

ESCC report to Brightling Parish Council 9th November 2022

New Highways Contract

Sussex County Council's new contract for highways and infrastructure services has been awarded to Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd.

The contract, valued at £297 million, will run for an initial seven years from May 1, 2023, with an option to extend to a maximum of 14 years - worth up to £730 million.

Balfour Beatty Living Places will be responsible for maintaining the county's highway network and infrastructure, including roads, pavements, drainage, streetlights, traffic lights and bridges. They will also provide winter gritting across the county and deliver highway improvement schemes.

During an extensive procurement process, bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would support the county council's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, ensure quality of work, provide value for money and how they can improve social wellbeing across the county.

Ukrainian Host payment increased

ESCC residents who are hosting Ukrainian guests through the Homes for Ukraine scheme are set to receive winter top up payments from the council.

East Sussex County Council has taken the decision to increase the monthly payments payable to hosts to thank them for their continued kindness and generosity and to reflect the increased costs people are facing during the current economic crisis.

The monthly payments for all hosts will increase by £150 per host per month, for six months from October 2022 to March 2023. The increase will apply county wide and be payable to both existing and new hosts.

For hosts with fewer than five guests, the thank you payment will rise from £350 to £500 per month between October and March.

Hosts accommodating families of five or more currently receive £500 per month to acknowledge the significant additional costs of hosting larger families. The monthly payments received by those hosts will increase to £650 per month from October to March.

It is also hoped that the enhanced payments over the winter will encourage hosts to continue their hosting relationship for as long as possible and enable them to host beyond the initial six-month period.

In addition to the winter top up payments, the council has also agreed to a one-off incentive payment of £1000 for hosts who host for 12 consecutive months and who are willing to extend their placements beyond the 12-month period.

Funding confirmed for bus improvements

East Sussex County Council has received confirmation from Government that it will receive £41,415,025 to implement its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) – proposals to help the council and bus operators improve services and increase the use of public transport.

The funding, which will benefit people in every part of the county, will support;

- Bus priority improvements including physical infrastructure and traffic light priority
- Bus service improvements including fixed route and timetabled services and flexible services with improved frequencies, later evening services and improved weekend services
- Fare reductions
- Bus Stop improvements including the provision of high-quality interchanges, more and improved bus shelters and more real time information at stops

Ahead of funding being confirmed, and to take full advantage of the summer season, the county council agreed to fund a range of fare reductions for bus passengers that were part of the BSIP proposals.

A number of operators across East Sussex already offer discounts including a new £5 East Sussex single operator day ticket, family and group travel tickets and an off-peak unaccompanied young person £1 flat single fare tickets.

With the two and a half year funding allocation now confirmed, officers will progress with the delivery of the BSIP schemes at pace to ensure that the benefits are obtained by the residents of East Sussex as early as possible.

More information about the plan is available [here](#).