewes District Council granted planning permission for a mixed use scheme on land to the west of the Port Access Road. This scheme, along with the subsequent planning application referred to by Mr Downing, saw an alteration to the previously ESCC approved scheme, in that a 4-arm roundabout was to be constructed at the southern end of Phase 1 of the Port Access Road. The ESCC approved scheme was for a 3-arm roundabout and the reason why a 4-arm roundabout was proposed, and subsequently delivered, was to allow suitable access to the retail, employment premises and residential development that had been granted planning permission to the west.

The County Council's Transport Development Control team responded to this application and this response is referred to by Mr Downing. The County Council was required to consider this application on its own merits and whilst reference was made to the wider full Port Access Road scheme, an objection to this proposal was not merited on the basis that the subsequent phase of the Port Access Road could differ from the already approved scheme under the consents granted by the County Council. The response correctly highlighted that the level of the proposal (i.e. the vertical alignment) could tie in with the approved Port Access Road. What was not acknowledged in this response was that should the subsequent phase of the Port Access Road tie in with this roundabout, it would have been likely to have required an amendment to the planning permission already granted by the County Council. This was not an oversight, or mistake, as clearly it would have been inappropriate for the Council to pre-determine any subsequent decision it may have had to make on an application that sought such an amendment.

Over the course of the last three years, it has become apparent that elements of the planning permission to the west of the Port Access Road were unlikely to be delivered. In particular, this is the approved retail foodstore that would have been delivered by ASDA.

In light of this, the Council had two options for Phase 2 of the Port Access Road, namely to revert back to the alignment that was originally granted planning consent by the County Council, or to have an alignment that would tie in with the roundabout

## MINUTES

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constructed as part of the planning permission granted by Lewes District Council. The County Council opted to utilise the 2007 planning permission. This was primarily due to the fact that to construct phase 2 of the Port Access Road from the recently constructed Pargut roundabout would have resulted in an alignment of the road that would have had a significant landtake in the area that is subject to the National Park designation.

I note your suggestion that Phase 1b of the Newhaven Port Access Road could be continued along its original alignment, with a minor adaption, from the 4<sup>th</sup> (southern) arm of the current Pargut roundabout thereby negating the need to move the roundabout. This was considered by our consultant design engineers and unfortunately, such an alignment - especially for large lorries entering and exiting the roundabout from the south - would not meet the design standards set out the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, a set of technical documents that highway authorities use for the design, construction and maintenance of highways. Therefore, in order for the remaining section of the Port Access Road to be constructed to meet the necessary design and safety standards, the Pargut roundabout needs to be relocated back to its original position.

Finally, I would also like to point out that there is not an overspend on the delivery of the second phase of the Port Access Road. Current projected expenditure is in accordance with the County Council's own Capital Budget, along with the approved Business Case that was submitted to the Department for Transport.

### **2. Question from Alice Burchfield, Peacehaven, East Sussex**

I have read the report "Schools Coping with Change - The Way Forward", and as a parent of children in Peacehaven, I am very concerned that East Sussex County Council are putting schools under pressure to join Multiple Academy Trusts (MATs). I find this very concerning indeed, given that many people consider that Academies are now a failed model. Please can you reassure me that East Sussex County Council will not be promoting MATs over other type of partnerships for schools?

### **Response by the Lead Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disability**

A key priority articulated in the LA's *Excellence for All* strategy for school improvement is creating a sustainable model of system-led school improvement by developing and supporting a range of partnerships which may include multi-academy trusts. As part of this strategy, the LA works with school leaders and governors to support them to find the best solution to their local context.

The ultimate decision about whether a school converts to academy status is the decision of the governing body, unless the school has been directed to convert by the Secretary of State.

### **3. Question from Patricia Patterson-Vanegas, Forest Row, East Sussex**

Renewable energy is already damaging the more exposed parts of the fossil fuel system. The European electricity sector has written off \$150bn of stranded assets since 2008, Peabody filed for bankruptcy in 2016 when coal demand was 4% below its peak, and GE has lost half its capitalisation in the last year' ('Myths of the energy transition: Renewables are too small to matter.', Carbon Tracker, October

2018, [https://www.carbontracker.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CTI\\_Myths\\_Series\\_1\\_Renewables-too-small.pdf](https://www.carbontracker.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CTI_Myths_Series_1_Renewables-too-small.pdf)).

Given that 'it is normal for markets to react at the peak', when do the East Sussex Pension Fund's fund managers believe that peak demand for fossil fuels is likely to take place?

#### **Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee**

The Pension Committee believes that investors with long term time horizons are more exposed to certain risks and requires that its investment managers are aware of and consider these when making investments. It is acknowledged that investment managers carry out detailed research on the prospects for individual companies and industries and have access to company management. The Committee meets with investment managers at its regular quarterly meetings and has the opportunity to discuss relevant developments in detail. To challenge investments strategies and to ensure these are being followed and that all relevant risks have been considered.

When peak demand for fossil fuel may occur is dependent on many varying factors around which many assumptions are made. Therefore there is a divergence of views from the Fund's investment managers at what point peak demand for fossil fuels will occur, along with what impact this will have on individual companies. While some managers believe that demand for fossil fuels will peak in the early 2030s. There is no consensus on 'when is peak?', but estimates vary from the 2020s, with organisations such as Carbon Tracker predicting this will be in 2023, to the energy industry's estimate of 2040. It is believed that pinpointing a precise year gives a misleading sense of accuracy.

#### **4. Question from Ohana Banerjee, Lewes, East Sussex**

I have recently read the document Schools coping with change the way forward.

I am very anxious as a parent of two children at school in East Sussex. There seems to be real pressure put on schools to form a "formal partnership" and become academies as a solution to a funding problem. Is anyone thinking about the pressure this is putting on schools? the risks to the schools and their future status and the lack of attention given to the quality of education given to our children right now and in the future?

#### **Response by the Lead Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disability**

A key priority articulated in the LA's *Excellence for All* strategy for school improvement is creating a sustainable model of system-led school improvement by developing and supporting a range of partnerships which may include multi-academy trusts. As part of this strategy, the LA works with school leaders and governors to support them to find the best solution to their local context.

The ultimate decision about whether a school converts to academy status is the decision of the governing body, unless the school has been directed to convert by the Secretary of State.

**5. Question from Emily O'Brien, Newhaven, East Sussex (on behalf of Community Action Newhaven)**

Community Action Newhaven are deeply concerned about the County Council's failure to engage with the public in relation to the controversial £23 million Newhaven Port Access Road and flyover to Tide Mills Beach.

At the last council meeting you responded to our question on this issue stating that you would be updating your website. Yet this has not happened, and the timeline shows construction as "starting Summer 2018" when it hasn't even begun.

More importantly you stated that there would be public engagement via a new 'community liaison group.' Likewise in response to our complaint of 14th February 2018 - nearly a year ago - you stated that "With regard to future consultation with the local community [...] it is the intention to set up a local community liaison group, or similar, in order to engage with local residents and other stakeholders and ensure progress and plans are shared"

Yet there is still zero sign of this group. Our question is therefore: Is the community liaison group real? if so when will it first meet? And will Community Action Newhaven be offered a place on it, and if not why not?

**Response by the Lead Member for Economy**

The construction phase of the Newhaven Port Access Road commenced on 7 January 2019, and the ESCC web site is being updated accordingly with an updated timeline.

Now that construction has started in earnest, our contractor BAM Nuttall will be making arrangements for a Community Liaison Group to be set up with the intention of meeting up every three months. Terms of Reference for this group are being prepared, and we would welcome attendance by a representative of Community Action Newhaven. Our contractor will contact local stakeholder groups to confirm the arrangements for the first of these meetings.

**6. Question from Zoe Gallagher, Lewes, East Sussex**

Why does ESCC want to encourage schools to enter formal partnerships - MATs or Federations - despite widespread opposition from local parents and teachers?

**Response by the Lead Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disability**

A key priority articulated in the LA's *Excellence for All* strategy for school improvement is creating a sustainable model of system-led school improvement by developing and supporting a range of partnerships which may include multi-academy trusts. As part of this strategy, the LA works with school leaders and governors to support them to find the best solution to their local context.

The ultimate decision about whether a school converts to academy status is the decision of the governing body, unless the school has been directed to convert by the Secretary of State.

With regards to the proposals by Lewes schools, we understand that they are now exploring a broader range of options for partnership. The LA supports the further development of the strong partnership working already in existence across schools in the town. We believe that a formal partnership of the schools will bring benefits to individual schools, improve outcomes for all pupils and secure the sustainability of high performance for the longer term.

### **7. Question from Philip Rowland, Lewes, East Sussex**

Why is the Council trying to offload its schools by pushing them to pursue federations and academies without evidence that these are successful educational models instead of helping those schools through the difficulties caused by cuts in central and local funding?"

### **Response by the Lead Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disability**

A key priority articulated in the LA's *Excellence for All* strategy for school improvement is creating a sustainable model of system-led school improvement by developing and supporting a range of partnerships which may include multi-academy trusts. As part of this strategy, the LA works with school leaders and governors to support them to find the best solution to their local context.

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With regards to the proposals by Lewes schools, we understand that they are now exploring a broader range of options for partnership. The LA supports the further development of the strong partnership working already in existence across schools in the town. We believe that a formal partnership of the schools will bring benefits to individual schools, improve outcomes for all pupils and secure the sustainability of high performance for the longer term.

The LA recognises that the funding climate for schools will remain very challenging. This environment has led an increasing number of schools to work in, or develop, formal partnership structures such as federations or multi-academy trusts. These partnerships will contribute to the future sustainability of local schools, as well as supporting further improvement in outcomes for all pupils. In addition, the LA actively supports the recent campaign led by headteachers in East Sussex schools to lobby central government for a fair funding settlement. The Council's recent campaign for fair funding specifically asked Government for a long-term funding plan that would secure our schools' success. We want all our schools to be well funded and to ensure that all children and young people in the county receive a high quality education.

### **8. Question from John Edson, Bishopstone, East Sussex**

East Sussex County Council is in the embarrassing situation of on the one hand making cuts to vital services including meals on wheels, and yet on the other hand choosing to spend £23 million of public money on a controversial flyover, which doesn't even tackle the traffic problems in Newhaven which so desperately need addressing - and could make them worse.



Northamptonshire County Council were recently in the news because they've asked, and been granted, permission by Government to re-allocate money earmarked for capital spend towards the day to day running of their services.

This Council could ask to do the same - or could choose to fund desperately needed measures to alleviate congestion on the A259 around Newhaven and Peacehaven, given that the recent partnership bid to do so has failed to secure the funding needed.

Do Councillors agree there are more important things to spend £23 million of our taxpayers money on? - and are you now prepared to take action to re-allocate this funding?

### **Response by the Lead Member for Resources**

The County Council is not in the same position as Northamptonshire County Council, which has been unable to produce a balanced budget and has therefore been given special permission to use capital reserves to support revenue spend temporarily. This is very much a temporary measure, is unsustainable, and Northamptonshire County Council will still need to reduce its spending in line with its income and to make reductions in service expenditure. The budget put forward to Council today, whilst meaning that there will need to be changes and reductions to some services, is balanced. It aims to make the best use of our resources to support all the Council's priorities.

Supporting economic growth in East Sussex is one of County Council's priorities and improvement of the Newhaven Port Access road is part of the work in support of that priority. It will reduce traffic on residential roads in Newhaven, removing HVGs from them. It is also aimed at improving the economy in and around Newhaven, bringing 450 new jobs to the area. The Port Access Road is a good example of effective partnership working with Lewes District Council, the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership and the Government. The Department for Transport are providing £10m of funding. I appreciate that the A259 does have issues with congestion in parts, and the Council will be working with local communities during the year to try to identify some solutions.

### **9. Question from Lulah Ellender, Lewes, East Sussex**

Please can the Lead Member confirm whether the move to push all Local Authority schools into MATs or Federations (merely a stepping stone to academisation) is driven by evidence-based research on improvements in educational standards and enriching experiences for our children (of which there doesn't seem to be any), or whether it's just a cost-cutting exercise resulting from funding cuts by central government?

### **Response by the Lead Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disability**

A key priority articulated in the LA's *Excellence for All* strategy for school improvement is creating a sustainable model of system-led school improvement by developing and supporting a range of partnerships which may include multi-academy trusts. As part of this strategy, the LA works with school leaders and governors to support them to find the best solution to their local context.

The ultimate decision about whether a school converts to academy status is the decision of the governing body, unless the school has been directed to convert by the Secretary of State.

With regards to the proposals by Lewes schools, we understand that they are now exploring a broader range of options for partnership. The LA supports the further development of the strong partnership working already in existence across schools in the town. We believe that a formal partnership of the schools will bring benefits to individual schools, improve outcomes for all pupils and secure the sustainability of high performance for the longer term.

The LA recognises that the funding climate for schools will remain very challenging. This environment has led an increasing number of schools to work in, or develop, formal partnership structures such as federations or multi-academy trusts. These partnerships will contribute to the future sustainability of local schools, as well as supporting further improvement in outcomes for all pupils. In addition, the LA actively supports the recent campaign led by headteachers in East Sussex schools to lobby central government for a fair funding settlement. The Council's recent campaign for fair funding specifically asked Government for a long-term funding plan that would secure our schools' success. We want all our schools to be well funded and to ensure that all children and young people in the county receive a high quality education.

### **10. Question from Arnold Simanowitz, Lewes, East Sussex**

Last month saw the publication of an important scientific paper in the journal Nature Communications, entitled: 'Current fossil fuel infrastructure does not yet commit us to 1.5 °C warming' (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-07999-w>).

This found that 'if carbon-intensive infrastructure is phased out at the end of its design lifetime from the end of 2018, there is a 64% chance that peak global mean temperature rise remains below 1.5 °C' but that 'delaying mitigation until 2030 considerably reduces the likelihood that 1.5 °C would be attainable even if the rate of fossil fuel retirement was accelerated.'

According to Christopher Smith, of the University of Leeds, who led the research: "It's good news from a geophysical point of view. But on the other side of the coin, the [immediate fossil fuel phaseout] is really at the limit of what we could possibly do. We are basically saying we can't build anything now that emits fossil fuels."

According to Nicholas Stern, of the London School of Economics, who was not part of the research team: "This study confirms that all new energy infrastructure must be sustainable from now on if we are to avoid locking in commitments to emissions that would lead to the world exceeding the goals of the Paris agreement."

Given these conclusions, and the dire human and financial impacts of scenarios in which we exceed 1.5 °C of global warming, how does the East Sussex Pension Committee justify continuing to invest in fossil fuel companies that continue exploring for new sources of fossil fuels and building new infrastructure to extract them?

### **Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee**

The Pension Committee believes by increasing pressure on oil and gas companies, through active shareholder engagement, we can get companies to improve their

corporate behavior. Improvements made by these engagements lead to an increase in the long term value of the Fund's investments.

The Fund's approach to engagement recognises the importance of working in partnership to magnify the voice and maximise the influence of investors as owners. The Fund appreciates that to gain the attention of companies in addressing governance concerns it needs to join with other investors sharing similar concerns. The Committee continues to engage with investment managers, along with its investment into the climate aware fund which provides an incentive to companies to move towards limiting climate change.

### **11. Question from Julia Bell, Kingston, East Sussex**

How can any partnership ensure the individuality/ethos and local input of each individual school ?

### **Response by the Lead Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Formal partnership arrangements include federations where schools remain within LA management and multi-academy trusts where funding and accountability moves to the Regional Schools Commissioner. Formal partnerships facilitate the sharing of leadership, staff and resources more effectively than informal partnership arrangements.

Federations are legal arrangements under the School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 and are where two or more schools are governed collectively under a single governing body.

Each school may maintain a headteacher or choose to have a single headteacher or an executive headteacher who works in a more strategic way with Heads of School dealing with the day to day management of their schools. Some schools choose to work initially in a collaboration arrangement, and then in time move to a more formal federation.

Schools within a federation continue to have their own:

- budget
- admissions arrangements and
- uniform

Schools within a federation are recognised and inspected separately by Ofsted. Within this context it is for schools and partnerships in collaboration with their communities to determine matters of ethos and organisation.

### **12. Question from Antonia Jewels, Lewes, East Sussex**

I was interested to read the scrutiny committee review board minutes entitled 'Schools Coping with Change'. I was surprised to read that it was the council's position to encourage schools into Formal Partnerships (also known as Federations or MATs). As you know there has been recent strong opposition to these partnerships in Lewes and ALL schools in Lewes are revisiting any move towards academisation, dissolving the MAT working group. Also, it is no longer Government policy to push schools into becoming MATs.

## MINUTES

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Recently during the last full Council meeting a question was asked about the council's policy and whether they were favouring schools forming MATs. The answer was simply that the decision to become a MAT was entirely the responsibility of the school governors and that the council had no official stance on the issue.

Please can you explain why then the council is now providing contrary advice to schools and that in response to currently funding challenges, schools are better off in Formal Partnerships?

Bearing in mind that it is the responsibility of the LEA to manage schools, why are they now 'washing their hands' of schools? Encouraging schools into the flawed Academy system when it is damaging to children, teachers and the wider community.

Please explain what steps are being taken to further lobby central Government for proper and acceptable levels of funding for schools.

The same 'national funding formula' has been applied to neighbouring Brighton & Hove, please explain what mismanagement of funds has been allowed to take place in ESCC?

### **Response by the Lead Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disability**

A key priority articulated in the LA's *Excellence for All* strategy for school improvement is creating a sustainable model of system-led school improvement by developing and supporting a range of partnerships which may include multi-academy trusts. As part of this strategy, the LA works with school leaders and governors to support them to find the best solution to their local context.

The ultimate decision about whether a school converts to academy status is the decision of the governing body, unless the school has been directed to convert by the Secretary of State.

With regards to the proposals by Lewes schools, we understand that they are now exploring a broader range of options for partnership. The LA supports the further development of the strong partnership working already in existence across schools in the town. We believe that a formal partnership of the schools will bring benefits to individual schools, improve outcomes for all pupils and secure the sustainability of high performance for the longer term.

The LA recognises that the funding climate for schools will remain very challenging. This environment has led an increasing number of schools to work in, or develop, formal partnership structures such as federations or multi-academy trusts. These partnerships will contribute to the future sustainability of local schools, as well as supporting further improvement in outcomes for all pupils. In addition, the LA actively supports the recent campaign led by headteachers in East Sussex schools to lobby central government for a fair funding settlement. The Council's recent campaign for fair funding specifically asked Government for a long-term funding plan that would secure our schools' success. We want all our schools to be well funded and to ensure that all children and young people in the county receive a high quality education.

## MINUTES

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There is broad agreement that the proposed National Funding Formula (NFF) does not address the continuing unfairness of funding allocations and remaining locked in inequalities.

The inconsistencies in funding for individual schools with similar characteristics across the country remain too great as a result of the protection of schools that are better funded. Implementation of the NFF has understandably attempted to ensure stability and the protection of schools against loss, but this undermines the ambition to create a fairer funding system across all local authorities.

East Sussex schools face the additional challenge of a significantly higher proportion of small rural schools that are both more costly to run and place a greater pressure on the total budget for schools.

I continue to work with schools, local politicians and national campaigners to address school funding matters.

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## REPORT OF THE CABINET

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The Cabinet met on 5 March 2019. Attendance:-

Councillor Glazier (Chair)

Councillors Bennett, Bentley, Elkin, Maynard, Simmons, Standley and Tidy

### 1. Council Monitoring – Quarter 3 2018/19

1.1 The Cabinet has considered a report on performance against the Council Plan, Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, Savings Plan and risks for quarter 3 2018/19. Broad progress against the Council's four strategic priority outcomes is summarised below and an overview of finance and performance data is provided in the Corporate Summary at Appendix 1. Strategic risks are reported at Appendix 7.

Council Plan 2018/19 amendments and variations

1.2 The Cabinet has agreed to the deletion of one performance measure. The Council commissioned capacity to achieve a diagnostic rate of 67% of the local prevalence of dementia in 2017/18, and this work will continue. However the Government has changed the way the Dementia Diagnostic Rate (DDR) is presented so it is no longer possible to accurately calculate a countywide DDR percentage:

- Commission new service capacity to achieve diagnostic rate of 67% of the estimated local prevalence of dementia (Appendix 2, see ref iii).

1.3 At quarter 3, the projected total underspend is £3.7m (compared to £0.2m at quarter 2). This position arises from an overspend within service departments of £3.1m (compared to a £4.4m overspend reported at quarter 2), offset by an underspend in Centrally Held Budgets of £5.4m (£4.3m at quarter 2) and additional Business Rates income of £1.4m, primarily from the surplus business rate levy funding of £1.1m announced as part of the Local Government Financial Settlement.

1.4 The main areas of net overspend in departments are set out below.

1.5 Whilst there is no change in the overall Children's Services Department (CSD) £3.3m overspend, when compared to quarter 2, the Education and ISEND pressure has reduced due to a reduction in demand for the resources available under Direct Payments, offset by an increase due to extra Home to School Transport statutory costs. The savings forecast (Appendix 1 Corporate Summary) shows £0.033m unmitigated savings in CSD that will slip into 2019/20 - this forms part of the overall departmental overspend.

1.6 £1.2m (£1.5m in quarter 2) overspend in Adult Social Care. The reduction is due to an increase in client income from the clawback of spend on direct payments. Underlying pressures continue to exist in equipment, meals and independent sector spend on working age adults, which have been mitigated in part through the use of one-off funding in 2018/19.

1.7 These overspends are offset by underspends in other departments, including Business Services which is showing an underspend of £0.7m (£0.1m at quarter 2). The result of a reduced estimated contribution to Orbis of £0.27m, plus a £0.36m increased underspend in Property Services. Orbis is continuing to hold staff vacancies ahead of putting plans in place to deliver a further £3.2m of savings next year. The Property variance consists of a potential overspend of £0.3m on rent payments, this is subject to the outcome of arbitration. This is offset by an underspend in Building Maintenance where there has been a staffing restructure and continued vacancies causing delays to the non-schools planned programme (the main element being St Anne's flint wall), term contracts and building improvements.

1.8 Communities, Economy and Transport is reporting an underspend of £0.8m (£0.2m in quarter 2). This is due, in the main, to a reduction in the cost of concessionary fares, and an increase in the underspend for the waste service. The Waste Service will underspend due to better than expected results from the Lewes District Council roll out of comingled recycling, and positive movements in waste tonnage and leachate volumes. There will be an underspend due to the negotiated nil increase to the fixed reimbursement concessionary fares contract. Both the waste disposal and concessionary fares budgets are affected by a number of external impacts such as weather, customer behaviour and the broader economic climate which are outside our direct control.

1.9 Governance Services is now showing no variation (£0.1m underspend in quarter 2).

1.10 The Treasury Management budget is currently forecast to underspend by £1.9m at quarter 3 (£0.8m in quarter 2): reflecting the positive impact of the 2018/19 Treasury Management Strategy which has supported the early repayment of the RBS LOBO loans in October 2018 and investment in the pooled property fund (CCLA LAPF) raising additional income. Together with additional investment income from the increase in bank rate on 2 August 2018 and the removal of the need to borrow externally to fund the capital programme.

1.11 It is proposed that, of the total underspend of £3.7m, £1.9m arising from Treasury Management will be transferred to the capital programme and £1.8m will be transferred to reserves in line with the Reserves Policy.

1.12 Not reflected within the quarter 3 monitoring is additional funding announced by MHCLG on 28 January 2019 of £87,500 in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to support the unknown costs of Brexit.

1.13 The Capital Programme expenditure for the year is projected to be £90.5m against a budget of £92.0m, a variation of £1.5m. This comprises slippage of £1.6m offset by spend in advance of £0.1m.

1.14 The main movements are:

- Slippage of £0.8m on Capital Building Improvements due to Property Services carrying out a full review of the condition of buildings which has led to delays in works.
- Slippage of £0.2m on the Schools Basic Need Programme due to delays on three projects.
- Slippage of £0.2m on IT&D Strategy due to expenditure on Office 365 and secure email projects now expected in 2019/20.
- Slippage of £0.1m on the installation of a number of real time passenger information boards which has been reprogrammed for delivery next year.

1.15 The Strategic Risk Register, Appendix 7, was reviewed and updated to reflect the Council's risk profile. A new risk (No-Deal Brexit) has been added to the Strategic Risk Register.

#### Progress against Council Priorities

##### Driving sustainable economic growth

1.16 44 businesses took part in the 'Open Doors' event in November 2018, receiving workplace visits from over 500 students from schools and colleges in the county. The visits help the students get a greater understanding of the workplace and the possible career opportunities available to them (Appendix 5).

1.17 The Department for Education (DfE) have published data on the uptake of apprentices for the first year of the Apprenticeship Levy, 2017/18. The Government has set a target for 2.3% of the workforce to be undertaking an apprenticeship; the Council achieved 1.1% in 2017/18 placing us fourth highest amongst county councils (Appendix 3).

1.18 The Council has spent £194.5m with local suppliers over the past 12 months, which equates to 55% of our total spend, 867 local suppliers were used (Appendix 3).



1.19 Businesses were assisted to create 11 jobs in quarter 3 through business support programmes; Locate East Sussex also assisted 11 businesses to move into, or relocate within, the county (Appendix 5).

1.20 68 carriageway asset improvement schemes were completed in quarter 3, to maintain and improve the condition of the county's roads (Appendix 5).

1.21 95.7% of young people at academic age 16 (Year 12) and 87.8% of young people at academic age 17 (Year 13) are participating in education, training or employment with training or undertaking re-engagement provision (Appendix 4).

1.22 Provisional data for the average Looked after Children Progress 8 figure for academic year 2017/18 in East Sussex is -1.42 compared to a national average of -0.93, missing the target for the year (Appendix 4).

### Keeping vulnerable people safe

1.23 The annual report of the Safeguarding Adults board was published and considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board in December. The report outlines safeguarding activity and performance in East Sussex during 2017/18, as well as some of the main developments that have taken place to prevent abuse from occurring. The report sets out the progress made against key priorities for 2017/18 and demonstrates the continued effort of all partner agencies to work together to safeguard adults from abuse and neglect (Appendix 6).

1.24 Trading Standards made 54 positive interventions in quarter 3 to protect vulnerable people, including visiting 44 victims of rogue trading or financial abuse, installing nine call blockers to protect people from telephone scams, and one intervention from the rapid response team (Appendix 5).

1.25 105 organisations have joined the East Sussex Against Scams Partnership Charter, and with the assistance of other East Sussex 'SCAM champions', 2,979 residents have participated in Friends Against Scams awareness sessions (Appendix 2).

1.26 The children's Annual Takeover Day took place on 23 November 2018, with over 50 young people taking part to discuss mental health and emotional wellbeing. The event was attended by children from a diverse range of backgrounds; including several local youth voice groups; disabled young people; the Children in Care Council; and the East Sussex Youth Cabinet. The young people discussed what they think is missing from the world of mental health with senior decision makers; and also highlighted positive examples of current services and attitudes to mental health (Appendix 4).

### Helping people help themselves

1.27 Behavioural change initiative trials have continued in quarter 3, as part of the Council's £1m Road Safety scheme. Trials include amendments to the Notice of Intended Prosecution, the development of new letter for Operation Crackdown, and reminders to people of their offending as part of the Anniversary Project. Three infrastructure schemes, on routes identified as high risk, have been completed in 2018/19; a further four schemes have been confirmed (Appendix 5).

1.28 There has continued to be improvements against the key metrics outlined in the Improved Better Care Fund in quarter 3. There have been reductions in Delayed Transfers of Care and admissions to residential nursing homes, while the number of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitations services is increasing (Appendix 2).

### Making best use of resources

1.29 The Government's budget was announced on 29 October 2018, with the Local Government Settlement following on 13 December 2018. The budget and settlement provided the Council with a number of additional funding streams for 2018/19 and 2019/20, although this funding is very welcome, and helps deal with the immediate pressures facing the Council, it is all one off, so won't address the long term challenges. The full final funding settlement from Government is expected in February (Appendix 6).

1.30 We have continued lobbying for fair funding in quarter 3, alongside others in the sector and with the assistance of our local MPs. Lobbying has included, amongst other activities: meetings between the Leader and Deputy Leader and Rishi Sunak, Minister for Local Government, and Liz Truss, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; officers met with civil servants in the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government, including the Permanent Secretary, and the DfE; in the run up to the budget, the Leader wrote, on behalf of all Council Group Leaders, to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government; and the Leader has continued to meet with local MPs to discuss local issues and explore avenues to make our case for adequate funding to Government (Appendix 6).

5 March 2019

KEITH GLAZIER  
(Chair)

## REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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The Governance Committee met on 5 March 2019. Attendances:

Councillor Glazier (Chair)  
Councillors Elkin, Simmons, Tutt and Webb

### 1. Pay Policy Statement

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to formulate and publish a pay policy statement on the pay of its Chief Officers and the relationship between these pay levels and the rest of the workforce, excluding schools. This policy statement has to be approved annually by full Council by 31 March.

1.2 At its meeting on 27 March 2012, County Council agreed that the Governance Committee should have formal responsibility for the approval of posts at Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer and Assistant Director level with a remuneration package of £100,000 or more, provided the existing grade bands and terms and conditions are applied and any proposed exceptions to these are reported to full County Council. The actual appointment decision will continue to be made using existing delegations. Any proposed exceptions to this would require the approval of the full County Council.

1.3 The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to prepare an annual pay policy statement relating to the remuneration (total pay packages) of its Chief Officers, as defined by statute, Deputy Chief Officers (and, by definition, Assistant Directors), the Monitoring Officer and its lowest-paid employees, excluding schools. The pay policy also has to state the relationship between the remuneration of Chief Officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not Chief Officers.

1.4 The Hutton report of Fair Pay in the Public Sector recommended the publication of an organisation's pay multiple as a means of illustrating the relationship between the remuneration arrangements for Chief Officers in comparison with the rest of the non-schools workforce in the form of a ratio. The ratio is currently (March 2018) 7.14 to 1, the same as the December 2017 ratio of 7.14 to 1. The pay multiple is published on our website with the Pay Policy Statement and will be updated in March 2019.

1.5 It is necessary to include definitions and the authorities' policies relating to levels and elements of remuneration including all additional payments and benefits in kind. The statement must also indicate the approach to the payment of Chief Officers on ceasing employment, including eligibility for the award of additional pensionable service and on the engagement or re-engagement of Chief Officers previously made redundant or accessing a local government pension.

1.6 The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 placed a new requirement on all employers with 250 or more employees to publish gender pay data on the gov.uk website by 31 March 2018. The median gender pay gap for 2017/18 was 7.18% and the gender pay report for East Sussex County Council is published on our website with the Pay Policy Statement.

1.7 The Government has also undertaken a number of consultations over the last couple of years in relation to reforming public sector exit payment terms. All of the below were due to be implemented in 2018 but implementation has been delayed and no expected implementation date has currently been announced:

- (i) Recovery of exit payments - the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 includes provisions to enable the recovery of exit payments made to individuals who return to the public sector within 12 months of receiving an exit payment.
- (ii) Exit payment cap — the Government intends to introduce a cap of £95,000 on public sector exit payments (including pension strain costs etc.) to implement its manifesto commitment to cap six-figure exit pay-outs.
- (iii) Exit payment terms (compensation) — the Government are considering further reforms to the calculation of compensation terms and to employer funded early retirement in circumstances of redundancy, including the introduction of a maximum salary on which an exit payment can be based and the tapering of a lump sum compensation as they get closer to their normal retirement age. The maximum salary is currently proposed to be £80,000.

1.8 Whilst the existing pay policy statement remains a valid statement of the County Council's remuneration arrangements at present, it will need to be updated to reflect the outcome of the above consultations once known. Attached at Appendix 1 is a copy of the proposed pay policy statement for 2019/20.

1.9 The Committee recommends the County Council to:

- ☆ agree the updated pay policy statement for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 1.

## **2. Amendment to Constitution – Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference**

2.1 The East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has undertaken a review of how it functions, as it has been in its current form since it was set up as a shadow board in 2011. The review aimed to ensure that the Board was working as effectively as possible in the light of the current health and social care landscape and to see whether there were lessons to be learned for the operation of similar boards elsewhere. The review also enabled the HWB to consider the outcome of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) local system reviews that took place during 2017/18.

2.2 As part of the review, desktop research was carried on other authorities' HWBs. In the light of this work and discussions at the HWB, it was agreed that the future shape of the board should be underpinned by the following principles:

- The Health and Wellbeing Board should provide whole system leadership for the health and wellbeing of the people of East Sussex and the development of sustainable and integrated of health and care services.
- East Sussex is the appropriate geographical building block for priority setting for the health and social care system. Given the variation across the county and the multiplicity of organisations, a smaller geographical focus may well be appropriate for specific work, but the county is the primary planning unit.
- A robust and up-to-date evidence base will be used to agree priorities and devise plans.
- There will be strong and effective engagement and communications between residents, communities, commissioners and providers.
- There will be a compelling shared vision for health and social care in East Sussex that clearly explains our joint purpose to residents, communities and staff/volunteers in all organisations.
- Plans and accountability for delivery must be clear and robustly exercised.
- The partnerships and bodies involved in the local system must be coherent, well-articulated and connected by strong infrastructure.

## GOVERNANCE

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- The HWB needs to work effectively both in and outside meetings. The meetings should be timed so that they can deal with relevant issues and all members need to contribute to ensure meetings are effective and relevant.
- The core test must be “does this feel right for East Sussex?”

2.3 A workshop was held on 12 October 2018 to develop the changes needed to turn these principles into practice, informed by the outcomes of a questionnaire completed by HWB members over the summer. The HWB agreed a number of changes to the way it worked to enhance its effectiveness as a result. These were:

- An enhanced role for NHS providers.
- Better induction for new members of the board to ensure they understood current issues and responsibilities.
- An agreed meeting structure that sets out:-
  - A work programme is to be agreed annually for the Board’s four meetings each year which is reviewed at each meeting.
  - Meetings are to focus on agreeing the strategic plan and reporting on progress, in addition, considering those items the Board is required to approve by law.
  - Time is to be set aside during at least half the meetings for a workshop on an identified theme, put forward by the members of the Board and agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair.
- Time to be set aside at meetings for less formal discussion.
- Ensuring the board acted as an effective strategic and influencing, rather than commissioning, body and had a focus on prevention as well as tackling existing issues.
- Ensuring there was a strategic influence over the newly formed East Sussex Health and Social Care Executive Group.

2.4 The key changes proposed to the Board’s terms of reference are:

- Membership - full membership of the Board is extended to include the major current health providers who deliver services in East Sussex. It is proposed that Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (BSUH) and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells (MTW) NHS Trust will be invited to be Observers with speaking rights.
- New HWB members will be provided with an induction to Health and Social Care and the role of the HWB.
- Role and Function - a reference to prevention has been added and reference to commissioning has been removed.
- Deliver and review the Health and Wellbeing Strategy - removal of reference to the Board reporting its views on the CCGs’ contribution to the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy; and, a reference about strategic influence over the newly formed East Sussex Health and Social Care Executive Group has been added.

2.5 The Committee recommends the County Council to:

- ☆ approve the revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in Appendix 2.

5 March 2019

KEITH GLAZIER  
(Chair)

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## REPORT OF THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

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The Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment met on 11 February 2019.

Also present: Councillors Pat Rodohan, Colin Swansborough and Barry Taylor

### 1. Notice of Motion: Condition of pavements in Eastbourne

1.1 The following Notice of Motion has been submitted to the Chairman of the County Council by Councillors Rodohan and Swansborough:

*Given the deplorable state of pavements in Eastbourne which have continued to deteriorate over many years, we call on East Sussex County Council to allocate at least 50% of the surplus funds from the Eastbourne Controlled Parking Scheme to a rolling annual programme of improvements to pavements in Eastbourne commencing in 2019/20*

1.2 In line with County Council practice, the matter was referred by the Chairman to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment for consideration to provide information and inform debate on the Motion.

1.3 Prior to the receipt of this motion, the subject of the condition of pavements in Eastbourne was raised at a meeting of the County Council on 16 October 2018 and at Eastbourne Borough Council Full Council on 14 November 2018.

1.4 At the County Council meeting on 16 October 2018 Mrs Marie Hennelly, an Eastbourne resident, asked the following question of the Lead Member:

*The pavements in Eastbourne are currently in a disgraceful condition and getting worse. Too many residents are tripping on uneven pavements and requiring treatment at our local hospital. Residents, visitors etc are deterred from using some pavements as the risk of injury is very high. I ask that East Sussex County Council, on behalf of the residents of Eastbourne, undertakes a funding programme from the Eastbourne Controlled Parking scheme including fines, to roll out a programme of improvements to the pavements in Eastbourne commencing 2019/2020. This programme to be reviewed annually over the first 5 years.*

1.5 The Lead Member responded with the following written response:

*Thank you for your question, I receive a lot of enquiries about maintenance of pavements across the county and this is a priority area for the County Council. In 2017/18 the County Council provided an additional £300,000 per annum for pavement maintenance and now invests £1.6m each year maintaining pavements across the county. But with over 2400km of pavement across the county our maintenance has to be prioritised on the basis of need, we do not allocate our maintenance budgets by geographical area or by town or village.*

*The County Council has invested over £720,000 in the maintenance of pavements in Eastbourne over the last couple of years, including the following*

roads: Link Road, Victoria Drive, Pevensey Road, Cornfield Lane, Seaside, East Dean Road, Sevenoaks Road, Bedford Grove, Meads Street, Austen Walk, Ashgate Road, Woodpecker Road and Swallow Close. And next month we are planning maintenance in Shakespeare Walk and Carrol Walk.

You call for Parking Surplus to be used for pavement maintenance. Whilst parking surpluses can be used for the maintenance of pavements, the County Council (in conjunction with Eastbourne Borough Council) is investing £2.0m from parking surplus into the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme improving the pavements in Terminus Road, Cornfield Road and Gildridge Road. We are also using parking revenues to replace all of the pay and display parking machines in Eastbourne with new modern machines which will further deplete parking surpluses for several years.

In the meantime, if you have concerns about the condition of particular pavements in the town perhaps you would be good enough to let me, or your local county councillor know, and we can arrange for the Highway Steward to carry out an inspection and arrange appropriate repairs. Alternatively you could report these to our Highways Contact centre on 0345 6080193 or [customer@eastsussexhighways.com](mailto:customer@eastsussexhighways.com)

1.6 On 14 November at the Full Council meeting of Eastbourne Borough Council, Councillor Rodohan submitted the following motion:

*Given the deplorable state of pavements in Eastbourne which have continued to deteriorate over many years this Council calls on East Sussex County Council to allocate at least 50% of the surplus funds from Eastbourne Controlled Parking Scheme to a rolling Annual Programme of Improvements to pavements in Eastbourne commencing in 2019/20*

1.7 The Director of Communities, Economy and Transport provided the following written statement:

*The County Council receives a lot of enquiries about maintenance of pavements across the county and this is a priority area for the County Council. In 2017/18 the County Council provided an additional £300,000 per annum for pavement maintenance and now invests £1.6m each year maintaining pavements across the county. But with over 2400km of pavement across the county our maintenance has to be prioritised on the basis of need, we do not allocate our maintenance budgets by geographical area or by town or village.*

*The County Council has invested over £720,000 in the maintenance of pavements in Eastbourne over the last couple of years, including the following roads: Link Road, Victoria Drive, Pevensey Road, Cornfield Lane, Seaside, East Dean Road, Sevenoaks Road, Bedford Grove, Meads Street, Austen Walk, Ashgate Road, Woodpecker Road, Swallow Close, Shakespeare Walk and Carrol Walk.*

*Your motion calls for fifty percent of Parking Surplus to be used for pavement maintenance in Eastbourne. Whilst parking surpluses can be used for the maintenance of pavements, the County Council is investing £2.0m from parking surplus into the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme improving the pavements in Terminus Road, Cornfield Road and Gildridge Road. We are also using parking revenues to replace all of the pay and display parking*



*machines in Eastbourne with new modern machines which will further deplete parking surpluses for several years.*

*If members of the public or local councillors have concerns about the condition of particular pavements in the town they should report them to our Highways contractor and the local Highway Steward will carry out an inspection and arrange appropriate repairs*

1.8 The minutes of the Eastbourne Borough Council Full Council meeting record that the motion was approved.

### Response to Notice of Motion

1.9 The County Council, as the local Highway Authority, is responsible for the maintenance of roads and pavements across the county, including Eastbourne. The Borough Council has no jurisdiction over highway maintenance.

1.10 The County Council adopts an Asset Management approach to the maintenance of roads and pavements as advocated by the Department for Transport (DfT). In doing so, maintenance is informed by an Asset Plan that prioritises maintenance on the basis of need and risk across the county.

1.11 In recognition of the Council's approach to Asset Management the Council has achieved Band 3 status (highest) and therefore receives 100% of its DfT funding. To move away from an Asset Management approach and to allocate maintenance budgets other than by priority would risk losing the DfT incentive element of the Council's funding.

1.12 In budget setting and agreeing the capital programme for the 2018/19 financial year the County Council increased its investment in the maintenance of pavements across the county by £300,000 to £1,600,000 per annum.

1.13 This investment is used to maintain over 2,400km of pavement across the county. Budgets are not allocated on a geographical basis, or a per capita basis.

1.14 In the current financial year the County Council has spent £436,736 of its capital programme on maintenance of the following pavements in Eastbourne: Link Road, Victoria Drive, Pevensey Road, Seaside, Sevenoaks Road, Shakespeare Walk, Vicarage Drive, Burton Road, Pepys Walk, Coleridge Walk and Dryden Walk, Austin Walk.

1.15 The County Council's outline maintenance programme for 2019/20 contains the following pavements in Eastbourne, totalling approx. £300,000 (final value subject to site investigation): Arundel Road, Blackwater Road, Carew Road, King Edwards Parade, Longstone Road, Lottbridge Drove, Swallow Close, Woodpecker Road, Swallow Close, Tanbridge Road, Tenterden Close, The Rising, Tugwell Road and Beachey Head Road, Kings Drive, Willingdon Close, Close 8, Shelley Walk, Kipling Walk, Boswell Walk, Chaucer Walk, Keats Walk, Byron Walk, Berkley Walk, Carrol Walk and Browning Walk. In addition, East Dean Road and Ashgate Road will be assessed for affordability in 2019 subject to budget priority.

Note: Bedford Grove, Meads Street and Cornfield Lane originally identified in 2018 are dependent on agreement with EBC Conservation Officer.

1.16 The County Council's Asset Plan is informed by Highway Steward routine inspections as well as reports received from Councillors and members of the public.

In determining maintenance requirements the County Council publishes intervention criteria that define maintenance triggers. These are used by the Stewards to determine whether repairs to potholes and other defects are required from maintenance revenue budgets, and the requisite timescales, or whether larger scale repairs are required from the Council's capital budget.

1.17 The Place Scrutiny Committee is currently carrying out a Review of Road Repairs which includes the maintenance of pavements. In the review Scrutiny Members have heard how maintenance is prioritised and how maintenance budgets are allocated. The Review Board also heard that a reactive and planned maintenance programme is in place for pavements in a similar way to carriageway repairs. A report on the findings of this review is to be presented to the County Council's Cabinet in April 2019.

1.18 Surplus revenues from parking enforcement across the three controlled parking zones in the county (where civil parking enforcement operates) can be used for transport related schemes, and whilst this can include maintenance, the majority of the current surplus is already allocated.

1.19 In Eastbourne surplus from several years of parking revenues has been accumulated and £2,000,000 is being invested in the Eastbourne Town Centre regeneration scheme in 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years, improving the pavements in the town centre. In addition, approximately £680,000 is also being invested from parking revenue in new pay and display machines in Eastbourne.

1.20 Eastbourne is served by two Highway Stewards who are responsible for the roads and pavements across the borough. Any concerns about the condition of roads and pavements should be reported to a Steward via the highways contact centre, contact details for which can be found on the East Sussex Highways website.

1.21 The Lead Member recommends that the County Council -

★ (1) rejects the Notice of Motion set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report; and

(2) advises all County Councillors, and not just those with Divisions in Eastbourne, that any concerns about the condition of any pavements (and roads) in their Divisions should be reported to their respective Highway Steward.

11 February 2019

NICK BENNETT  
Lead Cabinet Member for  
Transport and Environment

## EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

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**Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, Brighton BN1 1JA at 10:30 hours on Thursday, 14 February 2019.**

Present: Councillors Barnes (Chairman), Boorman, Deane, Dowling, Galley, Lambert, Marsh, O'Quinn, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Platts, Scott, Smith, Taylor, Theobald and Tutt.

N.B. Apologies were received from Councillors Earl-Williams, Elford, Morris and Sheppard.

The agenda and non-confidential reports can be read on the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service's website at <http://www.esfrs.org/about-us/east-sussex-fire-authority/fire-authority-meetings/> A brief synopsis and the decisions relating to key items is set out below.

### **1 SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY 2018-21**

- 1.1 The Authority received a report presenting and seeking approval of a revised Safer Communities Strategy 2018-21, which now covers both Community and Business Safety.
- 1.2 The Strategy had been developed through engagement with staff, partners and Members and on the principle of an annual collaborative assessment of local risk to ensure an effective response through initiatives that were evaluated, reviewed, consulted on and translated into local plans allowing effective performance management.
- 1.3 The Strategy was people centric and focussed on those most vulnerable and at risk, introducing five thematic action plans (Home/Fire, Road, Water, Business and Health) to deliver effective performance monitoring. This would empower local delivery teams to respond dynamically to the changing local risk in their communities, encouraging creativity and innovation with support provided by central specialist teams.
- 1.4 Members welcomed the Strategy, they used the opportunity to record their constituents concerns over current housing density levels and the impact on fire safety. They were reassured that the Strategy proposed an ongoing commitment of talking to and working with local communities and landlords.
- 1.5 The number of business audits was set to increase and Members asked whether any best practice would be adopted from other services. Assurance was a key element and the process was subject to scrutiny from Internal Audit. Advice and guidance would be provided by pulling together best practice nationally and locally from NFCC, Government, other FRS, partner organisations and the third sector.

- 1.6 There were queries regarding implications for ESFRS arising from the Hackitt enquiry. Members were reassured that ESFRS officers had been involved on a national level to consult on the inquiry since the Grenfell fire and learning from this was embedded within the Safer Communities Strategy along with lessons from HMICFRS inspections. Authority Members were reminded how important it was that they understood and shared with their constituents that high rise did not automatically mean high risk and that a person's behaviours were a greater determinant of fire risk than where they live.
- 1.7 Members were reassured that ESFRS Officers maintained appropriate involvement in the planning process across all Local Authorities (LA) in the ESFRS area, there was also close collaboration regarding LA housing stock. ESFRS representatives continued to attend meetings of residents associations.
- 1.8 The Authority heard that there was a lot of community work underway and in the strategy regarding Youth working, immigration and exploitation. Partnership working was fundamental to assisting with the assessment of risk across the ESFRS area. Fire Investigation was at the forefront of the work and best practice was being shared across the region, the NFCC had created a national operational learning database and a regional project was underway reinforcing the value and importance of fire investigation.
- 1.9 There were some concerns regarding planning regulations and inclusion of sprinklers in new build properties. Whilst it was the responsibility of Housing and Planning Authorities to act on this and to ensure Fire Safety throughout their planning process, Members were assured that ESFRS was consistent and strong with its recommendations and message on the installation of sprinkler systems. The NFCC had a strong position on both evacuation procedures and sprinkler systems published on their website.
- 1.10 The Authority resolved to approve the revisions to the current Community Safety Strategy and approved the adoption of the Safer Communities Strategy 2018-21

**2 FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING PROCESSES FOR 2019/20 AND BEYOND – REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20 AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2019/20 TO 2023/24**

- 2.1 The Authority considered a report presenting the Fire Authority's Revenue Budget 2019/20, Capital Strategy 2019/20-2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20-2023/24 for approval.
- 2.2 The Authority's budget proposals for 2019/20 and its five year Medium Term Finance Plan (MTFP) were considered at the meeting of the Policy & Resources Panel on 18 January 2019. Following that meeting, the report had been updated to reflect final council tax and business rates information, collection fund positions and revised information from central government on business rates funding.
- 2.3 The Authority had continued to make good progress in identifying and agreeing savings proposals over the last 12 months. The latest MTFP showed that the Authority had already identified £0.413m of savings in 2019/20 and a total of £0.529m savings in total over the life of the MTFP.

- 2.4 There was continued uncertainty for fire funding beyond the multi-year funding offer that ends in 2019/20. From 2020/21 there were potentially significant risks as a result of proposals to change the Business Rates Retention regime, the Fairer Funding Review and the Comprehensive Spending Review. Additionally there was no decision on the funding of increased employer's pension costs after 2019/20. Locally, the impact of West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) decision to withdraw from the Sussex Control Centre (SCC) from February 2020 was still to be fully evaluated.
- 2.5 Members were reminded that when the decision had been taken by WSCC to withdraw, the Authority had approved a draw down from the General Reserves of £0.625m to cover additional costs for SCC including pressures on the SCC business as usual budget, SCC Project Phase 2, Exit Strategy and Project 21 (the assessment of options beyond the end of the current contract with Remsdaq in March 2021). Work was underway to clarify these costs and would be reported to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Panel.
- 2.6 The ADR/T reminded Members that under the Section 16 agreement the funding split had been agreed as 50:50, it had since been agreed that in 2019/20 WSCC would be bearing more of the staffing costs as a result of their decision not to transition to 4i. Appropriate sharing of costs resulting from the Exit Strategy would be considered through the Executive Board. A governance board with an updated structure and remit had been formed and provided an escalation route to the CFO and CE of WSCC if required.
- 2.7 The Authority approved an increase in council tax of 2.94% and thus approved also the budget proposals set out in the report and the net budget requirement of £39.037m for 2019/20, the council tax requirement of £27.215m and the council tax and precepts as set out in Appendix F to the report. The Authority additionally approved the capital programme for the next five years and the capital budget of £6.728m for 2019/20 and the plans to use capital grant, capital receipts and revenue contributions to finance capital expenditure. The Authority also approved the reduction in the minimum level of General Reserves to 6% of the net revenue budget, the fees and charges as set out in Appendix C to the report and that the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Treasurer, be authorised to make any adjustments to the presentation of the budget to reflect the final Local Government Finance Settlement.

### **3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2019/20**

- 3.1 The Authority considered a report presenting Members with the Treasury Management Strategy, policy statement and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2019/20.
- 3.2 The report contained recommendations about the borrowing limits, prudential indicators and limits, investment strategy and policy as required by Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance 2017. The emphasis continued to be on security and liquidity. Members were informed that, as was clear from current global events, it was impossible in practical terms to eliminate all credit risk, therefore the Fire Authority would continue to seek to be prudent.

- 3.3 The Authority was recommended to approve borrowing limits to allow flexibility for any future consideration in undertaking new external long-term /replacement borrowing should the need arise and the market conditions be favourable.
- 3.4 Members were reminded that the Fire Authority had always adopted a prudent approach on its investment strategy and in the last few years there had been regular changes to the list of approved organisations to be used for investment of short term surpluses. The list was reviewed regularly to ensure that the Authority was able to invest at the best available rates consistent with low risk. The 2019/20 strategy continued the prudent approach and ensured that all investments were only to the highest quality rated banks and financial institutions.
- 3.5 Members reiterated that they were not against prudence, but continued to encourage a less risk averse attitude going forward. They commended the exploration of inter-authority lending and deeper exploration into property investment, clarifying that reference was being made to Property Funds and not investment in physical property.
- 3.6 The ADR/T confirmed that inter-authority lending had already commenced with ESFRS loaning £2m to Plymouth City Council on a 1% return. The Authority was seeking to increase returns without significant additional risk. ORBIS was reviewing investment opportunities available in light of the MTFP and Capital Strategy. Whilst the Authority held historically high levels of cash, these were now being used to support planned investments in its estate and IT. The Authority's reserves would reduce from £22m currently to below £3m by the end of 2021/22. Any investment strategy must be appropriate to its organisation and bear in mind its structure, risk appetite and business requirements. The Service was always looking at routes for income generation as part of the wider picture of driving efficiencies.
- 3.7 The Authority resolved to approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Policy Statement for 2019/20 (and adopted for the remainder of 2018/19). Members determined that for 2019/20 the Authorised Limit for borrowing shall be £13.630m, they adopted the prudential indicators as set out in Appendix 2 to the report and approved the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

#### **4 FAIRER FUNDING REVIEW**

- 4.1 The Fire Authority considered the Report of the Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer (ADR/T) which sought comments on the Authority's response to the Government's consultation on the Fairer Funding Review.
- 4.2 Members were informed that the Fairer Funding Review (FFR) was just part of the future financial picture. The Authority's position would also be affected by the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), due to start in Spring 2019. The effect of the UK's exit from the European Union, which also presented its own unknowns and challenges, was anticipated to be the cause of a delay to the CSR. There was then also the effects of the consultation in to the review of Business Rates Retention.

- 4.3 There had been much debate nationally around the potential funding formula for Fire. It had been established that Fire Services in general were content with the existing formula. There was National reiteration that it was essential that Fire Funding should recognise and resource to risk and not just demand or spend. Members were informed that it was the Service's preference, in line with the view of Fire Services nationally, that the existing formula be retained. The Authority welcomed the robustness of the draft response as at Appendix C to the Report.
- 4.4 The Authority resolved to approve the draft response to the consultation including its preference for supporting the proposed option one funding formula and that the Authority was strongly against the proposed option three and agreed to delegate authority to the Assistant Director/Resources/Treasurer in consultation with the CFO and the Chairman to finalise the response taking into account any further work by the NFCC.

## **5 EAST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE ESTATES STRATEGY 2018-2025**

- 5.1 The Authority considered the Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer which presented Members with the new Estates Strategy for final approval.
- 5.2 The strategy included proposed works, following the new ESFRS design guide, to redevelop some existing sites. There was a link between these redevelopment options and the forthcoming Operational Response Review (ORR) and Members wanted confirmation that Officers would keep both under consideration. There was a risk that work may be carried out in line with the Estates Strategy that might then be required to change when the results of the ORR came through
- 5.3 Members were informed that the Estates Strategy was a significant step forward, predicated on the associated design guide. They both contained the Service's aspirational standards and neither were a common approach with the Fire Sector. The Strategy had been created to be a dynamic and changing document and would respond to changing Service requirements. The Strategy would be reviewed on a regular basis by the newly established Estates Strategy Delivery Board, on which there was Member and Principal Officer representation.
- 5.4 Members queried how flexible the Space Standards in the Design Guide were. It was clarified that not all of the space strategies would be achievable at every site due to physical constraints and that compromises would have to be reached, but it was noted that the design solution, to meet the Design Guide requirements, would be driven by operational functionality.
- 5.5 Members wanted to ensure that the Service was not understating its efforts in the area of collaboration. The CFO explained that ESFRS were involved in a number of One Public Estate, SPACE and Blue Light Hub projects. All estate collaboration opportunities would be explored, though operational requirement and provision for firefighters would be the priority and once met, community need and efficiency were then considered. The ADR/T added that collaboration was included in the Strategy as a key consideration and that Members had already approved a number of collaborations including HQ, Saxon House, Uckfield, Heathfield and Lewes Fire Stations with partners currently being sought for Preston Circus.

The Authority approved the 2018/2025 ESFRS Estates Strategy and the required funding of £13.8m required to deliver it and noted that the financial implications of this investment were set out in the Medium Term Finance Plan.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BARNES**  
**CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**

14 February 2019