

## **LOCAL MATTERS**

A verbal update will be provided

## **DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

### **PLANNING:**

#### **Local Plan**

The Planning Inspectorate has written to the Council to say that they are happy that we move forward towards adoption of the Local Plan, as long as a number of modifications are made.

The Inspectors do not require the Council to bring additional land for housing through the plan.

Drafting of revised modifications will not be the subject of further hearings. Finalised modifications will be put to Full Council at the end of March. There will then be a six-week consultation after which we hope to receive the final letter from the Inspector allowing the Council to 'make' (adopt) the plan in July 2025.

Changes to the NPPF and NPPG (see below) will impact the new Local Plan.

Once the Local Plan is 'made', the Government expects work to begin on a new Local Plan as soon as possible. The details will depend on when and how the Local Government reorganisation plans come into effect.

#### **Planning regulations**

The Government proposes some significant changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). Changes include a revised method for calculating 'Housing Need' for use in preparing Local Plans. The number of houses Councils will be required to plan for will be based on current housing stocks and an affordability calculation. As a result, this revised method of calculation will increase the numbers of houses to be built in less affordable areas such as Chichester.

In theory we would need to build 1305 dwellings per annum (dpa) to meet the requirements of this new calculation.

The general requirement to maintain a Five Year Housing Land supply is reinstated, and the presumption in favour of Sustainable Development is strengthened.

The revised NPPF gives Social Rented Housing an increased prominence.

For planning applications and appeals decisions the revised NPPF applies with immediate effect.

From July 2026 we will need a 5 year housing land supply and a 20% buffer.

### **GOVERNMENT PLANS:**

#### **Devolution and Local Government reorganisation**

Further to the January report, the Government plans an elected Mayor for a new

Sussex Strategic Authority, an area made up of three Unitary Authorities which will replace current County and District Councils. The intention is to devolve power to the local area and streamline decision making.

The Council expects to hear the Government response to the West Sussex request for a Fast Track move to a Sussex-wide Strategic Authority in the next few days. The Government's response should give a better indication of the likely timetable for the changes, and possibly a decision on whether or not the County Council elections due in May will be delayed. We hope to be able to address this in a verbal update.

## **HOUSING AND HOMELESS:**

### **Housing and homeless Strategy Consultation**

The Council is currently consulting on the new Housing, Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy, which can be found at: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/housing>

### **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)**

*(protecting vulnerable individuals sleeping rough during periods of severe weather)*

CDC and Stonepillow collaborated to develop the SWEP arrangements for a single point of access for accommodation, with additional support for Winter 24/25.

Individuals are provided with an overnight bed at the Stone Pillow Day Hub, along with a hot meal. The on-site staff team provide long term, holistic support for a permanent move away from rough sleeping.

This service is on standby between 1 November to 31 March. So far this winter, the service has been mobilised on two occasions:

## **OTHER:**

### **Out & Proud in Chichester**

The latest Novium exhibition, 'Out & Proud in Chichester', opens on Saturday 1 February. This free-to-visit exhibition has been co-curated in partnership with Chichester PRIDE UK and celebrates the vibrant history of Pride in Chichester, alongside the stories of our local LGBTQ+ community.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund**

The Government has announced that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be extended for 2025-26 at a reduced level. Chichester District Council have been allocated £327,146 split between Capital £60,401 Revenue £266,745.

Funded Projects so far include

- Choose Work - 102 people have received support to gain employment with 23 people in employment and 10 in work placement.
- The Sussex Six project promoting hospitality & retail businesses pledging to take on six or more new Sussex products. The Chichester directory is on the [Sussex food and drink website](#). Local businesses which make, serve and sell local Sussex produce can be listed for free.
- A Public realm improvement at South Pond, Midhurst

**Farmers' Markets – February**

Chichester Farmers' Markets will be taking place on Friday 7 and Friday 21 February with a range of local traders offering their seasonal produce.

**Free Laser Show events in February**

Using UK Government Funding, there will be an exciting free laser show and illumination at Petworth House on the first Saturday of the February half-term. There will also be shows at the Chichester Canal Basin on Friday 2 and Saturday 22 February. As before, there will be two shows on each of the evenings, both different, at 6pm and 7.30pm, with some ancillary entertainment and refreshments around the Canal Basin.

**Council Website achieves Internet Crystal Mark**

The Plain English Campaign has awarded the Council the Plain English Crystal Mark for accessibility, navigation, design and layout, and commitment to Plain English throughout its website.

**Pallant House Gallery – Conservation Repairs**

Six months' worth of conservation repairs to the Pallant House Gallery were concluded in December. This involved repairs to the roofs and lead guttering to prevent water ingress into the building together with parapet wall re-pointing and conservation repairs to timber window frames prior to full external redecoration. This preserves and enhances Pallant House Gallery's Grade 1 listed status and aesthetic appeal for the people of Chichester.

**Active for Life Courses**

Active for Life courses will be starting w/c 10 February, aimed at those who are currently doing less than the recommended 150 minutes of exercise each week. Register on line, call 01243 521041 or email: [wellbeing@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeing@chichester.gov.uk)

**CDC MEETINGS**

The following Council meetings are scheduled for February 2025:

11-02-2025 Cabinet – 9.30am

12-02-2025 Planning Committee – 9.30am

25-02-2025 Council – 6pm

26-02-2025 Public Facing Development Plan & Infrastructure Panel (DPIP) 9.30am

27-02-2025 Strategic Risk Group - 2.00pm