

County Councillor Report – April 2025

Highways Contracts

Two new Highways contracts began on 1st April to provide maintenance and drainage works on the road network in line with the County Council's Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy. Having transitioned away from a single term maintenance contract model in 2020, this award of contracts confirms the authority's continued belief that utilisation of a disaggregated delivery approach provides significant value advantages for both cost and quality.

The highways maintenance core services contract, which has been awarded to Volker Highways Limited, has an estimated combined annual revenue and capital spend of £16.5million. The contract will cover a number of key areas of local highways operations, which includes repairs to emergency and reactive defect reports, winter treatment, maintenance of structures, minor carriageway patching, weed control, tree maintenance and maintenance of signs, lines and markings.

The highways drainage maintenance services contract has been awarded to FM Conway Limited and has an estimated combined annual revenue and capital spend of £4.2million to cover small scale reactive drainage and ironworks tasks, reactive system jetting and CCTV investigations, ditching maintenance works and cyclical cleansing of gullies.

The procurement process was aimed at affording greater flexibility and agility for both the Local Highway Operations team and the contractors to respond and adapt to changing environments and funding programmes.

Community Food Hubs

The County Council is to continue to fund for another year the seven Community Food Hubs which are based in each District and Borough across the County. Run in partnership with Sussex-based food rescue charity UKHarvest, the Community Food Hubs redistribute surplus food from suppliers while educating residents on food waste prevention. The hubs take place once a month in each district and borough across West Sussex. For a small voluntary donation of £5, residents can access a wide selection of surplus food. No referrals are needed and all residents are welcome to visit the child-friendly hubs. In addition to surplus food, the hubs provide advice, recipe ideas and information on topics such as waste prevention, wellbeing and Citizens Advice services.

Locations:

- Adur – Southwick, Southwick Community Centre, 24 Southwick Street, Southwick, BN4 4TE
- Arun – Bognor Regis, Bognor Youth and Community Centre, Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, PO21 5JZ
- Chichester – Petworth, Sylvia Beaufoy Centre, Midhurst Road, Petworth, GU28 0ET
- Crawley – Broadfield, Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Crawley, RH11 9BA

- Horsham – Storrington, Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Spierbridge Road, Storrington, Pulborough, RH20 4PG
- Mid Sussex – Haywards Heath, Ascension Church, 110 Vale Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 4JS
- Worthing – Worthing, Sidney Walter Centre, Sussex Road, Worthing, BN11 1DS

For a list of Community Food Hub dates, please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/UKHarvest.

Millais School, Horsham

Following a public consultation, the County Council has taken the decision to change Millais School in Horsham from a single-sex school for girls to a school for both girls and boys, in a move that will help secure the future of secondary education in Horsham. The move to co-educational aims to address the issue of falling pupil numbers at the school and help relieve some of the pressure for additional secondary school places across Horsham. The school has not filled its published admissions number of 300 for the last three years, which has had an impact on budgets and resources. The first intake of Year 7 girls and boys at the school is due in September 2026. Existing year groups of girls will continue to receive their education at the school until they leave at the age of 16.

Primary Schools

Families across West Sussex have now been informed which primary school their children will be attending from September 2025. The County Council has worked with schools to ensure that every child has been allocated a school place, with the Council's admissions team processing 9,200 applications, an increase on last year's total of 8,606.

7,792 applicants (91.1%) will be offered their first preference school, and 98.6% of all applicants this year will be offered a place at one of their three preferences.

The team also managed 1,408 applications for children who are transferring from infant to junior school. Over 99% of those who applied will be offered their first preference school.

For further information, please contact the admissions teams. For the team in the north of the County, email admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk or for that in the south, email admissions.south@westsussex.gov.uk. If you are unable to use email, please call the customer services team on 033 301 42903.

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