

## EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

The Leader of the County Council is required to publish a forward plan setting out matters which the Leader believes will be the subject of a key decision by the Cabinet, individual Cabinet member or officer in the period covered by the Plan (the subsequent four months). The Council's Constitution states that a key decision is one that involves

- (a) expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the County Council's budget, namely above £500,000 per annum; or
- (b) is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions.

As a matter of good practice, the Council's Forward Plan includes other items in addition to key decisions that are to be considered by the Cabinet/individual members. This additional information is provided to inform local residents of all matters to be considered, with the exception of issues which are dealt with under the urgency provisions. Only key decisions to be taken by officers are included.

For each decision included on the Plan the following information is provided:

- the name of the individual or body that is to make the decision and the date of the meeting or relevant time period for an officer decision
- the title of the report and decision to be considered
- groups that will be consulted prior to the decision being taken
- a list of documents that will be considered when making the decision
- the name and telephone number of the contact officer for each item.

The Plan is updated and published every month on the Council's website two weeks before the start of the period to be covered.

Meetings of the Cabinet/individual members are open to the public (with the exception of discussion regarding reports which contain exempt/confidential information). Copies of agenda and reports for meetings are available on the website in advance of meetings. Key decisions taken by officers will not be taken at a meeting – documents listed can be made available on request to the contact officer, with the exception of those which contain exempt/confidential information.

For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please contact Hannah Matthews at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or telephone 01273 335138 or send an e-mail to [hannah.matthews@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.matthews@eastsussex.gov.uk). For further detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Cabinet, individual Member or officer please contact the named contact officer for the item concerned.

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL  
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

For copies of reports or other documents please contact the officer listed on the Plan or phone 01273 335089.

## **FORWARD PLAN – EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (including Key Decisions) –1 January 2026 to 30 April 2026**

Additional notices in relation to Key Decisions and/or private decisions are available on the [Council's website](#).

Cabinet membership:

Councillor Keith Glazier - Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

Councillor Nick Bennett – Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change

Councillor Penny di Cara – Lead Member for Economy

Councillor Claire Dowling – Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Councillor Carl Maynard – Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Bob Bowdler – Lead Member for Children and Families

Councillor Bob Standley – Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

Date for Decision	Decision Taker	Decision/Key Issue	Decision to be taken wholly or partly in private (P) or Key Decision (KD)	Consultation	List of Documents to be submitted to decision maker	Contact Officer
16 Jan 2026	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Proposed changes to the Adult Social Care Charging for Care and Support policy  To consider changes to the process for calculating Spouse Allowances within financial assessments. The proposed changes will simplify the process, increase internal efficiency and align East Sussex's approach more closely with other local authorities. If agreed, the changes are expected to impact around 500 adults. To also consider changes to the application of	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ben Baker 07923 382464

		Savings Credit Disregard to ensure all who are eligible have this applied within their financial assessments. If agreed, this could impact around 400 adults.				
19 Jan 2026	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition for traffic calming measures to be introduced along The Village, Eastbourne To consider a petition calling for the installation of traffic calming measures along The Village between the junction of Matlock Road and Coltstocks Road.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Warwick Hadley 03456 080193
22 Jan 2026	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Future of the Orbis Partnership Decision on the future of the Orbis Partnership and the joint working with Surrey County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council across IT & Digital, Internal Audit, Procurement, and the Treasury Management and Insurance Centres of Expertise.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ros Parker 01273 481412
22 Jan 2026	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	East Sussex County Council Artificial Intelligence Policy To consider the adoption of the ESCC Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy as the Council's dedicated framework for managing AI use. If adopted the policy would replace the previous reliance on the Data Protection and Information Security policy for AI governance.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	David Matthewman 01273 335457

27 Jan 2026	Cabinet	Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 To consider the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27. This includes setting the Prudential Code and approving the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2025/26	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399
27 Jan 2026	Cabinet	Ashdown Forest 2025/26 forecast outturn and 2026/27 budget Cabinet will consider the Conservators of Ashdown Forest Quarter 2 budget position for 2025/26, and the Conservators' medium term financial plan. Cabinet will also consider the 2026/27 Core Budget.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Andy Fowler 01273 481774
27 Jan 2026	Cabinet	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR): Draft Council Plan 2026/27, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme To ask Cabinet to approve the draft Council Plan, Council Tax levels, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2026/27 for recommendation to the County Council (including Savings Proposals, Equality Impact Assessment, Engagement and Scrutiny feedback).	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Claire Lee 07523 930526
27 Jan 2026	Cabinet	Value for Money (VfM) External Auditor's Annual Report on East Sussex County Council 2024/25 External Auditor's Annual Value for Money (VfM) Report on East Sussex County Council 2024/25 from Grant Thornton.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399

27 Jan 2026	Cabinet	<p>Devolution and establishment of Mayoral Combined County Authority</p> <p>To consider the developments in relation to establishing an MCCA and whether the Council wishes to agree to its creation and enter into the Statutory Instrument.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Philip Baker 01273 481564
January 2026	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	<p>Supported Living - contract extension for the Supported Living Care Services provision for Working Age Adults with Learning Disabilities at Burfield Court, Hailsham &amp; Gilda Close, Polegate Schemes.</p> <p>The current provider was awarded the care and support contract for a 5-year period which allowed for a further 24-month extension increasing this to 7 years in total. The 5-year initial term comes to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.</p> <p>This is to endorse the allowed for additional 24-month term extension of the existing service Contract on its current terms.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Matt Holmes 07827 084704
16 Feb 2026	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Approval of allocation of bus grant revenue allocation</p> <p>The Department for Transport confirmed East Sussex County Council's bus grant funding on 5 December 2025. The allocation was for 3 years of revenue funding totalling £16,561,590. A decision is required to approve the allocation of this revenue allocation.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Craig Lamberton 01273 337525

16 Feb 2026	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>East Sussex and Brighton &amp; Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy</p> <p>The County Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the county, including the administrative area of Brighton &amp; Hove City Council. The report will be to seek Lead Member approval for the final LNRS, as well as the necessary statutory stages that lead to publication of the final LNRS.</p>	KD	<p>The Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been developed through significant consultation with a large range and number of stakeholders. Ahead of the Lead Member decision, a draft Strategy will have been subject to a 6-8 week period of public consultation.</p>	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Kate Cole 01273 481621
16 Feb 2026	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Petition for improved road safety measures around Chyngton Primary School</p> <p>To respond to a petition calling on the County Council to consider the establishment of a School Street scheme and the installation of a new zebra crossing on Hillside Avenue, Seaford.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Warwick Hadley 03456 080193
16 Feb 2026	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Community Match schemes 2025/26</p> <p>To consider agreement that 50% match funding is allocated towards applicants that have applied for match funding through the Community Match programme 2025/26.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Rojanachotikul 03456 080193

23 Feb 2026	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	<p>Admission arrangements for East Sussex schools 2027-28- determine</p> <p>The Lead Member is asked to determine the admission arrangements for 2027-28 for schools for which East Sussex County Council is the admission authority.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jo Miles 01273 481911
23 Feb 2026	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	<p>To approve the use of the Crisis and Resilience Fund on Vouchers for Free School Meal eligible children in the Easter and May 2026 school holidays</p> <p>To consider the use of some of the Crisis and Resilience Fund for the spend on vouchers for Free School Meal eligible children in the Easter and May 2026 school holidays.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jessica Stubbings 01323 463537
February 2026	Chief Operating Officer	<p>Site 6, Eastbourne - Disposal of Long Leasehold Interest</p> <p>On 14 January 2025, the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change declared Site 6, Eastbourne (the property) to be surplus and approved the disposal of it. Authority was delegated to the Chief Operating Officer to agree the terms of sale, jointly with Eastbourne Borough Council. The property has been marketed on the open market. The Chief Operating Officer will consider the offers made.</p>	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371

2 Mar 2026	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	<p>Playing field adjacent to the Tilling Green Community Centre - Decision regarding disposal of the freehold interest</p> <p>On 25 September 2025, the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change considered the outcome of the responses from members of the public concerning the intention to dispose of the site. Approval was given to market the site on the open market. Following a marketing period, the Lead Member will consider offers made and the analysis. A decision will be made regarding the organisation that is to purchase the site.</p>	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371
2 Mar 2026	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	<p>Award of contract for school meals catering</p> <p>Approve the award of the school meals catering contract to the successful bidder following a competitive tender process. This contract award will be for a period of 5 years plus an option for an additional 2 years. The 2-year extension will be subject to contract performance.</p>	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Johnny Parish 07849 303899
16 Mar 2026	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2026-36: Public Consultation</p> <p>To consider the draft East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2026 – 2036 and authorise public consultation on the draft strategy to commence.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Natalie Jamfield 01273 481409

23 Mar 2026	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	<p>East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Duty 2026/2027</p> <p>To seek Lead Member approval to publish a Childcare Sufficiency Duty report for 2026/27.</p> <p>The childcare sufficiency duty is a legal requirement for local authorities in England, under the Childcare Act 2006. Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare places "so far as is reasonably practicable".</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jane Spice 01323 747425
31 Mar 2026	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	<p>Write-off of Debts 2025/26</p> <p>To seek Lead Member approval for writing off certain debts in excess of £10,000.</p>	P		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Alina Dunn 01273 481250
March 2026	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport	<p>Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections Construction Procurement</p> <p>To award the contract for the construction of Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections following a competitive tender process. The tender will be advertised via the Hampshire Gen 5 Framework early 2026. This decision was delegated by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport at a decision-making meeting on 10 November 2025.</p>	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ellie McDaniel 01273 335464