

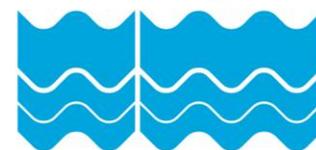
Summary of County Council achievements 2017/18

This summary sets out some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council in 2017/18 (up to February 2018) 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

The Council Plan for 2018/19 will be on our website from 1st April 2018.



Driving sustainable economic growth

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is one of seven local authorities that have formed a partnership called **Transport for the South East** (TfSE). The new partnership brings together the area's 16 transport authorities and a range of other organisations to work directly with the Department for Transport. TfSE is currently operating in shadow form but intends to secure full Government backing and statutory powers. At the first meeting of TfSE in June 2017, partners elected Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex County Council as chairman.

Companies in East Sussex are now able to benefit from a new £2 million grants and **business support** service, aimed at boosting the county's economy. South East Business Boost offers grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to existing small and medium sized businesses and start-ups for capital projects to help them grow and expand operations. So far £300,000 of grants have been awarded which will bring in over £850,000 in match funding. In addition, £227.4 million has been spent with local suppliers over the last 12 months; 55.8% of total Council spend.

East Sussex Highways, our partnership which looks after the roads, pavements, street lights, grass and winter maintenance won a number of prestigious awards during 2017/18. The customer service team won a silver award at the UK Customer Experience Awards and gold at the European Contact Centre and Customer Service Awards, following their introduction of a new more personalised way of working and a high-tech software system which has seen average call response times slashed from 90 seconds to just nine. In addition East Sussex Highways has been recognised for its work to boost skills in the area, with work in schools and a clear commitment to apprenticeships.

Over 150 carriageway asset improvement schemes were delivered in the first three-quarters of 2017/18. The continued investment by the County Council into **highway maintenance**, and specifically the resurfacing of roads, has stemmed the rate of deterioration and maintained road conditions across the county at an acceptable and affordable level. The condition of A, B and C roads across the county have largely remained stable, and as anticipated when Cabinet approved the current investment strategy in 2013. The additional £10m invested in rural lanes, also approved by Cabinet in 2013, has resulted in a noticeable improvement of unclassified roads across the county.

A number of large scale **infrastructure projects** have also been progressed, including the Newhaven Port Access Road, improvements to Terminus Road in Eastbourne and funding secured to build a new two-lane bridge to replace the current one-lane Exceat Bridge over the Cuckmere river.

Our e-Sussex project to rollout faster **broadband** in previously isolated areas has continued to improve access to services, jobs and education. Over 70,000 premises have been connected during our first and second contracts. A final phase of works is being procured with the aim to connect as close to 100% of premises in the county as possible.

There was a further improvement in the percentage of secondary **schools** judged by Ofsted (as at August 2017) to be good or outstanding to 77.8% from 74.1% at the end of 2016/17. The Early Years Improvement Team has also worked with providers, such that 96% of all East Sussex early years settings are graded good or outstanding, up from 76% in 2013. Work continues through our new Excellence for All 2017-2019 strategy to raise standards across all our educational settings. In addition, ESCC was successful in securing funding from the Government's Strategic School Improvement Fund to set up a Secondary Inclusion Partnership which will see county schools working together to share expertise with a focus on disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs.

In July 2017, ESCC welcomed funding of nearly £12 million for the **arts**, announced by Arts Council England for seven projects across the county. This includes funding for Glyndebourne to support its education and outreach work, for the de La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill to promote visual arts, for the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne and the Jerwood Gallery in Hastings.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

In June 2017, the Safer East Sussex Partnership launched a new pilot scheme called 'Ask Me'. The scheme widens opportunities for survivors of **domestic abuse** to access the help they need from their communities. It provides free domestic abuse training for people to become 'ask me ambassadors' who can respond to a disclosure of domestic abuse, and know where to signpost people for help. 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Women ran from 25 November 2017. Over the 16 days a range of organisations and individuals came together to work to end all forms of violence against women

Keeping vulnerable people safe continued...

ESCC's **Children's Services** Department was runner up in the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017 in the category of Best Social Work Employer. The Council's submission highlighted our achievements in supporting staff to create a high quality, sustainable system that secures the best outcomes for children and young people.

ESCC were successful in securing a £174,000 Warm and Healthy Homes grant from National Energy Action and £440,000 from the Warm Homes Fund to enable eligible vulnerable individuals to benefit from significant home improvements to help them **keep warm** in cold weather. This means over £1 million in external fuel poverty funding has been secured during the past two years.

By the end of December 2017, 61 organisations had joined the **East Sussex Against Scams** Partnership (ESASP) Charter which aims to make East Sussex a scam-free county. Over 687 residents have participated in Friends Against Scams awareness sessions which aim to reduce the likelihood of them, or people they know or care for, from becoming vulnerable victims of fraud and scams.

Helping people help themselves

Plans for closer health and care integration were given the green light by the Alliance partners (Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG, Hastings and Rother CCG, ESCC, East Sussex Health Care NHS Trust and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) in the **East Sussex Better Together** (ESBT) programme in July 2017. Our ambition is to deliver a fully integrated health and social care system in East Sussex that will ensure every service user enjoys proactive, joined up care that supports them to live as healthily and independently as possible. We are now developing a single health and care entity to manage the £850 million spent each year on the health and care needs of people in East Sussex. In recognition of this work, the ESBT Alliance won the 'Improved Partnerships between Health and Local Government' award at the prestigious 2017 Health Service Journal Awards. Examples of more integrated services include Locality Link Workers who act as a conduit between the statutory services, the voluntary sector and the community. Integrated locality teams (ILTs), made up of nurses, therapists, social workers and proactive care practitioners from East Sussex Health Care Trust (ESHT) and ESCC, have also been rolled out across the Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford and Hastings and Rother CCG areas.

There have been improvements against **Adult Social Care** key measures. Delayed transfers of Care (delayed days) from hospital per 100,000 population (aged 18+) has improved from 24.4 in April 2017 to 12.7 in November 2017. The proportion of older people (aged 65+) who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services for April to September 2017 is 91.7% - up from 90.5% in 2016/17.

An initiative helping **young people with disabilities** travel independently to school, college or training won national recognition. The Learning Independence for Travel (LIFT) training programme was one of just seven schemes shortlisted for a 'best service' award at the GO Excellence in Public Service Awards 2017/18.

One You East Sussex launched in October 2017 offers those who are struggling to make healthy lifestyle changes a bespoke support programme for help with weight loss, stopping smoking, getting active, drinking less and eating a healthy diet. Our **Beat the Street East Sussex** mass participation physical activity initiative saw more than 42,000 people take part and new Health and Wellbeing Community Hubs are due to be established in Hastings and Bexhill, helping people improve and manage their health by giving them access to information and support in one convenient place.

Schools across the county have been able to access additional funding to improve **children's physical and mental health**. Last year, 183 schools and colleges across the county received grants of £10,000 to develop and implement school health improvement plans and this year all schools were entitled to an additional £7,000 to further develop activities to boost health. In addition the ESCC primary school menu was accredited with the Soil Associations Food for Life Served Here Gold Standard, which recognises pupils are being served meals with the freshest, ethically sourced ingredients, free from additives and excessive salt and sugar.

Making the best use of our resources

The Council's **budget** and Council Plan for 2018/19 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 6th February 2018. The budget includes spending of £371 million on services for East Sussex. It also includes savings of £17 million, a 3 per cent Adult Social Care levy and a 2.99 per cent council tax increase.

The Council's **Stand Up for East Sussex** campaign, which made the case for East Sussex's particular needs to be recognised, gathered almost 6,000 signatures and was delivered to the Prime Minister in December 2017.

The **Orbis partnership** between East Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and Surrey County Council aims to improve the quality and resilience of business services and provide savings to both authorities. After surpassing its initial financial targets by achieving £4.5 million savings in 2016/17 against a target of £1.1 million, Orbis is currently on target to deliver £3.9 million efficiencies in 2017/18. Teams from across the three Councils have been working together to improve the way Orbis delivers services to its customers, including an online pensions portal and a new e-recruitment system.