

## **LOCAL MATTERS**

A verbal report will be provided.

## **DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Grant Funding**

The Council has issued more than £220,000 to businesses and community groups from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). This is from the £1.7 million that we were allocated in 2022

Money from the UKSPF is there to help encourage economic growth and improve the quality of life for people across the district, while the REPF is intended to support projects which assist with supporting businesses and community infrastructure to address the challenges faced by rural areas

#### **Harbour**

Cabinet have given the go ahead to bid for government money so that our coastal engineering service can develop a plan for the Chichester Harbour area that will help communities prepare for flooding and coastal change. The plan would also help to protect and restore the harbour's habitats and ecosystems.

#### **Midhurst**

It is just over a year since the major fire in Midhurst. As you know, the council has stepped in to offer significant support to the town with a package of over £300,000, as well as business support on the ground and marketing activities to encourage people back to the town. The funding has been used to provide grants to eligible businesses, pay for a new website to promote the town and to provide coaching from a retail specialist. The Town Team is also developing a new Midhurst Business Partnership. The Council will continue to support Midhurst.

#### ***Growth and Place***

##### **Novium Museum**

An exciting new exhibition will be roaring into The Novium Museum this summer. 'Dinosaurs: Hungry Hatchlings' showcases how even the largest dinosaurs started life as eggs and tiny hatchlings.

The exhibition opens on Saturday 11 May and runs until Saturday 9 November. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £3 for children or £14 for a family of up to five people. For more information please visit: [www.chichester.gov.uk/dinosaurs](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/dinosaurs)

##### **Public Conveniences Refurbishment**

Works have started refurbishing CDC owned toilets in **Bosham** and at Priory Park in Chichester with the further sites in Selsey and Chichester to follow.

### **Changing Places Public Conveniences**

Changing Places disabled toilet facility in Bracklesham was introduced recently. The works have now completed at the site in the Selsey Centre in Selsey. Works are due to complete in April at the site in Midhurst.

### **COMMUNICATIONS, LICENSING & EVENTS**

#### **Communications- Pre-election period**

The election for the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner will take place on Thursday 2 May 2024, along with a by-election for Selsey Town Council. This means that the pre-election period for these elections begins on Tuesday 26 March. The primary restriction within the pre-election period is on proactive publicity by the council which particularly relates to candidates and other politicians directly in the election.

### **GROWTH**

#### **Inward Investment & Growth**

*Invest Chichester*

Two new case studies have been uploaded onto the website, outlining the support they have received from Chichester District Council Case studies - Invest Chichester. These, as well other news and events are regularly shared on our LinkedIn page [www.linkedin.com/company/invest-chichester/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/invest-chichester/)

From April, we will also be launching a [monthly newsletter via LinkedIn](#), to share specific information on support available. Subscribe on LinkedIn [HERE](#)

#### ***Housing, Revenues & Benefits***

#### **Damp and Mould Update**

The Housing Standards Team continues to provide advice to residents on how best to manage moisture in the home through our media platforms. Tenants experiencing damp and mould in their property should always notify their landlord in the first instance. If the problem worsens, or the landlord's response is unsatisfactory tenants should contact the Housing Standards Team for help and advice.

[Housing Health and Safety Rating System \(HHSRS\) - Chichester District Council](#)  
[Dealing with damp and mould | The Hyde Group \(hyde-housing.co.uk\)](#)

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### **REVENUES AND BENEFITS**

#### **Council tax and business rates**

All annual bills for Council Tax and Business rates have been issued. Residents will have started to receive these.

[Council tax information & support - Chichester District Council](#)

### **Supporting You team update**

The Supporting You Team continue to make a real difference to residents and the success of this team is very evident. The team can take referrals using the email [supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk) or by directing residents to refer themselves online at via the team pages at

[Supporting You Campaign - Chichester District Council](#)

### **Wellbeing**

The Wellbeing team will be attending the Mental Health World Cafe Day at Graylingwell Chapel, 9am to 5pm on Wednesday 17 April. The event will be bringing together services from our mental health community.

The council is also running Free Falls Management Exercise classes that can reduce your risk of having a fall by making simple changes to your home and doing exercises to improve your strength and balance.

- Thursdays – starting on 4 April, The New Park Centre, 1.15-2.45pm

- **Mondays - starting on 8 April at the Fishbourne Centre, 1.15-2.45pm.**

For more information or to book visit: [westsussex.everyonehealth.co.uk](http://westsussex.everyonehealth.co.uk) or call: 0333 005 0095

## **PLANNING**

### **Policy**

The Government has recently published consultations on changes to the planning system to provide ‘**An accelerated planning system**’. The consultation seeks to speed up decision making by changing performance criteria; reducing the use of extension of time agreements; potentially introducing requirements to determine major commercial schemes within 10 weeks; and widening the use of the fast-track appeal route to reduce the number of appeals considered through written representations. The council’s response will be considered by the Planning Committee on 17 April 2024. You can comment online via

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-planning-policy-for-brownfield-development>. **The consultation closes on 1 May 2024.**

### **Southbourne Neighbourhood Plan**

Following a successful referendum on the Southbourne Modified Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2029 held on 25 January, the council agreed to ‘make’ the plan part of the Development Plan for Chichester District (excluding the area within the South Downs National Park) at the council meeting on 27 February.

### **Southern Water**

Capacity at wastewater treatment works: Update Estimated remaining capacity at wastewater treatment works has recently been updated to reflect the most recent Dry Weather Flow data from Southern Water, which we receive annually. The latest table (and those from previous years) can be found on the [Local Plan Evidence pages Climate change & the natural environment - Chichester District Council](#).

**BUSINESS SUPPORT**

**Electoral Services**

**Changes to postal vote handling and secrecy These provisions will be in effect for polls taking place from 2 May 2024.**

1. Ban on political campaigners handling postal votes
2. Limits on handing in postal votes at polling stations
3. Completion of postal vote documents form
4. Postal votes which are 'left behind'
5. Handing in postal votes to the Returning Officer
6. Secrecy requirements extended to postal and proxy votes

[Code of Conduct for Campaigners at UK Parliamentary general elections in Great Britain, local elections in England and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections | Electoral Commission](#)