

## **LOCAL MATTERS**

A verbal update will be provided

### **LGR and Local Elections**

The Government has made no decision on the structure of the unitary authorities for Sussex. Instead, the Government will be consulting on two variations of the proposals already submitted. The consultation will take place after the county elections, with a final decision expected in the summer.

The first proposed modification is moving Chichester District Council into a unitary with Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council and Mid Sussex District Council.

The second unitary in West Sussex would include Arun District Council, Adur District Council and Worthing District Council.

The third and fourth unitary authorities based on East Sussex, and Brighton, would involve a second proposed modification with boundary changes moving wards in Peacehaven and Saltdean from Lewes District Council in East Sussex to Brighton & Hove City Council.

Timetable, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2026: County Council Elections

May 6<sup>th</sup> 2027: Elections for the new unitary councils.

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2028: Vesting day—the new unitary authority/authorities become operational. CDC, WSCC and other Sussex Local Councils cease to exist.

The pre-election period for the County elections begins 30<sup>th</sup> March - see the CDC website for more details including the significant dates and deadlines.

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/40613/West-Sussex-County-Council-Election-7-May-2026>

Remember: Photographic ID is required at the polling station in order to vote at elections.

### **Food waste collections rollout.**

Our new household food waste collection service is being rolled out. To date, over 25% of the district have now received their food waste starter packs, and the first collection round has started. The starter pack includes: a kitchen caddy, a roll of liners, an outside food waste bin, and, instructions on how to use their service.

Please do not be concerned if you are yet to receive your starter pack. We are delivering these in phases and collections will start during April to May.

We are also reminding residents to check their collection start dates at

[www.chichester.gov.uk/food-waste](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/food-waste) or through the free Chichester District Council app.

### **Campaign about Renters' Rights Act**

The Housing Team is currently working with the Communications Team on a campaign to help promote the new Renters' Rights Act. At the moment we are focusing on communicating with landlords about how the changes will affect them and what they will need to do before the new law comes into force from 1<sup>st</sup> May.

### **Chichester City Centre**

**Public Investment.** Cabinet will consider approving a £600,000 contribution to the Chichester City Centre public realm improvement project. Led by West Sussex

County Council the project aims to regenerate Chichester's North Street and East Street by replacing worn, uneven paving with York Stone. New planting will be incorporated along with new seating, new signage and technology to support 4G from multiple mobile operators. The project aims to help boost the local economy and footfall by enhancing the area for residents and visitors.

**'Cross Market and More'** dates for 2026.

Our popular 'Cross Market and More' events will be held on Sunday 26 April; Sunday 5 July (which will be combined with the annual Summer Street Party), and Sunday 4 October. The markets will run 10am - 4pm, with up to 45 traders attending. The Summer Street Party will also include parts of South Street, West Street, and use of the Cathedral Green.

**Chichester Farmers' Market** - dates for April

Our popular Farmers' Markets are on April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Good Friday) and April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm on East Street, Chichester. Stalls will include a variety of goods such as plants, bread, pies, sauces, savoury snacks, seafood, and jewellery. We still offer stand space to support local charities, voluntary organisations, and our partners such as Sussex Police.

**Chichester Antiques, Collectables, Vintage & Retro Markets**

There will be three events taking place during the year, with stalls selling a variety of antiques, vintage and retro items, and quirky collectables.

The dates are: Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2026 from 10am - 4pm on East Street and North Street.

**City Hotel - Market Assessment**

This study, commissioned by the council identifies that the city presents an opportunity to capitalise on a highperforming but undersupplied hotel market. Since the study's publication, there has been an announcement of plans for a new 82 bed Premier Inn on Bognor Road. In addition there are a number of hotel providers interested in expanding in the city.

**Chichester Bid.**

The Chichester Business Improvement District (BID) proposes to undertake a renewal ballot in November for a new term of five years when its current term finishes on 31 March 2027. Chichester BID's geographical area lies primarily within the limits of the city walls, and includes Northgate, Southgate, St Pancras and The Hornet. BID's typical activities include campaigns to increase footfall and spend; upgrading public spaces; business representation, advocacy and networking opportunities; provision of events; branding; security patrols; and street scene improvements. A levy is charged on the businesses within the geographical BID boundary area to support the provision of these services.

**Planning Policy**

**The Land Availability Assessment:** A new Land Availability Assessment is being prepared. The Land Availability Assessment (LAA) will replace the previous Housing

and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA, published in 2021), and will help inform our future planning policy work.

All suggested land will be assessed to understand whether it is suitable, available, and deliverable. The LAA will support and inform future planning policy preparation. Inclusion in the LAA does not mean that planning permission for any particular site will be granted.

The completed Land Availability Assessment will be published on our website and updated regularly as new information becomes available.

The online portal is available at: [www.chichester.gov.uk/laa](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/laa)

**Consultations** on the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD update, the draft Housing Delivery Statement and the development industry questionnaire on the Housing Action Plan have now closed.

The council's response to the draft National Planning Policy Framework has been submitted and is available on the planning policy website.

[www.chichester.gov.uk/governmentconsultations](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/governmentconsultations)

The revised NPPF is expected to be published this summer.

## **Development Management**

The council has received grant funding from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to support the Development Management function, and specifically its handling of major applications at reserved matters and discharge of conditions stage. The grant of £92,000 will be spent on increasing validation resources and officer resources and will ensure that we are available to speed up decision-making on these major applications.

## **Environment**

**A new climate change website** has been launched by the council: [www.cdc4climate.org](http://www.cdc4climate.org) The website explains what the council is doing on climate change and what individuals, communities and businesses can do to take climate action and reduce their carbon emissions. It puts the climate change message across in a different and more tangible way to many of the climate campaigns of the past and is thought to be the first local authority website to use the Britain Talks Climate & Nature research.

**Tree Planting** More than 13,700 trees of different sizes purchased and distributed to 34 sites in this year's scheme. Sites were spread across the district with locations in Petworth, Heyshott, West Dean, as well as Hambrook, Chichester and Sidlesham. The trees ranged from native hedgerow species to fruit trees and ornamental trees. The Council has participated in tree planting projects since 2020. Prior to the latest scheme, more 65,000 trees had been planted at over 210 sites in the district.

## **Council Meetings in April**

Tuesday 14 April, 9.30am	Cabinet, Committee Rooms, East Pallant House
Wednesday 15 April, 9.30am	Planning Committee, Committee Rooms , EPH
Wednesday 22 April, 9.30am	DPIP, Committee Rooms, East Pallant House
Thursday 30 April, 2pm	JECP, Training Room 1, East Pallant House