

July 2026

One voice for Sussex

In this month's edition we celebrate our first ever AGM, introduce our new Board and its Chair and Vice-Chairs, unlock £117 million of investment for the region, and share how you can help shape our Prosperity Strategy over the summer.



The SBSA's new Board: (clockwise from top left) Cllr Raby (Deputising for Cllr Mercer), West Sussex; Cllr Taylor, Brighton & Hove; Cllr Morley, East Sussex; Cllr Sankey, Brighton & Hove; Cllr Russell, West Sussex; and Cllr Woolley, East Sussex.

Mark's update

When I wrote to you last month, we didn't have a full Board, a website or any published strategies. Well, I'm delighted to say we now have a hat-trick – and, rather better than that, we've unlocked £117 million of investment to be spent across Sussex over the next four years, part of £1.14 billion secured over the next 30 years.

AGM

On 1 July we held our first ever Annual General Meeting, hosted at Crawley Borough Council's very fancy modern offices (if you haven't had the pleasure yet, I'd suggest

giving them a Google). It was the first formal gathering of our Board since May's elections, and the meeting officially confirmed our new members and appointed a Chair and two Vice-Chairs.

The Board is made up of:

- Cllr Bella Sankey, Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council
- Cllr Jacob Turner, Deputy Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council
- Cllr Andy Woolley, Leader of East Sussex County Council
- Cllr Pete Morley, Deputy Leader of East Sussex County Council
- Cllr Jay Mercer, Leader of West Sussex County Council
- Cllr Nicholas Russell, Cabinet Member at West Sussex County Council

Cllr Sankey takes on the role of Chair, with Cllr Woolley and Cllr Mercer as joint Vice-Chairs. After around eight months the Chair will pass to Cllr Mercer, and eight months after that to Cllr Woolley – meaning the whole of Sussex gets a turn in the seat before residents elect their first Mayor in May 2028.

£117 million for Sussex & Brighton

The headline news from the AGM: the Authority has unlocked £117 million of government funding to be spent over the next four years – a fraction of the £1.14 billion secured for Sussex over the next 30 years. Our Chair, Cllr Bella Sankey, put it well: “The Government is overseeing an unprecedented transfer of money and power into the country's regions and the Sussex & Brighton Authority is leading the way as one of the first of the newest areas to secure devolution.” It's a strong first dividend from working together, and proof of what a single, louder voice for the region can achieve.

Backing the businesses that create good local jobs

After the formalities, the Board headed to Elekta in Crawley – a brilliant company with a local base that develops and manufactures radiotherapy equipment and exports it around the world. Elekta has called Crawley home for nearly 30 years and employs over 400 local people. Bridie Norman, the company's Interim Chief Operating Officer, told us that “Sussex offers a unique combination of strengths that makes it an exceptional place for businesses like Elekta to grow and innovate.” It's exactly the sort of high-value, high-skill employer we want to attract and keep in the region, and a visit that brought our new Prosperity Strategy framework to life on day one.



The Board and members of SBSA visiting Elekta, Crawley.

Our Prosperity Strategy

Also published at the AGM was our new Prosperity Strategy framework which sets out the Authority's priorities for the years ahead: growing the economy and attracting good local jobs, building more affordable housing and improving connectivity across Sussex.

This isn't the finished article. The Board committed to publishing a full draft of the Prosperity Strategy in the autumn for consultation. In the run-up to that we will be running various sessions to help shape the detail, with two dates for businesses already in the diary (see below). Get involved if you can – as Sham 69 once put it, if the kids are united, we'll never be divided. And we might even get some more powers and funding from Government!

You can read the full, signed-off press release on our AGM and the £117 million funding announcement [on our website](#). Alternatively check out how [BBC News](#) wrote it up, we couldn't have said it better ourselves.

Mark Rogers

Interim Chief Executive



Who's who

We've had a busy month for new arrivals. Please join us in welcoming:

- **Alison Blom-Cooper**, Interim Strategic Planning Lead - joined us on 23 June. Previously she was Associate Director for Strategic Place and Planning at Somerset West and Taunton before transferring to the new unitary as Chief Planner.
- **Rob Anderson**, Interim PMO Portfolio Manager - leading the development of the Strategic Authority's Corporate Portfolio Management Office (PMO), establishing governance, assurance and portfolio management frameworks to support the successful delivery of our strategic priorities.
- **Brendon Kavanagh**, Interim Transitions Programme Manager - leading the transition programme to bring functions into the Strategic Authority, ensuring services, people and processes are successfully established within the new organisation.

Events and dates for your diary

13 July, 12.00–13.00 – Prosperity Strategy business virtual drop-in

19 August, 13.00–14.00 – Prosperity Strategy business virtual drop-in

If your business would like to get involved in shaping the Prosperity Strategy, email nick.humfrey@sussexandbrighton-cca.gov.uk.

29 July – SBSA Board at East Sussex County Hall, Lewes (time to be confirmed)

Getting in touch

If you have any questions or know anyone who wants to sign up to our newsletter, get in touch at enquiries@sussexandbrighton-cca.gov.uk