

MINUTES

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber - County Hall, Lewes on 9 JULY 2019 at 10.00 am

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

23 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2019

23.1 RESOLVED – to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the County Council held on 14 May 2019 as a correct record.

24 Apologies for absence

24.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Sarah Osborne, Alan Shuttleworth and Trevor Webb.

25 Chairman's business

JULIAN CRAMPTON

25.1 I start with the sad news of the death of Professor Julian Crampton. As many of you will know Julian was a good friend and advocate of East Sussex, having not only lived in the County but promoted and fostered opportunities in the county during his time as Vice Chancellor at Brighton University, as Chairman of Seachange Sussex and as a deputy Lord Lieutenant. Julian believed that a higher education offer in Hastings was possible and in 2015 was awarded a CBE for services to education. Perhaps, most of all he will be remembered as the driving force behind Seachange Sussex, our regeneration board. Without his passion and belief I doubt we would be in the position we are in now. He oversaw the development of Havelock Road in Hastings, Pacific House in Eastbourne, the North Bexhill Access Roads, the Queensway Gateway Road and the employment space this has generated. Whilst these are achievements for which we shall forever be indebted I think the most important achievement Julian brought to East Sussex was his absolute belief in creating opportunity and the way in which he went about it with kindness and compassion for all he came into contact with. We will miss this and we will aspire to the behaviours and values that he displayed. The Council stood as a mark of respect to Julian.

MINUTES

EAST SUSSEX FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION

25.2 On behalf of the Council the Chairman wish to congratulate the East Sussex Foster Care Association who had been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The Association is a local independent charity serving the needs of Looked After Children within foster families, while simultaneously recognising the important role of the foster family and their own need for support. This award recognises the exceptional work achieved by the Association. This is a prestigious award, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK and equivalent to an MBE.

25.3 The Chairman took the opportunity to remind all councillors that each year Christmas presents are collected at the main council offices in Eastbourne, Hastings and Lewes for children who would not otherwise receive a present. This project is very much valued by the children and families and I would ask that you support this when the 2019 Project Randolph is launched later in the year

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

25.4 The Chairman reported that he has attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: Attending the visit of the Duchess of Cornwall to Charleston, the Mayor Making ceremony of Lewes Town Council, the 1066 Community Awards, a citizenship ceremony in Hastings, the High Sheriff's Summer reception at Charleston and the Eastbourne Samaritans AGM. I also attended the visit of the Duke of Gloucester to the Royal Hippodrome Theatre in Eastbourne, the Eastbourne tennis event, the opening ceremony of the Eastbourne 999 combined emergency services display, the Lord Lieutenant's reception and open air concert at Herstmonceux Castle and an afternoon tea to celebrate national volunteers week.

PRAYERS

25.5 The Chairman thanked Councillor Colin Belsey for leading the prayers before the meeting.

PETITIONS

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

Councillor Belsey	- calling on the County Council to install a pedestrian crossing near to the Broadway shops on Lindfield Road, Eastbourne to ensure the safety of the children and young people crossing the road to Parkland School, Lindfield School and the Eastbourne Academy
Councillors Martin Clarke and Godfrey Daniel	- calling on the County Council to install either a Zebra or Pelican crossing where St Helen's Park Road merges with Downs Road in Hastings to enable children going to ARK Blacklands Academy to cross the road safely
Councillor Wallis	calling on the County Council to introduce traffic calming measures in Cavendish Avenue, Eastbourne

26 Questions from members of the public

26.1 Copies of questions from Rose Gauntlett from Seaford, Barbara Dye from Seaford, Gabriel Carlyle from St Leonards on Sea, Gemma Aellah from Eastbourne, Alice Burchfield

MINUTES

from Peacehaven, Naomi Bos from Telscombe Cliffs and Scarlett McNally from Eastbourne and the answers from Councillor Standley (Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability), Councillor Claire Dowling (Lead Member for Transport and Environment) and Councillor Fox (Chair of the Pension Committee) are attached to these minutes. Supplementary questions were asked and responded to.

27 Declaration of Interests

27.1 There were no declarations of interest.

28 Reports

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

Cabinet report - paragraph 1 (Council monitoring) and paragraph 2 (Ashdown Forest Trust Fund)

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

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

Governance Committee report paragraph 1 – Procurement and Contract Standing Orders

29 Report of the Cabinet

Paragraph 1 (Council Monitoring) and paragraph 2 (Ashdown Forest Trust Fund)

29.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraphs of the Cabinet's report.

29.2 The motions were CARRIED after debate

30 Questions from County Councillors

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Field	Councillor Standley	Information regarding schools where there is a risk of exposure to asbestos
Councillor Philip Daniel	Councillor Claire Dowling	Action to tackle speeding on approach and exit roads that are through routes and also residential streets
Councillor Swansborough	Councillor Claire Dowling	Publication of the Walking and Cycling Strategy
Councillor Godfrey Daniel	Councillor Claire Dowling	Notification to all residential parking permit holders of proposed changes to parking charges

MINUTES

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Scott	Councillor Claire Dowling	Grass cutting and weed removal on verges adjacent to roads
Councillor Philip Daniel	Councillor Claire Dowling	Disposal of Tetra Paks under new contract
Councillor Ungar	Councillor Glazier	Timing of consultation in relation to proposed service changes and approval of the Council's budget
Councillor Stephen Shing	Councillor Claire Dowling	Cutting of grass verges by residents
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Claire Dowling	Output of energy recovery facility at Newhaven

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

22.2 Two written question were received from Councillors Field and Swansborough for the Lead Member for Transport and Environment and the Lead Member for Resources. The questions and answers are attached to these minutes. The Lead Members responded to supplementary questions

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.44 am

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

MINUTES

QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Rose Gauntlett, Seaford, East Sussex

Is the Lead Member aware of the environmental damage caused by ill-informed school grounds “maintenance” work? For example, at Seaford Primary School, where the grounds have been developed over a number of years for use as an outdoor laboratory, recent work cleared areas where birds lived and nested, removed undergrowth in wooded areas near an active badger sett, removed a new hedgerow planted to screen a nature trail, and cut completely the grass providing habitat for slow worms, thereby endangering a number of protected species and causing damage that in some cases may take up to five years to recover.

What criteria did the County Council use in selecting a school grounds maintenance company? How did they ensure that the company who won the tender:

- had the necessary skills, experience and training to meet the range of requirements of individual schools including those schools that are using their grounds as an open air laboratory?
- were able to tailor the work they undertake at each school to ensure the correct timing of tasks to fit in with the teaching programme for each season, to enable children to use the school grounds as part of their educational experience;
- understood the environmental impact of their work to ensure that work was carried out sympathetically to take account of breeding and flowering seasons?

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

The Lead Member has been made aware of specific works being carried out at Seaford Primary School. This Grounds Maintenance work was through a direct commission by Seaford Primary school with Glendales as the contractor and as such the County Council did not have any direct involvement. Glendales are however known to the County Council as they are also a provider of Grounds Maintenance work for the County Council.

Through our enquiries, the County Council is aware that the project is part of a rejuvenation project of the site that has involved the clearance of vegetation and brambles so that bulbs and a wildflower meadow can be planted.

Before carrying out the works, the site was carefully inspected by Glendales. Invasive hogweed was discovered on the front bank, and behind the trim trail, which necessitated further clearance works for its removal. A badger sett was also on site, but of course left untouched.

The County Council fully recognises the concerns raised and, in its own direct contract work, takes full account of all statutory, environmental and Natural England issues. In response to the complaints raised, Glendale have already made a commitment to provide further planting to compensate for any that could potentially have been saved as part of the clearance works, and agreed by the school.

With regard to the secondary question over procurement, the grounds maintenance service forms part of a wider Grounds Maintenance and Arboricultural services contract which was tendered, evaluated and awarded in 2018. In awarding this contract the

MINUTES

County Council had comprehensive specialist arboricultural advice to both set the service quality specification for the County Council's contract and evaluate contract bidders on their responses, experience and references.

The contract started on 1 February 2019 and runs up to 31 March 2022. It was awarded, based on responses to a key set of questions around delivery and technical awareness, including compliance on environmental & other statutory legislation. Glendale were awarded the contract following this comprehensive process and this contract now serves ESCC's corporate and schools estate.

2. Question from Barbara Dye, Seaford East Sussex

Does East Sussex County Council have a biodiversity action plan? I can't find any record of one on the internet. I am moved to ask this particularly because a lot of residents who seem to care more for appearances than biodiversity take it upon themselves to mow the verges outside their homes and recently I've noticed people using glyphosate weedkiller as well. Given the many doubts raised about the safety of glyphosate (by the World Health Organisation, with successful court cases against the makers of Roundup in the US, and proposed and enforced bans by many local authorities and indeed countries) surely it isn't wise or ethical for ESCC to be allowing residents to spray it unsupervised on what is, after all, public land?

Response by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

The Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was produced in the early 2000s by the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership of which East Sussex County Council was a member. The Sussex BAP was never a physical document or list, other than a collection of maps and individual Sussex Habitat Action Plans. The Sussex BAP consists of local Biodiversity Opportunity Area maps to prioritise areas for action, targets for maintaining, restoring and creating BAP habitats, and partnerships working together to conserve biodiversity. The Sussex Biodiversity Partnership now no longer exists, but has been replaced by the Sussex Local Nature Partnership which continues to work across sectors and organisations, including East Sussex County Council, to secure the healthiest ecological system possible thereby protecting and enhancing the natural environment and all that it gives us.

East Sussex County Council also maintains a schedule of Wildlife Verges and where possible, these are managed to protect their wildlife interest. These verges are marked with a small yellow flower shaped marker and can be seen in many locations around the county. Verges are included on the schedule for a variety of reasons, e.g. they may support rare and vulnerable species, plant communities of conservation value, visually attractive seasonal flowers, or be verges particularly valued by the local community. To help protect these habitats for wildlife, they are not normally cut by the County Council between 1 March and 31 August to allow wildflowers to set seed.

With respect to the use of glyphosate on road verges, the County Council only uses this for the control of Japanese Knotweed, which is an invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Otherwise, all of our verges are managed organically, and we are also looking at alternatives for treating kerbs and pavements. We are aware that some residents maintain the verges outside of their homes and may, in some instances, use weedkiller that contains glyphosates in doing so. The County Council would clearly prefer such chemical pesticides not to be used

MINUTES

and would encourage others to manage verges in similar ways to the Council in order to maximise the benefits for biodiversity. The Council will be looking at what more we can do in order to make residents aware of our position on this matter and encourage them not to use chemical pesticides. However, whilst banning the use of glyphosates by third parties on highway verges may seem a sensible proposition, the Council needs to be mindful of the enforceability of such a ban. This is considered to be difficult to achieve and therefore, for the time being, the Council will continue a discouragement approach on this matter.

3. Question from Gabriel Carlyle, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex

Fossil fuel companies are forecast to invest \$4.9 trillion in developing new oil and gas fields (ie. oil and gas fields that are not already in production or development) over the next decade. Exxon alone – in which the East Sussex Pension Fund currently has millions of pounds of local people's pension monies invested - is forecast to invest \$167 billion on developing such fields.

According to one recent analysis that compared these forecasts to data from the IPCC's climate models, none of this capex is compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5°C ('Overexposed: The IPCC's report on 1.5°C and the risks of overinvestment in oil and gas', 23 April 2019, <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/oil-gas-and-mining/overexposed>).

Given these facts – and the likely negative impact on the value of the Fund's fossil fuel investments under a 1.5°C scenario - will the East Sussex Pension Fund be incorporating a climate risk assessment of the Fund under a 1.5°C scenario at its annual investment strategy review on 10 July? If not, why not?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The Pension Committee's strategy day schedule for the 10 July 2019 will provide the Committee with the opportunity to review the Fund's current investment strategy. It will also look at the potential risks the Fund will be facing in the future. The Committee will be looking at various macro-economic factors, including environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues as part of the day. The risk that these may pose to the Fund's Investment Strategy and any potential impacts will be discussed. This will shape how the Fund develops its Investment strategy for the future.

4. Question from Gemma Aellah, Eastbourne, East Sussex

Parents4future have been made aware of the continuing delays to the East Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2019. We are very keen to support our children in walking and cycling to school and after school activities. Does The Lead Member consider that these ongoing delays are unacceptable and agree they are having a negative effect, in terms of active travel and a healthier, less polluted Eastbourne? Please could we have some clear information on the way forward.

Response by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

The Department for Transport (DfT) is encouraging Local Authorities to develop Local Cycling & Walking Investment Plans (LCWIPS). Whilst there is no requirement for local authorities to do so, or a definitive deadline for their submission, the County Council has

MINUTES

proactively chosen to develop a plan which will underpin the emerging Strategy to demonstrate our commitment and to support greater levels of investment in cycling and walking in the future. This in turn will support a raft of policy areas including supporting economic growth and providing improvements to health and the environment.

I can confirm that East Sussex County Council is in the process of developing a Countywide Cycling & Walking Strategy which we currently propose to publish for public consultation in autumn 2019. It is planned that the outcome of the public consultation will be reported to my decision making meeting in December 2019.

Whilst it has not been possible to get the draft Strategy to public consultation as quickly as originally intended, it is not considered that this is having a negative impact on active travel in Eastbourne. We have and are investing significantly in walking and cycling infrastructure and behavioural change initiatives in Eastbourne. In the past year, we have completed Phase 3 of the Horsey Cycle Route which has been positively received and is already well-used. Consultation on a further phase of the route linking to Eastbourne Station will take place later this year. Preliminary design work on a number of other routes in the town is continuing.

We have delivered an upgraded pedestrian crossing on Kings Drive to assist pedestrians accessing St Thomas A Becket Catholic Primary School and work to construct a new pedestrian crossing on Friday Street will commence later this year. We are also investing £8.25m from a range of funding sources in improving the pedestrian environment in Terminus Road, Cornfield Road and Gildredge Road to support the wider investment in The Beacon extension, with consultation for the next phase of improvements to Terminus Road planned for later this year.

In addition, as part of our Active Access for Growth Programme, a Sustrans Active Travel Officer is working with schools across the county, including Eastbourne, to deliver events and activities to develop the skills to travel to school by walking, scooting and cycling. This is, of course, complemented by a number of active School Travel Plans that have been adopted by schools in Eastbourne, all of which seek to encourage sustainable travel to and from school.

Therefore whilst the Strategy is yet to be consulted upon, we have and continue to invest in and deliver both infrastructure and initiatives in Eastbourne that encourage active travel, and thereby reduce carbon emissions and promote healthier lifestyles.

5. Question from Alice Burchfield, Peacehaven, East Sussex

Who took the decision that Swale Academies Trust should be brought into Peacehaven Community School as school improvement? When did they take this decision and what other partners were considered? Following on from this, who then took the decision that Swale Academies Trust should be given Peacehaven Community School permanently? When did they take that decision and what other partners were considered?

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

The decision for Swale to become the school improvement partner was taken by the local authority in October 2015 in line with the Department for Education's Schools

MINUTES

Causing Concern guidance. The governing board at the school was consulted as required about this decision.

The local authority spoke to other trusts and local schools at the time to identify options for interim leadership. The leadership capacity identified by Swale represented the best solution for securing improvement at the school.

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) made the decision to convert to an academy with Swale at their meeting on 21 April 2017. The minutes of the IEB and consultation documents are available on the school's website.

6. Question from Naomi Bos, Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex

Peacehaven Community School has around 800 students.

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) minutes of 21 April 2017 state:

4.1 Proposal to proceed with sponsored academy conversion

4.1.1 The members reviewed the information circulated with the agenda. Loren advised that 8 response forms had been received from stakeholders and all had been positive in terms of converting to an academy with SAT. In response to a question Loren advised that all questions and queries raised in relation to academy conversion had been answered, either at the consultation meetings or via email following the meetings. The email responses had been drafted by Derek and checked by Penny before they had been sent. No further questions were raised.

In a letter to parents and carers on 7 May 2019 the Chair of the IEB, Penny Gaunt, wrote "I can assure you that the consultation process conducted in 2017 involved all stakeholders and all written responses we received supported the proposal for the school to become an academy with Swale Academies Trust (SAT)."

I wrote, and kept, a negative response at the time. It reflects that the message that Penny Gaunt gave to a large room of parents announcing the proposed academisation and up coming 'consultation' was that the 'consultation' would not affect or change the outcome of becoming a SWALE Academy. This is further demonstrated by the fact that a Director of Swale was drafting responses to the IEB 'consultation' before an official decision had been taken.

The claim that no responses were negative has been proven untrue, over 600 local parents have signed a petition, over 300 postcards have been signed in support of reinstating a Governing Body and for a fresh consultation and the majority of Peacehaven Town Council and both local MPs are asking for a pause and rethink.

Given no one could claim the 8 responses to the consultation is strong support where are you getting your evidence to say in press statements there is strong support?

MINUTES

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

The school has informed us that the formal responses to its own consultation in 2017 were all supportive of the proposal to convert to academy status as stated in the minutes of the Interim Executive Board on 21 April 2017.

7. Question from Scarlett McNally, Eastbourne, East Sussex

Why is the provision for cyclists and potential cyclists in Eastbourne getting worse, when this is the best way to reduce congestion, pollution and ill-health, and where has the funding gone?

Response by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Provision for current cyclists and potential new cyclists in Eastbourne is improving, not getting worse.

Alongside development contributions and the County Council's own funding allocation for local transport improvements, the County Council has secured £6.6m of external funding through the Local Growth Fund monies through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership for walking and cycling improvements in the Eastbourne and South Wealden area through the LEP's Growth Deal with Government.

The first tranche of the funding (£2.6m) was used to fund the development and delivery of the Phase 3 of the Horsey Cycle Route between Lottbridge Drove and Langney Roundabout, using Local Growth Fund (LGF) allocations secured from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). This high quality, off-road route is already being well used and provides access to local schools, workplaces and retail areas for a large number of residents in this part of the town. Consultation on the final phase of the wider Horsey Cycle Route starts later year.

Design work on a number of other routes on key alignments in the town is already under way as part of the 2019/20 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements, which will be delivered using the second tranche of £4m of Local Growth Fund monies.

The County Council has also worked hard to secure the Government's Department for Transport revenue funding previously for its Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme, and latterly for its Active Access for Growth Programme, which is delivering a wide range of interventions to encourage – and enable – residents of key towns such as Eastbourne to undertake sustainable travel journeys to school, work or for recreation.

Therefore we are delivering both infrastructure and complementary revenue funded initiatives that are improving the situation for cyclists in Eastbourne which will help to reduce congestion, pollution and encourage healthier lifestyles.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor Field to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

What is the final destination of the County's plastic which is collected for recycling?

Answer by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Waste collection and disposal arrangements across the county changed on 29 June. In Hastings, Rother and Wealden a new collection contract with Biffa has commenced, whilst Eastbourne and Lewes councils have opted for an in-house collection service. Plastics, along with a wide range of other recyclable materials, are collected from East Sussex residents and are sent under new arrangements to the Viridor materials recovery facility in Crayford, Kent, under a new contract with the County Council.

The dry mixed recyclable materials that are collected on our doorsteps are sorted at the Crayford plant into the various material streams, compacted and baled. Plastics are then sent to one of Viridor's specialist plastic reprocessing plants in the UK to produce plastic pellets and flakes. This end product is then sold as a raw material that is used both in the UK and overseas in the manufacture of new products. Plastic sacks, shopping bags and film are reprocessed in the UK.

The resource market remains a global market, governed by the principles of supply and demand and where any material is sent abroad, Viridor only works with Environment Agency accredited and licensed facilities. Material is sold as an "end-of-waste product" or raw material for reuse in manufacturing. Viridor has a robust system of traceability across its supply chain and receives accreditation from the companies it works with, demonstrating reprocessing has taken place. Countries outside of the EU to which 'end of waste' plastic product has been and is sent to are Turkey, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, China, Malaysia and the Philippines.

2. Question by Councillor Swansborough to the Lead Member for Resources

The Orbis Public Law Partnership had been launched with a fanfare and heralded as a flagship inter-authority agreement.

You received a report at the Lead Member for Resources meeting on 25 June 2019 which extolled the benefits of the partnership and which highlighted the savings that had been made.

However, the report went on to say that Surrey County Council, had "embarked on a comprehensive transformation programme", as a result of which it had withdrawn from with the planned integration within Orbis Public Law and effectively had scuppered that plan.

Would you please let us know the actual savings that have been earned by Orbis Public Law during its lifetime and its expected financial position in the future? Will it still be earning savings in the future and if so, how much?

Apart from Legal Services, is Surrey County Council's "comprehensive transformation programme" expected to have any further implications for the remaining services

MINUTES

provided by the Orbis Partnership? Is Surrey County Council still committed legally and politically to that operation?

Is East Sussex County Council contemplating a similar "complete transformation programme" to bring administration costs more into line with its declining activity?

Answer by the Lead Member for Resources

As a result of the Surrey County Council transformation programme Surrey Legal Services will be reviewed internally in the next 12 months and it is for this reason that they could not commit to the planned integration of the Orbis Public Law structures, budgets and the case management. Surrey will however remain part of existing initiatives

In light of SCC's decision and the impact that this has on the authority's contribution ratio the Sussex partnership decided not to move to full integration but will build on the collaboration already in existence and look for further benefits via collaborative projects and initiatives, although we will not now be able to achieve the more significant gains that were anticipated.

With ESCC having the lowest cost per hourⁱ the main reasons for forming the partnership were to increase our resilience and improve Legal Service's staff development and retention opportunities. Although savings were not necessarily anticipated during the set-up process, benefits have been realised via the collaboration model without the integrated structure and these initiatives will continue.

Savings that have been realised by the partnership to date include:

- **Digital Court** – £90k saved annually across the partnership and an estimated 4.5 tonnes reduction in the use of paper.
- **Work sharing** – reduction in the partners undertaking the same work multiple times across the partnership. Estimated value at least £36k.
- **Training programme** – OPL has benefitted from 700 free training places with an estimated value of value of £70k
- **Insurance claims** – insurance claims handling in OPL will save the partnership £80k in its first full year
- **Legal Framework Contract** - jointly procured legal framework has resulted in reduced rates. £97.5K will be saved across the partnership in 19/20 on representation in Care cases alone.

In respect of the wider Orbis Partnership, the Chief Executives of the three Orbis partners jointly commissioned a review at the end of 2018. The central question to be addressed was:

“How are the functions and services provided through the Orbis integrated business infrastructure partnership best arranged and managed to enable the delivery of efficient and quality services that best serve the needs, requirements and interests of each sovereign Council?”

This review made recommendations for some changes to the scope of some services being delivered through Orbis as follows:

MINUTES

Finance	Continuation of Finance Centres of Expertise for all Partners; Strategic Finance to remain for ESCC and BHCC but withdrawn for SCC.
HROD	Continuation of a fully integrated service for ESCC and BHCC but withdrawn for SCC
Property	Withdraw strategic property and strategic asset management for all partners and undertake a further review on what Property Centres of Expertise should continue to be delivered in Orbis.
Information Technology & Digital	Retain as a fully integrated service across 3 Partners
Procurement	Retain as a fully integrated service across 3 Partners
Business Operations	Retain as a fully integrated service across 3 Partners

All three partners are legally committed to the partnership to March 2020 and to a further 3 years following this. This has also been agreed by the Leaders of the 3 Partners.

In respect of East Sussex County Council, our administration costs are aligned with the overall activity of the Council.

The Council operates the Reconciling Policy Performance and Resources integrated service and financial planning process which as a feature inherently aligns the costs of administration with the priorities for the Council and therefore does not require a step change transformation programme approach to achieve this.

ⁱ When staff costs are divided by productive hours.