

Lewes District Council

Corporate Plan 2020-24

‘Re-imagining Lewes District’

Year 1 achievements and forward look

Appendix 1




Lewes District Council

“Welcome to the review of our plan. You need to read this alongside **our plan** as it provides a review of the progress towards our outcomes and goals to re-imagine Lewes District as a more sustainable and fairer place to live and work. Despite the impact of the pandemic on our community, we have attempted to accelerate our plans to do even better for you, our residents. Below is what is a small sample of what we are most proud of and what we commit to for the next two years. It's not everything, but it is some of our priorities.”

Your Services

Getting it right first time

Year 1 – 2020/21

- Our annual out-turn on call handling has exceeded previous year.
-  **Average time taken to answer calls:**
2019/20: 1 min 40secs 2020/21: **31 secs** (target of 1 min)
- 100,000** litres additional recycling capacity at flats created following council review
- More than **£40,000** of financial support to local groups and food banks
- Revised council tax reduction scheme to provide more support for those on low incomes or incurring financial hardship.
- We got faster at dealing with your housing benefit enquiries through the pandemic, and now the average time to process your claim is 13 days – that's the best performance for 20 years.

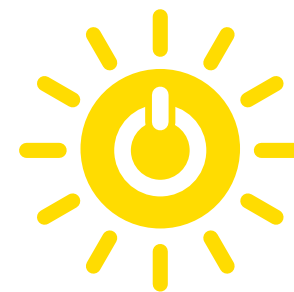
- We delivered £42 million of Covid Business grants and rate relief to business across Lewes District.

2021-2023 plans

- Increase percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting – dry, food and green to 48%
- Continuation of targeted customer contact to further improve customer satisfaction and outcomes.
- Improve our waste fleet to achieve our carbon net zero targets
- Put our housing benefit, council tax, taxi licence and business rate system online, taking as much as possible off paper.
- Resource a Green team to meet the challenges of climate change and our commitment to carbon net Zero.



Sustainability and Climate change



Year 1 – 2020/21

- Climate change and sustainability strategy launched
www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/community/climate-change
- Joined the Warmer Sussex Project: 16 clients – **86.6 tonnes CO² saved**
- Biodiversity strategy launched.
- Planted 40,000 new trees and 415 miles of new hedgerow as part of Sussex Flow in the River Ouse area.
- Banned pesticides already helping wildlife.
- Developed new planning guidance on sustainability, biodiversity, local jobs, and the circular economy.
- Developing a green burial site in the district.

2021-23 plans

- Developing energy generation in the district through investing in a Solar farm in the Ouse valley.
- Wildflower expansion across the district.
- Working in partnership with other authorities across Sussex, local businesses and local academic institutions to provide an effective and efficient regional approach to decarbonising council housing.
- A new rain garden at Bell Lane, Lewes, to treat road water runoff from Bell Lane.
- Realign the Cockshut stream to create a new nature area, create new wildlife areas, and find a piece of land to create a new woodland forest, increase wildflower glades where possible.
- Put in place 10 new bike parklets and a zero carbon eCargo Bike delivery pilot.
 - More EV charging points in our car parks.
- Stand up for local residents and green spaces by challenging the government over proposed planning reform.
- Supporting a £2.5 million OUSE Valley CARES partnership delivering climate change projects along the Ouse Valley, Newhaven and Seaford.



Community Wealth building



Year 1 – 2020/21

- Ambitious action plan launched to build local wealth in the Lewes district.
- Ongoing delivery of the Local Enterprise & Apprenticeship Platform (LEAP) to provide local skills needed to start and grow a business locally and provide advice to existing businesses.
- Supported Wave Leisure to carry on delivering during the pandemic and ensuring we have excellent quality leisure services in the future.
- Helped enable the re-opening of Newhaven Fort.

2021-23 plans

- Implementation of a Social Value Charter to secure Social Value commitments from contracts that will benefit the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.
- Introduction of new grants prospectus and transparent bidding process.
- Achieve Living Wage accreditation for the council.
- Implementation of Re-imagining Newhaven programme for Newhaven town centre funded by Future High Streets fund (delivery completed by March 2024).
- Begin implementation of our Town Investment Plan for Newhaven (delivery to 2026).
- Delivery of new commercial and community facilities for the former UTC building in Newhaven.
- Retrofit our council homes with other local authorities across Sussex.





Housing and Development

Year 1 – 2020/21

- Old Hamsey Lakes development in South Chailey.
- Cutting edge new development in Newhaven - Palmerston House. 13 one and two-bedroom apartments equipped to the highest specification, in terms of standard and desirable features, sustainability credentials and fire safety standards.
- Funding advice services provided by Citizens Advice, Brighton Housing trust and YMCA.
- Being transparent with residents in the development of our new Local Plan while challenging government over planning reform.
- Built, or have in the pipeline to complete, in excess of 140 Councils homes in Lewes, Ringmer, Newhaven and our villages.

2021-23 plans

- New Local Plan and associated housing planning policy.
- New Housing strategy.
- Prioritise Healthy homes and places following principles promoted by the Town and Country Planning Association.
- Lobby Government to scrap the system of housing targets allocated by algorithm.
- Monitor the conversion of shops to housing under the new permitted development rights and ensure we take action if they are damaging our high streets.
- Add at least another 60 highly sustainable council homes at social rents to our housing stock.
- Use our ground breaking modular housing framework to support the development of a pipeline of highly sustainable homes.



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