

## Summary of County Council achievements 2016/17

This summary sets out the some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council in 2016/17 (up to February 2017) under the four strategic priorities of the Council.

The Council Plan provides further detail of these priorities at:

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm)

The Council Plan for 2017/18 will be on our website from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.



### Driving economic growth

East Sussex County Council and Skills East Sussex (the county's employment and **skills** board) were successful in securing funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company for Progress – a new project aimed at equipping people with the skills needed by business and preparing them for the world of work. The project is running between April 2016 and July 2017 and includes work experience for pupils in years 10 and 11, visits to businesses, work readiness programmes, tailored support for young people wishing to access apprenticeships and the STEMfest project, aimed at encouraging students to study science, technology, engineering and maths.

Funding was also secured to allow Business East Sussex – the county's 'growth hub' to continue for two further years. The service is aimed at **supporting businesses** at all stages of growth, and helps businesses to find all the information, advice and support they need in one place. Since launching in July 2015, the service has engaged with more than 1,100 businesses. More information is available at [www.bussinesseastsussex.org.uk](http://www.bussinesseastsussex.org.uk). In addition, Locate East Sussex has helped 35 companies start up, relocate or expand in East Sussex during 2016-17.

New computer terminals have been installed at all of the county's 24 **libraries**, improving the Council's network of free to access PCs and enabling people to use the internet and email, search for jobs and look up a wide range of information. Among those benefitting from the upgrade are users of the IT For You scheme which offers advice and support on using IT to prepare a CV and apply for work. In addition, the library at Seaford is benefitting from a new café, as part of the £6 million Warwick House development.

A number of positive **educational results** were reported in the summer, including improvements in GCSE and A level results. At Key Stage 1, the percentage of East Sussex pupils achieving the expected standard was higher than the national average in reading, writing and mathematics. At Key Stage 4 our Progress 8 score was +0.04, significantly higher than the national average of -0.03. 87.1% of primary schools are judged to be good or outstanding, an increase of 10.1 percentage points since August 2015. 77.8% of secondary schools and 100% of maintained special schools are good or outstanding against national averages of 77.6% and 93.2% respectively.

East Sussex was awarded £13.2 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund in February 2017, following a bid by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). East Sussex County Council will receive £8.2 million for the East Sussex Strategic Growth Project to create new employment developments in areas including Bexhill and Eastbourne. £5 million has been granted towards a £44 million redevelopment of the Devonshire Park area including a new conference complex. More than 1,000 **new jobs** are expected to be created as a result.

East Sussex County Council is one of seven local authorities which have agreed to form a partnership called **Transport for the South East (TfSE)**. The vision for this new body is for strategic transport planning for the whole area, unlocking economic growth and improving lives for residents. To begin with, TfSE will run in shadow form as it develops its strategy and operation, consulting with transport operators, businesses and the public. With government agreement, TfSE could move to full operation from 2019.

A new seven-year contract for the provision of **highway services** in the county began on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016. The contract with Costain CH2M replaced the existing arrangement of three separate contractors being responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The new contract has seen the introduction of a new website and online system for people to report highways issues; [www.eastsussexhighways.com](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com). In the first 6 months of the contract East Sussex Highways completed over 220 planned road works, 10,000 minor works, laid 64 miles of tarmac, answered 26,000 calls and progressed major works in areas such as Hailsham and Uckfield.

Our e-Sussex project to rollout faster **broadband** in previously isolated areas has improved access to services, jobs and education. Over 66,000 premises have been connected to improved broadband speeds in the first phase of works and the second phase to connect a further 5,000 of the hardest to reach premises in the county is underway.

### Keeping vulnerable people safe from harm

A new integrated service bringing **health visiting and children's centres** together was launched in June 2016. The new service aims to help families be self-sufficient in their communities by providing appropriate early intervention and support, and keep children aged 0-5 safe and healthy by providing accessible, comprehensive, high quality services, promoting social inclusion and equality and respecting diversity.

## Keeping vulnerable people safe from harm continued...

The percentage of court proceedings, to ensure timely decision making about long term **care for children**, completed within 26 weeks has increased from 22% in April 2016 to 63% in December 2016.

81% of people affected by **domestic violence and abuse** who have exited the specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence service (Portal) in the first half of 2016/17 say they are more in control of their lives and/or more optimistic about the future. East Sussex County Council supported the 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Women campaign, in November/December 2016. Over the 16 days a range of agencies, groups and individuals came together to work towards ending all forms of violence against women. The Council has been reaccredited as a White Ribbon authority recognising the Council's commitment to work to end violence and abuse and ensure survivors can access help and support.

**Trading Standards** have exceeded their target of 80 positive interventions for the year, including supporting victims of financial abuse and over 400 delegates have attended workshops run by Trading Standards in 2016/17 so far. Two recent successful prosecutions include one for a rogue trader who preyed on elderly people and another for a company director who duped investors into paying thousands of pounds for worthless franchises.

## Helping people help themselves

Significant progress has been made in delivering **East Sussex Better Together** (ESBT), the programme led by two local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford CCG and Hastings & Rother CCG) and East Sussex County Council to transform health and social care services. In 2016 for example, six integrated locality based teams of health and care professionals were brought under single management to deliver more cohesive care, more quickly. We launched nurse-led Crisis Response Teams, helping to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions along with a new frailty service at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to support frail people to live independent and healthy lives out of hospital. In addition, Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) a new integrated point of contact for adult health and care is receiving 8,000-9,000 enquiries a month.

Between April and December 2016, 100% of working age adults and older people supported by **Adult Social Care** received self-directed support. 98.2% of new clients who received short-term services to increase their independence made no further request for support. This means that more service users are planning how they want their social care needs met and have more control over their support. In addition in, 2016-17 so far, 2,872 people have been supported by STEPS, which helps people maintain independence within their own homes.

We took part in a national survey of **carers** sending surveys to 953 carers in East Sussex and receiving 535 responses. 73.9% of respondents said they were either extremely, very or quite satisfied with the support they receive from Adult Social Care, an improvement from 72.6% reported in 2014/15.

Public Health has been leading a programme of work to tackle the health effects of **cold homes**. Work included training frontline professionals to enable them to identify people living in cold homes and refer them onto appropriate services. 374 referrals to the Winter Home Check were made between October and December 2016. Public Health also developed a Stay Well this Winter campaign and helped to develop a Locally Enhanced Service for GP staff to help them identify patients at risk of fuel poverty.

## Making the best use of our resources

The Council's **budget** and Council Plan for 2017/18 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The budget includes spending of £365 million on services for East Sussex and a £95 million capital budget for one off projects. It also includes savings of £17 million, a 3 per cent Adult Social Care levy and a 1.99 per cent council tax increase.

The **Orbis partnership** between East Sussex County Council and Surrey County Council aims to improve the quality and resilience of business services and provide savings to both authorities. In December 2016, the Orbis Joint Committee and the Cabinet approved in principle, Brighton and Hove City Council joining the partnership as a founding partner. This is aligned with our ambition to grow Orbis and is a positive endorsement of the partnership. In addition, plans to bring together the legal operations of Surrey County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and East and West Sussex County Councils were signed off. The aim is to create greater resilience, reduce duplication, generate income and deliver savings of £1 million a year.

In October 2016, the **3SC** (Three Southern Counties) partnership of East Sussex, Surrey and West Sussex submitted a proposal to Government, seeking to open formal negotiations on a devolution bid. If successful, the bid will help unlock new growth and spearhead a transformation in how public services are delivered in the region. Due to a Government stock-take on devolution activity and other national developments, formal negotiations on the devolution bid are likely to be delayed and as such a strategic pause on activity began in January 2017. Work on specific activities including the 3SC Infrastructure and Skills Strategies, digital plans and responses to the Industrial Strategy and Housing White Paper are however continuing. Further detail can be found at <https://surreyandsussex.wordpress.com/>