

LEAD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change, Councillor Nick Bennett, on 8 July 2025 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Councillors Maples, Swansborough and Wright spoke on item 4 (see minute 15)

11. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 10 JUNE 2025

11.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2025.

12. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

12.1 There were none.

13. URGENT ITEMS

13.1 There were none.

14. REPORTS

14.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

15. COUNTY HALL SITE OPTIONS - UPDATE ON ASSET REVIEW

15.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

DECISIONS

15.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

1) Note the contents of the report; and

2) Agree a further report will be presented in summer 2026 to reassess the options outlined in this report reflecting Local Government Reorganisation updates.

REASONS

15.3 The immediate actions outlined in the Lead Member report considered on 15 October 2024 have been progressed, as detailed in the report.

15.4 It is important the medium and long-term proposals for the County Hall site are fully aligned with Local Government Reorganisation considerations. All 6 local authorities in East Sussex are required to submit their final plan to Government in September 2025 and it is anticipated Government will make a decision in spring 2026 on the proposed unitary organisation. This will include the spatial geographical boundaries for a new unitary(s) and its roles and responsibilities linked to the proposed Mayoral function across West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

15.5 A new unitary authority will also need to consider its wider asset strategy, service needs and therefore future office and civic space which may impact on future options for County Hall campus as well as other office hubs from all 6 authorities in East Sussex.

15.6 Given the impact of Sussex Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation on the long-term proposals for the County Hall site, a further report is presented to the Lead Member in summer 2026 to set out recommended next steps following Government's decision in spring 2026.