

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

Richard Bates – Stephen Johnson - Adrian Moss

ANNUAL REPORT

Council

Liberal Democrats **24**

Conservatives **5**

Local Alliance (Selsey) **4***

Greens **1***

Independent **1***

Independent **1**

*The Local Alliance, Greens & One Independent sit as a “Group” and are therefore the official Opposition

Harbour Villages Councillors

Richard Bates

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee (Chair)

Planning Committee

Standards Committee

Business Routing Panel (as Chair of Corp Governance)

Strategic Risk Group (as Chair of Corp Governance)

Outside Bodies

Rolls-Royce liaison

West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Committee

Stephen Johnson

Planning Committee (Vice Chair)

Development and Infrastructure Panel (DPIP) – Local Plan and Planning Policy

Boundary Review Panel

Environment Panel

Outside Bodies

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Adrian Moss

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Cabinet (Chair)

Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel (DPIP) (as Council Leader)

Regeneration Board (as Cabinet Member for Regeneration)

Outside Bodies

Local Councils' Network

Local Government Association - General Assembly

South East England Councils

West Sussex Joint Leaders Group

West Sussex Economic Board (as representative for West Sussex District and Borough Councils)

MAJOR CURRENT TOPICS

Devolution and Local Government Reform (Linked but separate)

Devolution

- The new “Sussex Wide” strategic authority has been formed
 - Mayor elections delayed by government
 - Inaugural meeting April 16th
 - Appointment of Leader/Chairs
 - Names may change after County Council elections as names are all currently Leaders/Deputy Leaders of constituent Councils
 - Strategic responsibilities
 - Transport, Planning, Emergency services
 - Economic Development, Skills, Tourism

LGR

- Letter sent to Councils in January 2025
- Business Case submitted in Sept 2025 proposed footprint options of:
 - One across West Sussex
 - Two across West Sussex
- Government decision was expected in March
 - Government rejected West Sussex business case and options
 - New government proposal of
 - Chichester, Horsham, Crawley, Mid Sussex
 - Arun, Worthing Adur
 - Government Consultation commences early May (After WSCC Elections)
- CDC have undertaken comprehensive consultation with stakeholders in summer 2025
- Anticipated formation of Unitary Shadow Authority May 2027
- CDC merges to new authority April 2028

Budget for 2026-7

- 2.99% council tax rise which equates to £5.74 per Band D property per year, or approximately 11p per week
- **CDC** council tax charge for 2026-27 for a Band D property will be £197.80. This is still one of the lowest.
- All services retained inc. non statutory and a number now included into base budget - a huge achievement by this council
- The budget also incorporates commitment for 2026-27, the continuation of projects previously funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund including
 - graffiti removal (£40k), supporting events and the evening nighttime economy (£75k), Community Cultural events (£30k), Business network building (£30k), and Business Grants (£150k).
- £150,00 extra for Community Grants
- Major investment set aside for:

- Economic Development
- For Contract Services new HUGV Brake tester and technical training facility working with Chichester College
- Oakland Park Path
- Evaluation of demand for a new Innovation hub to support business innovation and business growth.
- Upgrades to Northgate Car Park and Bosham Car Park
- Public Realm Improvements on District Council land
- The redevelopment of the White Pavillion in Priory Park

THE LAST YEAR

Play Parks

- New and refurbished Play Parks have been completed across Chichester

Boosting the local economy

- We've issued supporting grants from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- The funding has supported a variety of work - from small charities, to growing businesses and community organisations.
- We continue to run markets and events in Chichester
 - Xmas events were very well supported
 - Weekly Wednesday market & Farmers Market - fortnightly
 - The Cross Market and More
 - Laser Shows very popular

Regeneration Strategy

- The new Regeneration strategy is progressing with
 - Hotel study
 - Live music and Arts Event study
- "Pavement" project North and West Street
 - West Sussex are finally bringing this project forward.
 - CDC providing funding for street furniture and seating (£600,000)
- Wider project
 - House of Fraser Planning application now live
 - WSCC and CDC signed a Growth Deal in early 2026 to bring forward a range of sites in Chichester
- Toilet upgrades completed in Chichester and Bosham

Food waste

- Major project is being rolled out. If you have the CDC app you can see when you will receive your bins
- CDC Depot at Westhampnett being upgraded to support the service

Local Plan

- The Local Plan was adopted in Summer 2025 and now provides a higher level of certainty on development sites. Government requirements now mean though that we need to identify an extra 20% of housing in the District

Climate Change and the Environment

- Council continues to support Chalk Stream Resilience project (Lavant, Ham and Ems)
- The new Environmental & Biodiversity Plan was published in 2026
- Climate Emergency Action Plan projects inc. housing decarbonisation; tree planting; working on local area energy plan & adaptation.

Cost of living

- A key priority for the council is helping local people with the cost-of-living crisis. We are delighted that we have been able to include this in our base budget for 2026-7
 - Supporting You
 - Council tax reduction schemes
 - Social Prescribing

Coastal projects

- Selsey Flood defence project is progressing and some areas bought forward in timescales
- Chichester Harbour Adaption Plan now has most funding agreed and is subject to final EA agreement

May 2026