

## **Cllr Julian Joy Executive Summary report of WSCC full council meeting**

The **County Council Meeting** on 7 June 2024 covered a range of topics, including economic development, social services, and environmental initiatives:

### **Economic Development**

- **LEP Functions Transfer:** The County Council is assuming responsibilities from Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) following the cessation of central government funding. An interim Economy Board has been established to oversee the transition, aiming to finalize by autumn 2024.
- **Growth Hub Service:** A new Growth Hub service launched on 6 May, with staff from the Coast to Capital LEP transferring to the Council. The Hub aims to streamline business support across West Sussex.

### **Adults Services**

- **Meals on Wheels Initiative:** A partnership between Health & Independent Living Support (HILS) and the County Council provides books to meals-on-wheels clients, enhancing the service for vulnerable residents.
- **Care Equipment Appeal:** Residents are encouraged to return unused care equipment to support recycling and independent living.
- **Adults Services Staff Conference:** Focused on teamwork and service improvement, the conference was attended by 250 staff members and featured a keynote from the British Institute of Human Rights.

### **Children, Young People, Learning, and Skills**

- **School Relocation Proposal:** Consultation on relocating Jessie Younghusband Primary School to Minerva Heights, facilitating the expansion of St Anthony's Special School, is underway.
- **Foster Care Fortnight:** The Council participated in the #FosteringMoments campaign to highlight the impact of fostering and encourage new foster carers.
- **Millais School Consultation:** A public consultation on making Millais Secondary coeducational due to declining pupil numbers and a shortage of boys' places is ongoing until 12 June.

### **Community Support, Fire, and Rescue**

- **Fraud Prevention Initiatives:** The Digital Safety Team launched sessions and a dedicated webpage to educate residents on fraud prevention.
- **Digital Inclusion Strategy:** Developing a strategy to enhance digital access and safety, offering skills support and resources to prevent digital exclusion.
- **Fire Service Efficiency:** A new policy reduced false alarms, freeing resources for community safety and emergency responses.

### **Environment and Climate Change**

- **Climate Vulnerability Index:** Created with the University of Brighton to identify areas vulnerable to climate change, aiding in the development of local adaptation strategies.

- **Fly-tipping Campaign:** The Let's SCRAP campaign, in collaboration with various agencies, targeted waste crime, resulting in fines and court summons.
- **Solar PV Performance:** The Council's solar PV systems exceeded financial expectations, generating significant income and clean energy.

#### **Finance and Property**

- **RAAC Investigations:** Surveys confirmed no presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in County Council buildings.
- **Highways and Transport:** Initiatives include the Greenprint project for managing grass verges and a £24m rollout of hydrogen buses, along with additional road resurfacing funded by the Department for Transport.

#### **Public Health and Wellbeing**

- **Smoking Cessation Funding:** Over £1m allocated for enhanced stop smoking services in 2024/25.
- **NHS Health Check Recognition:** The Council's innovative delivery of health checks was recognized by the Local Government Association.
- **Blood Pressure Checks:** A county-wide initiative offering free blood pressure checks and a library pilot for borrowing blood pressure machines.

#### **Support Services and Economic Development**

- **Oracle Fusion Implementation:** The next phase of replacing HR, finance, and payroll systems is set to begin, with a planned go-live between December 2025 and April 2026.
- **Bognor Regis Improvement Scheme:** Approved plans for public realm enhancements to connect the town center with the seafront, supporting the Arun Growth Programme.

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