

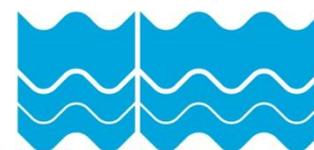
Summary of County Council achievements 2019/20

This summary sets out some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council in 2019/20 (up to February 2020) under the four strategic priorities of the Council.

The Council Plan provides further detail of these priorities at:

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm

The Council Plan for 2020/21 will be on our website from 1st April 2020.



Driving sustainable economic growth

Transport for the South East (TfSE), our partnership of the area's 16 transport authorities was awarded an additional £500,000 of funding to support its development. In October 2019, TfSE launched a consultation on the draft Transport Strategy, with over 550 people attending a series of engagement events. The consultation closed in January 2020 with over 3,600 responses received. The responses will be analysed and a final Strategy produced later in the year.

Over 130 **carriageway asset improvement schemes** were delivered in the first three-quarters of 2019-20, to maintain and improve the county's roads. The works to modernise Eastbourne town centre and improve the pedestrian environment were completed in January 2020 and construction of the Newhaven Port Access Road has continued on schedule, with completion expected in autumn 2020. East Sussex Highways was once again awarded the Government-backed Customer Service Excellence award with assessors noting that staff showed a clear commitment to understanding customer needs and delivering excellent customer service.

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) assigned almost £2.5m from the **Local Growth Fund** Round 3 programme to East Sussex projects, including for new jobs and workspace in Bexhill and for the replacement Exceat Bridge. Businesses were assisted to create over 100 **jobs** through our business support programmes in the first three quarters of 2019-20 and Locate East Sussex has assisted 27 businesses to move into, or relocate within the county, over the same period.

In July 2019, the **Careers Hub** celebrated its first birthday. The Hub links secondary schools, special schools and colleges with employers, further education providers and universities to improve aspirations and enable students to learn about the world of work. 125 Industry Champions continue to actively support schools and colleges through the Hub. ESCC was also named as the only local authority to be awarded funding to extend the Hub to primary school children in a one year pilot. In addition, over 1,000 students experienced the world of work through the Open Doors scheme, double the number who benefitted last year. Through October and November 2019, 34 businesses opened their doors to students allowing them to experience the workplace and to get inspired.

In October 2019, Councillors voted to declare a '**climate emergency**' and backed a motion to achieve carbon neutral status by 2050 at the latest. ESCC is now developing an action plan to meet the target. ESCC has already reduced its carbon emissions by 46 per cent in a decade and announced that street lights and council buildings in the county will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity from April 2020.

Plans were confirmed to transfer the ownership of several **countryside sites** to ensure their protection and enhance their futures. These were the Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve and Riverside Park countryside site to Newhaven Town Council, Ditchling Country Park to Sussex Wildlife Trust and the Seven Sisters Country Park to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The SDNPA has pledged £1.4m to improve the environment and visitor facilities in the Seven Sisters area.

Students celebrated improved **GCSE results** in August 2019, with average grades up on 2018 across the full range of headline measures. There was a particularly strong performance in English and Maths where the proportion of students getting higher grades (9-4) rose from 62 per cent the previous year to 64 per cent. The overall effectiveness judgement for schools inspected at 30 August 2019, placed East Sussex 27th across all **schools** in the Ofsted league of schools that are good or outstanding. In August 2014, East Sussex was ranked 130th out of 152. The updated Excellence for All strategy 2019 – 2021 was published in September 2019 and outlines our vision, values and ambitions for creating an excellent education system where no pupil or educational establishment is left behind.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

Over the last few years East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, ESCC, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, and the Clinical Commissioning Groups have been working closely together, through East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) and Connecting 4 You (C4Y) to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. To build on these successes we are now working to bring the two East Sussex programmes (ESBT and C4Y) together, to establish a **single health and social care programme** across the whole of East Sussex. As part of this, a draft East Sussex Health and Social Care Plan has been developed. Residents and partners have been invited to share their comments on the plan.

Keeping vulnerable people safe continued...

ESCC, in partnership with the East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups successfully bid to become a trailblazer for the implementation of new Mental Health Support Teams in schools. This is additional resource to support more children with mental health and emotional wellbeing needs. In addition, our **mental health** awareness week in May 2019 focused on body image and its impact on mental health amongst young people. The county's School Health Service hosted assemblies in schools and ran events to encourage young people to have a more healthy understanding of body image.

ESCC and Brighton and Hove City Council have completed the strategic framework of the joint strategy to create an enhanced and coordinated response to **domestic violence** and abuse, sexual and other forms of violence. The delivery plan for the strategy is currently being developed.

Trading Standards made 169 positive interventions in the first three quarters of 2019 to protect vulnerable people, including visiting victims of rogue trading or financial abuse and installing call blockers to protect people from telephone scams.

A review of **early help services** was completed and we are now implementing a new strategy to support families including keywork with vulnerable families, early years family support services integrated with delivery of the Healthy Child Programme by our health visitors, and evidence based youth work with vulnerable young people. We will also offer universal, open-access and drop-in early help services for children, families and young people where these are fully externally funded. We will retain a network of 16 children's and youth centres, plus provision of services in Council and other community buildings when needed.

Helping people help themselves

Between April and November 2019 there were an average 47.1 delayed **transfers from hospital care** per day, an improvement from 81.6 in the same period in 2017 (the baseline), equating to a 42% reduction. This includes 37.7 delayed transfers for NHS reasons and 8.4 delayed transfers due to Council social services – which have improved from 31.4 in the same period in 2017. Services for adults to help them live independently and delay the need for residential or nursing care resulted in 91.1% of older people still being at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services (between April and September 2019).

Frail adults can receive Technology Enabled Care Services to help manage risks and **maintain independence** at home. This includes Telecare services such as wearable alert buttons, fall detectors and medication dispensers. At the end of December 2019, 8,550 people were receiving these services. Thousands of adults are also supported through the STEPS to Stay independent programme, to maintain help their independence and improve wellbeing and through Home Works which helps people to find and keep safe and affordable accommodation.

The Children's Takeover Day and the Children and Young People's Trust annual event were combined into one successful day on 18 November 2019. Over 50 **young people** were involved in the event, alongside 70 leaders and practitioners from a range of partnership organisations. *Focus on youth voice* was the theme for the event which saw updates from all the youth groups present and a workshop focusing on youth engagement best practice. The young people also discussed the priorities for the Youth Cabinet campaigns for 2020 which will focus on 'Protecting the Environment' and 'Tackling Knife Crime'.

As driver error contributes to over 90% of road collisions where people are killed or seriously injured, ESCC has been implementing a £1m project to deliver behaviour change initiatives, alongside our ongoing programme of work to improve the road infrastructure. The **road safety** programme has identified a number of target groups who are at the greatest risk of having a road traffic collision and trials of behaviour change initiatives focusing on these groups ran throughout 2019. The results from these initiatives will be available in 2020-21.

Making the best use of our resources

ESCC's lobbying of Government has met with success and additional funding of £1bn per year for social care was announced in the post General Election Queen's speech. In addition the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement included extra funding for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The Council's **budget** and Council Plan for 2020/21 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on 11 February 2020. The budget includes spending of £403m on services for East Sussex and Councillors agreed to spend an additional £6.5m on services, including in Children's Services, highways and support for vulnerable people and families who need help to avoid homelessness. The budget also defers some savings previously identified in libraries, trading standards and child safeguarding. Savings of £3.5m across a number of areas have been included.

A **Social Value Marketplace** website was launched in November 2019, developed by the Orbis partnership. It is an innovative platform to help councils leverage their expenditure with suppliers to maximise community benefit. The marketplace enables local charities to request non-financial support from suppliers that are looking to give something back to the community. There are 20 organisations with 32 users now registered on the platform. Voluntary organisations have made 4 requests for help and there are 14 offers of support made by suppliers.