

Report to Chichester City Council from Sarah Sharp, District Councillor for Chichester South February 2025

1) Local Plan 2021-2039

It was announced at Council on 21 January, that CDC has now received the Post Hearings letter from the Inspectors, as the next step in the Local Plan examination. The letter has been published online and is available here:

[ID07_Inspectors_post_hearings_advice_letter_Jan_2025.pdf](#). Overall, the letter is very positive news, and while there is more work to be done to publish necessary modifications and consult upon them before we get the Inspectors' final report, this is a key step in the process and should allow the Council to move forward without significant delay. The Main Modifications will be discussed at the Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel meeting on 26th March and then at Cabinet and Full Council on 8th April.

2) CDC are currently consulting on the new Housing, Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy, which can be found at: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/housing> and needs to be filled in by March 3rd.

3) CDC are planning the first Cross Market & More of 2025 on Sunday 16 March and a food themed event on Saturday 2 March

4) You can now book an MOT online at Chichester Contract Services: [Chichester District Council MOT Test Centre - Book An MOT](#)

5) CDC have been reminding businesses to make sure that they are prepared for the introduction of new government rules that effect how they dispose of their waste. The 'Simpler Recycling' reforms, which come into force in March 2025, mean that businesses must have separate food waste and recycling collections in place. This is being introduced to maximise use, minimise waste and drive-up recycling rates. CDC supports businesses and organisations and helps them to prepare for these changes in the most cost-effective way. Starting from 31 March 2025, food waste generated from a business cannot go in the general waste bin and a separate collection will need to be in place, regardless of the amount of food waste produced. Those businesses with fewer than 10 full-time employees have until 31 March 2027 to meet those requirements. When speaking to businesses, please let them know that CDC's team are here to help and that they have a range of business waste and recycling services. To find out more, you can visit: the <https://businesswaste.chichester.gov.uk/>; email: businesswaste@chichester.gov.uk or call 01243 534617.

6) There is a need to improve community resilience. CDC's Emergency Planning service has been working in conjunction with West Sussex Resilience and Emergencies Team to increase community resilience through engagement groups.

The benefits of rest centres being set up close to the community in which people have become homeless are:

- Evacuees require less support because premises familiar to users, close to home, making travel easier. It is easier if the centres are close to friends and family support networks
- community halls are often ideal premises having the facilities required for a rest centre.

However, CDC has only four suitable premises, Bourne Leisure Centre, Westgate Leisure Centre, The Grange Centre, and the Selsey Centre. These four centres do not

provide a 'local' centre for the whole of the Chichester District which covers an area of 303 square miles.

The Council are looking for buildings such as village halls, which can be listed as a pre-identified rest centre. If a Trust or organisation can help the number to ring is 01243 534616 in order to have a presentation. In return, CDC offers a memorandum of understanding, a basic administrative toolkit to get a rest centre started, and training for volunteers willing to work in a rest centre.