

District Councillor Report – April 2026

Upcoming Elections

If you wish to vote in the upcoming local election, you must be registered to vote by midnight on **Monday 20 April**. Registering only takes five minutes and can be done online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Residents who are unable to register online or who need additional support can contact Chichester District Council's Elections team by calling 01243 521010 or emailing elections@chichester.gov.uk.

Both postal and proxy voting allow people to cast ballots without going to a polling station in person. If you wish to vote by post, you can apply online at: www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote. The deadline to apply for, or make changes to, a postal vote is 5pm on **Tuesday 21 April**.

The law around handing in postal votes has changed in recent years and this means that anyone visiting Chichester District Council offices or a polling station to hand in a postal vote will need to sign a declaration form. Due to this, the council is asking people not to post votes through their letterbox, because we will be unable to accept them. Instead, voters will need to bring their postal vote to the council's reception where you will be asked to sign a form to confirm that the vote has been received. However, if someone posts their form to the council by Royal Mail, a signed declaration is not required.

Proxy voting allows people to authorise someone else to vote on their behalf. Recent changes to the rules mean that someone can only act as a proxy for up to two people. Anyone who votes on behalf of UK voters who live overseas can act as a proxy for up to four people (but only two of those can live in the UK). The last day to apply to vote by proxy is 5pm on **Tuesday 28 April** and this can be done online: www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote.

If you're voting in person, you will need to show photographic ID. Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK or EEA driver's licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. The full list is available at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk. Expired ID can be used if you are still recognisable from the photo. You must also show ID if voting on behalf of someone else.

If you do not have any of the accepted forms of ID, the deadline to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm on **Tuesday 28 April**. You can apply online at: www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or request a paper form from our Elections Team by emailing elections@chichester.gov.uk or calling 01243 521010. Please remember to supply a hard copy or electronic photo with your application. The team can assist you if you need help applying or cannot provide your own photo.

On **Thursday 7 May**, polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm. Polling cards will be sent out to registered voters at the end of March. Please check your card carefully as your polling station may have changed. You can also find your polling station at: <https://wheredoivote.co.uk/>.

Update on Local Government Reorganisation in West Sussex

Last week we received the news that the government has rejected proposals made by local authorities in Sussex and has not yet made a decision on which unitary solution should be taken forward in Sussex. Instead, it announced that it would run a second consultation on proposals covering the whole of Sussex.

It is currently mulling over two new proposals: the first is to move CDC into a unitary with Crawley BC, Horsham DC and Mid Sussex DC, thereby leaving a second unitary of Arun DC, Adur DC and Worthing DC. The second proposal would see boundary changes moving wards in Peacehaven and Saltdean from Lewes DC to Brighton & Hove.

The government intends to consult on these options after the local elections.

Food Waste Collection

Roll out of the new household food waste service is now well underway. To date more than 30% of the district has now received food waste starter packs, and the first collection rounds have started. Starter packs are being delivered across the district in phases until May. You should receive your bin before your first collection. Check collection dates on the app and [find out more](#)

With thanks and best wishes,

Brett Burkhart

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