

LOCAL MATTERS

A verbal report will be provided.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Recruitment campaign

CDC has launched a new recruitment campaign. The aim is not only to advertise jobs, but to introduce the people behind the scenes and explain more about the everyday services the council provides. We are using the strapline 'Ordinary people, doing extraordinary jobs'.

Growth

Business Contact Programme

For the month of January 2024, the Business Contact Programme has provided support to 142 businesses across the district, helping to protect over 160 local jobs, seeing 15 new jobs created, and assisting with funding for 51 district businesses. Responsive planning application support has also been provided to 10 businesses.

There has been a high volume of grant applications from businesses for Rural England Prosperity Funding and UK Shared Prosperity Funding with 31 in total and the fund is significantly oversubscribed.

In terms of trading, comments from many businesses are that it is quiet, but in line with the usual seasonal drop, as is traditional for this time of year.

Our Inward Investment & Growth Officer has been supporting a Manufacturing business to move into the district providing over 15 jobs with plans to grow.

Housing, Revenues & Benefits

Household Support Fund Phase 4

Household Support Fund (HSF) is a fund administered by West Sussex County Council. To give greater autonomy, particularly with the development of the Supporting You Team, who have been particularly successful in its use of HSF vouchers, we have been successful in bidding for a slice of these funds. This funding is being used to support residents of the district who are financially vulnerable because of the cost-of-living crisis.

Funding guidance issued by the Department for Work and Pensions prescribes that these funds should be used to support people with food, fuel and costs associated with this, such as white goods, energy efficient household appliances, and items to assist in keeping warm. There is a particular emphasis on assisting those who have not received any cost-of-living support. The successful bid amounts to £300,000, this money is being used for assistance with food, items associated with energy, moving on from temporary accommodation and to prevent homelessness by topping up Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) funding, and is particularly targeted at rent arrears where there is a risk of homelessness.

The fund is administered by the Supporting You Team and the Accommodation Move On

Officers working out of the council's temporary housing office at Westward House in Fishbourne. This is also supported by officers working across the Revenues, Benefits and Housing Division. Funding is distributed in the form of vouchers for food and small household items, and direct goods for white goods and furniture. This ensures that customers receive goods directly and ones which are energy efficient, therefore reducing the risk of fraud and minimising ongoing energy costs for the resident.

Damp and Mould Update

The Housing Standards Team continues to provide advice to residents on how best to manage moisture in the home through our media platforms. Tenants experiencing damp and mould within their property should always notify their landlord in the first instance. If the problem worsens, or the landlord's response is unsatisfactory tenants should contact the Housing Standards Team for help and advice.

[Housing Health and Safety Rating System \(HHSRS\) - Chichester District Council](#)
[Dealing with damp and mould | The Hyde Group \(hyde-housing.co.uk\)](#)

Rough Sleeper update

CDC continues to work closely with our partners to provide support for rough sleepers, and is also continuing to promote our Make Your Change Count Campaign. Members attended a presentation by Stonepillow and the council's Rough Sleeping Team in February that covered the role of Stonepillow and how the council works in partnership with them to support rough sleepers.

Supporting You team update

The Supporting You Team is continuing to make a real difference to residents and the success of this team is very evident. Residents can refer themselves online via the team pages at <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign>

Wellbeing

The Wellbeing team will be promoting National No Smoking Day, offering free stop smoking advice at St Richards Hospital to patients and staff on Wednesday 13 March.

Our Wellbeing Workplace Health advisor supports businesses to help their staff stay healthy and well. In March, she will be working with JCC Lighting Ltd, Nature's Way, The Depot and Westgate Leisure Centre.

CDC is running a free taster session on 26 March for our 'Walking With Poles' course starting in April. The beginner's course is aimed at those who do less than 150 minutes of exercise a week. If you are interested, please call 01243 521041.

Development Management

The Government has recently published consultations on two planning issues - changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and changes to permitted development rights.

The consultation on proposals to change national planning policy suggest giving more weight to the benefits of delivering as many homes as possible and taking a flexible approach in applying policies or guidance relating to the internal layout of development. The

proposals also aim to make it easier to build homes on brownfield land. The council's response will be considered by the Planning Committee on 6 March 2024. However, you can comment as an individual online at: [Strengthening planning policy for brownfield development - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-planning-policy-for-brownfield-development). The consultation closes on 26 March 2024.

The consultation on changes to permitted development relates to the rights that allow for householder development; building upwards to create new homes; the demolition of certain buildings and rebuild as homes; electric vehicle charge points; and air source heat pumps. This consultation closes on 9 April 2024. The council's response will be agreed by the Planning Committee on 27 March 2024. However, you can comment as an individual online at: [Changes to various permitted development rights: consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-various-permitted-development-rights). The consultation closes on 9 April 2024.

Environmental Protection

WSSC's A259 Chichester to Bognor Regis Corridor Scheme Consultation

WSSC are consulting on a further highway improvement scheme, which you can find at: [A259 Chichester to Bognor Regis Corridor Scheme | Your Voice West Sussex](#). The scheme proposes to make highway alterations to help make bus services more reliable and to significantly enhance the walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure on this important corridor. There is an interactive map where consultees can drop comments on the current infrastructure and make suggestions for the scheme's forthcoming design.

Biodiversity Net Gain becomes mandatory on 12 February.

Biodiversity Net Gain uses habitat types within a calculation metric to assign a biodiversity 'value' to different areas of land. From 12 February it will be mandatory for all major developments to create at least 10% extra biodiversity (net gain) above and beyond their initial site baseline. This can be achieved by enhancing existing habitats or creating new ones and can even include the implementation of green roofs and enhancing particularly unique areas such as ancient woodland. These habitats must be maintained for a minimum of 30 years. Implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain also incentivises nature to thrive in the most strategic of places, aiding in the development of wildlife corridors and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. This will mean that biodiversity in England can become measurably better for nature, people, places and the environment for many years to come.

The Environmental Strategy team have recently sent out a short survey to parish councils and local environment groups to gauge interest in establishing a new **Climate Champions network**. The aim of the network is to support parish councils and their residents to share best practice and identify actions that they can do locally to tackle climate change and support our council's Climate Emergency work. [The National Association of Local Councils \(NALC\)](#) encourages local (parish and town) councils to take action on climate change, and the Climate Champions network can showcase some of the great work happening in our communities and inspire others to do the same. The [survey](#) should take around 10 minutes to complete and the deadline is 28 March 2024.