

## Cabinet

- Date and Time - **Monday 8 November 2021 – 6:30pm**
- Venue - **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea**
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### **Councillors appointed to the Committee:**

Councillor D.B. Oliver (Leader), S.M. Prochak, MBE (Deputy Leader), C.A. Bayliss, T.J.C. Byrne, K.P. Dixon, K.M. Field, H.L. Timpe and J. Vine-Hall

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## AGENDA

### 1. **MINUTES**

To authorise the Leader to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 October 2021 as a correct record of the proceedings.

### 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### 3. **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

To consider such other items as the Leader decides are urgent and due notice of which has been given to the Head of Paid Service by 9:00am on the day of the meeting.

### 4. **URGENT DECISIONS**

The Leader to give details of those reports that have been referred to the Chairman of the Council to consider designating as urgent, in accordance with Rule 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained within Part 4 of the Council Constitution, and to which the call-in procedure will not therefore apply.

### 5. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the personal interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. Members are reminded of the need to repeat their declaration immediately prior to the commencement of the item in question.

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At the discretion of the Leader, the order of the items set out in the agenda may be varied

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6. **FEES AND CHARGES 2022-23** (Pages 1 - 20)
7. **STREET LITTER BININFRASTRUCTURE AND DRAFT LITTER STRATEGY FOR ROTHER** (Pages 21 - 38)
8. **FOOD AND DRINK CONCESSIONS** (Pages 39 - 44)

Malcolm Johnston  
Chief Executive

Agenda Despatch Date: 22 October 2021

## Rother District Council

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 1 November 2021

**Title:** Fees and Charges 2022-23

**Report of:** Deborah Kenneally, Head of Neighbourhood Services

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Dixon

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of Report:** To set out proposed fees and charges for 2022-23.

**Decision Type:** Key

### Officer

**Recommendation(s):** It be **RESOLVED:** That the charges shown in the Appendices be approved and brought into effect from 1 April 2022 with the exception of charges in Appendix 6 (b) which will be brought into effect from 15 July 2022.

### Reasons for

**Recommendations:** The recommendations take into account the rate of inflation and any known contract uplifts to ensure that our fees cover the costs of providing our services.

## Introduction

1. This report proposes a set of revised fees and charges for a range of services provided by the Council. The Council regularly reviews and revises its rates for fees and charges so that either all or a proportion of the cost of service provision can be met and built into the Revenue Budget accordingly. In most cases the recommended increases to fees and charges are in line with the current cost of inflation as based on the Retail Price Index (RPI). There is much debate at present about the current higher inflation rate being of a temporary nature but to date there is little evidence to support this and confidence in the rate reducing is waning. The RPI rate as of September 2021 is 4.8%. If approved, the new rates for fees and charges will be built into the draft Revenue Budget for 2022/23.
2. It should be noted that if the increases in charges are too high, income levels may drop due to customer resistance and affordability for the customer. Usage and uptake of services needs to continue at optimum levels to support funding of increasing service costs, including administration and contract uplifts where applicable. Failure to achieve sufficient income and thereby reduce subsidy on non-essential services may compromise the Council's ability to fund statutory services and savings may need to be made elsewhere in the budget to mitigate a loss of income.

3. It should also be considered that services delivered by third party contractors to support Council services are liable to additional increase in costs due to staff shortages, rising salary levels and the Government's proposed National Insurance Contribution increase. It is therefore important to future proof the impact of these potential increased costs on service delivery.
4. The charges set out are inclusive of value added tax (VAT) at the current rate, where appropriate. Charges are rounded to the nearest 25p if under £50.00 or the nearest £1.00 if £50.00 or over.

### **Park Activities – Sports Pitches**

5. Sports pitches across the District provide areas for local clubs to carry out their activities. These clubs play an important role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of residents as well as providing activities for young people.
6. Current charges for sports pitches help to subsidise the costs to the Council in providing them. The pitches are maintained by our grounds maintenance contractors and their costs are subject to an annual increase based on inflation (RPI). Additional costs in providing services such as showers are also subject to increases in contractor cleaning charges and the cost of utilities. Therefore, officers recommend that an increase of 4.8% is applied to all charges to cover the effects of inflation.
7. The court booking and payment system trialled at Egerton Park has been successful. Customers not wishing to book are still able to access courts free of charge when they are not in use by a paying customer. Bookings are limited to two hours per day per customer. It is proposed this system be continued with some minor changes to the charges whereby coaches would incur a slightly higher charge and also a one-off annual registration fee enabling their Lawn Tennis Association credentials to be checked, but also affording them slightly enhanced booking rights whereby they could book up to 10 weeks in advance compared to 8 weeks for members of the public. In addition, a nominal charge, half that of the summer season would be introduced over the winter months.
8. A detailed illustration of the recommended increases to fees and charges for Park Activities and Sports Pitches can be found at Appendix 1.

### **Parks and Seafront Activities – Special Events**

9. The number of events being held on public land within the District was steadily increasing prior to COVID-19. We expect the trend to continue in summer 2022 and event organisers are already starting to place bookings for next summer. It is important that the level of charges for both charitable and commercial events are not be perceived as a deterrent.
10. The administration and the level of associated staff resources required for park events continues to increase and there is an ever more stringent responsibility to ensure that each event has the appropriate safety measures, insurance and risk assessments in place.

11. Work carried out to parks and open spaces by contractors to maintain areas before and after events and to provide assistance during events are subject to annual increases in contract charges based on CPI (Consumer Price Index).
12. Therefore, officers recommend that an increase in line with inflation of 4.8% is applied to all charges to cover the effects of inflation and work undertaken by officers.
13. A detailed illustration of the recommended increases to fees and charges for special events can be found at Appendix 1.

### **Parks and Seafront Activities – Sports, Fitness and Activities Sessions**

14. It is proposed to introduce a new charge for small activities with no more than 50 participants per occasion, organised by clubs or other groups where participants pay to take part either through a club membership or as a fee to the organiser.
15. The Council has a duty of care to those taking part in activities on land under its management in terms of ensuring that the land is suitable and safe to use for the activities and that appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.
16. At the current time, outside of the established sports and events booking system, no formal process is in place to record what activities are taking place on the Council's land and whether the organisers have appropriate insurances, risk assessments and safeguarding measures in place.
17. Whilst some activity organisers are proactive in liaising with the Council, many others operate without authorisation leaving the Council vulnerable to challenge over fairness and liability and organisers with a lack of certainty as to how to proceed. Officers recommend the introduction of a formal booking process and a nominal fee covering administrative costs in order to protect participants and reduce the risk of culpability to the Council should an incident occur.
18. A detailed illustration of the recommended introduction of fees and charges for sports and activities sessions can be found at Appendix 1.

### **Park Activities – Allotments**

19. The Council now manages two allotment sites (Preston Road and Sidley) on behalf of Bexhill Town Council (BTC) on a temporary basis until they have the resources to take over the management.
20. Officers have discussed the current charges with the Bexhill Town Clerk who has in turn raised with BTC. They have intimated that the charges should rise at least in line with inflation of 4.8% to cover rises in costs for grounds maintenance and utilities. The final charges will be decided by BTC's Finance Committee on 27 October 2021.
21. A detailed illustration of the current charges and the 4.8% increase if applied to fees and charges for allotments can be found at Appendix 1.

## **Cemetery Charges**

22. In October 2017, officers reported to Cabinet on the provision of cemetery services (Minute CB17/29 refers). This report outlined the challenges for the service and compared charges with other local authorities. These challenges have persisted during 2021/22.
23. The current charges for interments (burials and cremated remains) remained static between 2016 and 2020 to encourage use of local services and a 0.5% increase was implemented in 2021/22; however, contractor costs for services have risen annually in line with inflation creating a real terms reduction in income to the Council over the period. The current rates of fees and charges no longer meet the cost to the Council. Therefore, it is recommended that these fees are increased by the rate of inflation of 4.8% in 2022/23. Cemetery fees and charges remain broadly competitive with neighbouring authorities for example in 2021/22 Hastings Borough Council (HBC) charges £757 for a resident adult interment and Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) charges £960 – the equivalent 2021/22 fee for an adult interment in Rother District Council (RDC) cemeteries is £955. EBC, HBC and RDC all double these fees for non-residents.
24. The Council provides a range of memorial services such as installing benches, tree planting, grounds maintenance and the hire of the chapel. It is recommended that the fees for cemetery services are increased by 4.8% in line with inflation to match the equivalent rise in the Council's costs.
25. A detailed illustration of the recommended increases to fees and charges for cemetery services can be found at Appendix 2.

## **Beach and Foreshore**

26. Beach hut sites are extremely popular and remain in high demand. The average sale price of beach huts on Bexhill beach has increased over the past 12 months (from £25,000 in 2020 to £34,000 in 2021) as has demand for beach huts generally (7 huts were sold in 2020 and 11 huts have been sold to date in 2021). Due to the increase in value and demand for beach huts, the recommendation therefore is for the licence fee for beach huts to rise above inflation to £560 per annum in 2022/23.
27. RDC currently charges a minimum of £1,583 or 10% of the sale price (whichever is higher) when beach hut ownership is transferred. Given the increase in sale prices during 2022, it is recommended that the minimum transfer fee be increased above inflation to £2,000 in 2022/23.
28. Seasonal tent sites have been less impacted by an increase in value and demand than static hut sites. It is recommended that charges for seasonal tent sites increase by 4.8% in line with inflation.
29. For other foreshore services, a review of neighbouring councils indicates that Rother are charging considerably less than HBC (the only neighbouring council offering a comparable service) for winches and equipment boxes – Rother fees are approximately 50% less than Hastings for these services. Individual boat licences for RDC are also approximately 20% less than HBC. It is therefore recommended that boat licence fees are increased by 5% in

2022-23 and by a further 5% in 2023/24, whilst winches and equipment box fees are increased by 10% in 2022/23 (from £36.75 to £40.50). It is recommended that commercial fishing boat fees and sailing/angling boat site fees are increased by the rate of inflation of 4.8%.

30. A detailed illustration of the recommended increases to fees and charges for Beach Activities can be found at Appendix 3.

## **Car Parking**

31. In October 2020, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee formed an Off-Street Car Parks Task and Finish Group to consider the impact of Civil Parking Enforcement on its off-street car parks. The Task and Finish Group recommended a number of changes to car park charging, namely the creation of three long-stay car parks with a single “all day” tariff (Gibbet Marsh, Lower Market and Wainwright Road) from 5 July 2021, and standardising chargeable hours across the district at 08:00-19:00 from 27 September 2021.
32. Due to the impact of COVID-19, it has not yet been possible to fully assess the impact of CPE on our off-street car parks and we therefore recommend maintaining current car parking charges during 2022/23 whilst further review is undertaken. There is a significant cost (£8,000-£10,000) in changing charges across all car parks including new signage and reconfiguration of pay and display machines, therefore a small increase in charges is unlikely to cover costs at this time. An increase in permit prices does not require any machine configuration or signage amendments so the cost to the Council of amending permit prices is negligible. It is recommended that parking permit prices across the district are increased by the rate of inflation of 4.8% plus a further 4.5%. For Nominated permits at £350 per annum this equates to a charge of 96p per day over 365 days; or for someone parking 5 days a week, 48 weeks a year, this equates to a charge of £1.46 per parking session. This represents a considerable saving against the daily parking tariffs. It is recommended to maintain the Nominated permit price at the three long stay car parks as listed in paragraph 31 at £323 per annum to increase the use of these ‘further out of town’ facilities.
33. We have observed a significant increase in the costs of managing Camber Western car park. In addition to recent improvements to the car park surface, general signage and payment machines, we increased the security at the car parks to combat increased levels of antisocial behaviour during peak season and we expect this requirement to continue next season. Ahead of the 2021 season, car park tariffs for stays over one hour were increased, but charges for stays of up to one hour remained static. This has led to disparity and visitors being able to park more cheaply by renewing their parking hourly rather than paying the higher tariffs. It is proposed that the ‘up to one hour’ summer season tariff from 1 April to 30 September in all Camber Sands car parks managed by the Council increase as shown in Appendix 4 from £1.50 to £2.50, as well as an increase of £1.50 to the summer 1-3 hour tariff. This will help to off-set the increased costs in providing the Camber services.
34. A detailed illustration of the current and inflationary increases to fees and charges for car parking can be found at Appendix 4.

## **Filming**

35. 1066 Film Office (part of HBC) manages filming requests on behalf of RDC. The Film Office manage all enquiries, paperwork, including ensuring that risk assessments and public liability insurance are in place, granting licenses, and collecting payments from those carrying out still photography and filming on RDC land.
36. RDC is responsible for giving permission for filming to take place, checking documentation where required and any on site liaison with the film companies.
37. 1066 Film Office take 10% of the revenue to cover their costs and RDC receives the remaining 90%.
38. An overview of filming charges, which are outlined by RDC but to a degree negotiated by HBC 1066 Film Office according to film companies' individual requirements and the Film Office experience and expertise, can be seen in Appendix 5.

## **Bulky Waste Collections**

39. The recommendation is that the fee for Bulky Waste Collections of one to three items (the most popular booking) stays the same at £40. The fee for four to six items is recommended to be increased from £73 to £75 and the fee for seven to nine items is increased from £108 to £110.
40. A review of neighbouring councils indicates that HBC charges £35 for one to three items and Wealden charges £55.
41. It is important that the set of charges for bulky waste collection does not deter people from using the service and so increase fly tipping. Fly tipping increased during the pandemic, exacerbated by the social distancing measures and the Household Waste Sites being closed or operating on a restricted basis, but the rate is now slowly reducing.
42. These recommendations will go some way to offsetting the annual uplift charges although these are not yet confirmed for 2022/23.
43. There is a risk that an increase in price may deter residents from using the service and increase fly tipping. However, the recommendation for fees for the most popular booking of one to three items remains the same, thus mitigating the risk.
44. A detailed illustration of the recommended increases to fees and charges for Bulky Waste Collections can be found at Appendix 6.

## **Garden Waste Collections**

45. The annual charge for the garden waste collection service was increased from 15 July 2021 to £45 per bin per annum for all customers subscribing to the service.

46. The cost of the service to the Council is approximately £600,000 per annum plus the costs to administer the service and provide new and replacement containers. It is projected that in 2022/23 the present charge of £45 per subscription would generate an income to the Council of approximately £1m across the present 22,456 containers. It is anticipated that there will be a considerable uplift in the cost for the new financial year, along with an increase in container costs and equipment due to the availability of certain materials, shortage of HGV drivers, increased use of Agency staff, fuel and utility costs.
47. In July 2021, the Council introduced garden waste permit stickers at a baseline cost of approximately £20,000 per annum. This has been successful in sustaining the number of household subscribers as it is clearer which containers have been paid for to be collected under the subscription service.
48. It is recommended therefore that the subscription cost for garden waste service be increased from £45 to £50 per bin which would increase the revenue to the Council to approximately £1.1m
49. There is a risk that the higher cost of the service will deter some residents from renewing their garden waste collection subscription in July 2022. It is felt that this risk is unlikely to occur, but it is a possibility.
50. The garden waste subscription charge in neighbouring authorities are:
- HBC £70
  - Lewes £70
  - EBC £52
  - Wealden £55
51. A detailed illustration of the recommended increases to fees and charges for Garden Waste Collections can be found at Appendix 6.

### **Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013**

52. It is recommended that the charges for scrap metal dealers as set out in Appendix 7 do not increase as there has been no increase in costs to the Council.

### **Localism Act 2011**

53. To ensure that the costs of providing non-statutory services are covered by the user, officers in the Environmental Health and Licensing Service have previously identified two areas where a charge can be levied under Section 3 of the Localism Act 2011:

a. Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS)

A revisit to rate a premises under the FHRS is not a statutory duty and it is therefore recommended that the scale of fees shown in Appendix 8A is approved. As a Council we would want food businesses to have the highest rating and therefore the fee only reflects the costs incurred by the Council.

b. Health Certificates (for food exported)

The Council receives requests for health certificates which must be signed by Environmental Health Officers or Official Veterinary Surgeons. If the health certificates are not correct and do not have a wet signature, the Port Health Authority of the importing country will reject the consignment of food. By issuing health certificates the Council is supporting local businesses to export food. The fees in Appendix 8B are recommended to cover the Council's costs, which are only sufficient if businesses provide adequate time and accurate information to allow certificates to be produced efficiently.

### **HMO Licences**

54. A Supreme Court judgement has determined that local authorities must have two sets of fees. One fee to cover the costs of applying for a licence (not refundable) and a fee for issuing the licence and on-going enforcement. It is recommended that the Council also have a combined fee to reflect the reduced administration costs associated with only one fee being paid and processed, as set out in Appendix 9. Fees can only be set which reflect the costs incurred by the Council.

### **Conclusion**

55. The increases recommended within this report support the Medium-Term Financial Strategy of the Council, ensure that non-statutory services are broadly self-funding and ensure that income levels are protected against the effects of inflation.
56. Members are requested to consider the proposals and determine the range of charges applying for 2022/23.

### **Financial Implications**

57. The financial implications and have been discussed with the Section 151 officer and accounts department and detailed within the report.

### **Sustainability Implications**

58. It is crucial that the Council's fees and charges are increased to take into account the rate of inflation and any known contract uplifts to ensure that our fees cover the costs of providing our services. Failure to cover costs will have an effect on the levels of service that can be offered moving forward.

### **Environment**

59. It is important to note the potential impact on the environment if charges for items such as bulky waste collections for example become prohibitive to many people and so increase the likelihood of inconsiderate and anti-social behaviour such as fly tipping. Likewise, careful management of 'special events' is required to ensure any impact on the environment, such as litter, is dealt with in the appropriate manner.

### **Risk Management Implications**

60. As highlighted within this report, if the increases in charges are too high, income levels may drop due to customer resistance and affordability for the

customer. Failure to achieve sufficient income and to reduce subsidy on non-essential services may compromise the Council's ability to fund statutory services in the future.

<b>Other Implications</b>	<b>Applies?</b>	<b>Other Implications</b>	<b>Applies?</b>
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Sustainability	Yes	Exempt from publication	No
Risk Management	Yes		

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Appendices:	1-9 provide detailed illustrations of the recommended increases to fees and charges
Relevant Previous Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None

**PARKS ACTIVITIES**

Unless stated all charges include VAT @ 20%

**Sports Bookings**

	Current Charges per Booking per Pitch (2021/2022)			Proposed Charges per Booking per Pitch (2022/2023)		
	Adult (over 18)	Youth (12 – 18)	Under 12's	Adult (over 18)	Youth (12 – 18)	Under 12's
Football Pitch	£81.00	£17.75	£13.75	£85.00	£18.50	£14.50
	Adult (Over 18)	Colts		Adult (Over 18)	Colts	
Cricket Pitch	£78.00	£17.25		£82.00	£18.00	

		Current Charges per Booking per Pitch (2021/2022)	Proposed Charges per Booking per Pitch (2022/2023)
Stoolball Pitch	Casual Games	£27.25	£28.50
Additional Charges	Showers	£28.25	£29.50
	Closed Gate	£47.25	£49.50
	Cancellation (pitch fees)	£23.00	£24.00

Egerton Park tennis, pickleball and kickabout courts.		Current Charges per Booking per Court per half hour (2021/2022)	Proposed Charges per Booking per Court per half hour (2022/2023)
April to Sept inclusive	Member of the public	£1.50	£1.50
	Coach	£1.50	£2.00
	Bexhill Tennis Club*	£1.50	£1.50
Oct to March inclusive	Member of the public	£0.00	£0.75
	Coach	£0.00	£1.00
	Bexhill Tennis Club*	£1.50	£2.00
Annual one-off admin fee	Coaches	£0.00	£50.00

\*For courts in addition to the two courts leased to the Club.

### **Sports, Fitness and Activities Sessions**

		<b>Current Charges (2021/2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Charges (2022/2023)</b>
Commercial Session	Per Session (up to 1 hour per day)	£0.00	£10.00
	Per Session (more than 1 hour per day)	£0.00	£20.00
	Annual one-off admin fee	£0.00	£50.00
Charitable Session	Per Session (up to 1 hour per day)	£0.00	£3.00
	Per Session (more than 1 hour per day)	£0.00	£5.00
	Annual one-off admin fee	£0.00	£10.00

### **Parks and Seafront - Events and Fairs**

		<b>Current Charges (2021/2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Charges (2022/2023)</b>
Commercial Event – Small	Per Day	£116.00	£122.00
Commercial Event – Med	Per Day	£346.00	£363.00
Commercial Event – Large	Per Day 1 – 4	£649.00	£680.00
	Per Day 5 +	£499.00	£523.00
Charitable / Not for Profit – Small	Per Day	£62.00	£65.00
Charitable / Not for Profit – Medium	Per Day	£193.00	£202.00
Charitable / Not for Profit – Large	Per Day 1 – 4	£356.00	£373.00
	Per Day 5 + days	£283.00	£297.00
Damage Deposits	Small Events	£331.00	£347.00
	Medium Events	£550.00	£576.00
	Large Events	£1,099.00	£1,152.00

### **Allotment Gardens**

		<b>Current Charges per Plot per Annum (2021/2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Charges per Plot per Annum (2022/2023)</b>
Small Plot	<125sqm	£50.00	£52.00
Large Plot	>125sqm	£96.00	£101.00

## CEMETERY CHARGES

	Current Charges (2021/2022)	Proposed Charges (2022/2023)
<b>INTERMENTS – For the burial of:</b>		
The body of a child up to 18 years old	£0.00	£0.00
The body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded 18 years. At 1.52m (5') deep	£955.00	£1,001.00
Each additional 0.61m (2') depth	£382.00	£400.00
Cremated remains - interment	£261.00	£274.00
<b>EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS – For the Exclusive Right of Burial at the time of interment, for 50 years, including the preparation of the Deed of Grant</b>		
Full size plot (2.74m x 1.22m)	£955.00	£1,001.00
Small size plots (1.37m x 0.61m)	£472.00	£495.00
Garden of Remembrance at Rye (0.69m x 0.61m)	£271.00	£284.00
<b>Plot Reservation for 5-year period</b>		
Full size plot (2.74m x 1.22m)	£241.00	£253.00
Small size plots (1.37m x 0.61m)	£121.00	£127.00
Garden of Remembrance at Rye (0.69m x 0.61m)	£70.00	£73.00
<b>OTHER CHARGES</b>		
Use of Chapel	£194.00	£203.00
Transfer of burial rights	£123.00	£129.00
Search fee – 10 years to present	No Charge	No Charge
Search fee – before 10 years	£123.00	£129.00
d) Disinterring: Double appropriate re-opening fees, plus any additional charges to be determined by the proper officer according to the circumstances.		

**Cemetery Charges**

The whole of the foregoing fees and charges will be doubled in the case of any person who at the time of death was not a Council Tax payer or resident of the Rother District and has not so resided at any time during the twelve months preceding his or her death.

## CEMETERY CHARGES – *continued*

	<b>Charges (2021/2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Charges (2022/2023)</b>
<b>GROUNDWORK – maintenance and planting in respect of Bexhill Cemetery only</b>		
<b>Lawn Sections</b> Twice yearly planting with bedding plants For Exclusive Burial Rights	£157.00 £2,106.00	£165.00 £2,207.00
<b>Traditional Sections</b> Turving of a grave space Maintenance with twice yearly planting per annum	£178.00 £471.00	£187.00 £494.00
<b>MEMORIALS</b>		
Permission to erect a memorial – (Cemeteries Only)	£123.00	£129.00
Permission to insert an additional inscription – (Cemeteries Only)	£50.00	£52.00
<b>Commemorative BENCHES AND TREES</b>		
<b>Commemorative Benches</b> 10-year scheme, including installation, plaque and 10-year maintenance.	£707.00	£741.00
Cost of bench to be in addition - selection of four benches provided at current cost plus 5% charge.	On request	On request
Replacement / Additional Plaque for bench (not including inscription)	-	-
Replacement / Additional Plaque for bench, including inscription - maximum of four lines of text	£159.00	£167.00
<b>Commemorative Trees</b> Planting of a commemorative tree, including ground preparation, soil nourishment, stabilisation and protection of the sapling. Cost price plus 5% charge (not including tree)	£227.00	£238.00
A selection of trees and shrubs are available for planting, cost for the supply of the tree will be provided at time of request, current cost plus 5% charge	On Request	On Request
Plaque – including up to four lines of inscription	£65.00	£68.00
Installation and Plaque Mount for commemorative tree	£191.00	£200.00
Additional line of engraving on plaque	£7.50	£7.75
<b>FOR INSCRIPTIONS IN THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE</b>		
Up to five-line entry	£261.00	£274.00
Standard Embellishments (Extra)	£397.00	£416.00

**BEACH AND FORESHORE**

Unless stated all charges include VAT @ 20%, beach hut and tent license charges include VAT @ 12.5%

	<b>Charges 2021/2022</b>	<b>Proposed Charges 2022/2023</b>
<b>Beach Hut Site Licenses – Annual charge per hut</b> East/West Parade	£530.00	£560.00
Glyne Gap	£530.00	£560.00
<b>Beach Hut Site Licenses – Seasonal charge per site</b> Tent Sites, 6 months only	£368.00	£386.00
<b>Beach Hut Site Transfer Fee per hut</b>	£1,583.00 (or 10% of sale price, whichever is higher)	£2,000.00 (or 10% of sale price, whichever is higher)
<b>Foreshore License –Annual charge per item:</b> One Boat Site	£73.00	£77.00
Winches – Annual charge per winch	£36.75	£40.50
Equipment Boxes – Annual charge per box	£36.75	£40.50
Sailing/Angling Boat Site	£48.25	£51.00
Commercial Fishing Boat Site	£365.00	£383.00

**CAR PARK PERMITS**

Unless stated all charges include VAT @ 20%

	<b>Charges 2021/2022</b>	<b>Proposed Charges 2022/2023</b>
Annual Permit for One Car – All Car Parks	£819.00	£858.00
Half Yearly Permit for One Car – All Car Parks	£501.00	£525.00
Nominated Permit for One Car – Single Named Car Park	£323.00	£350.00
Lower Market, Battle (long stay)– Annual Permit per Car	£323.00	£323.00
Wainwright Road, Bexhill (long stay) – Annual Permit per Car	£323.00	£323.00
Western Road, Bexhill – Annual Permit per Car	£719.00	£754.00
Gibbets Marsh, Rye (long stay) - Annual Permit per Car	£323.00	£323.00
Gun Gardens, Rye – Annual Permit per Car	£1,096.00	£1,149.00
The Strand, Rye – Annual Permit per Car	£658.00	£690.00

**Car Parks – Camber Summer Tariffs (1 April – 30 September)**

	<b>Charges 2021/2022</b>	<b>Proposed Charges 2022/2023</b>
Up to 1 hour	£1.50	£2.50
1 – 3 hours	£6.00	£6.50
3 – 6 hours	£12.00	£12.50
6+ hours	£15.00	£15.00

All other current car park tariffs, including pay and display charges are available online at [www.rother.gov.uk/carparks](http://www.rother.gov.uk/carparks)

## FILMING CHARGES

1066 Filming Location Charges

**Fees – per day, not including VAT** Per day = 12 hours (extra charged per hr after).

Half day rate discretionary

<b>All locations except Camber</b> <i>Camber Sands charges in red</i>	<b>Charges Stills Photography</b>	<b>Charges Live Filming or Video</b>
Student – evidence of uni place needed <i>(no filming over summer school holidays in Camber Sands unless approved by CO)</i>	Admin fee £50 +VAT	Admin fee £50 + VAT
Small Scale:  Unbranded editorial or small private / start up production company / photographer. <i>(no filming over summer school holidays in Camber Sands unless approved by CO)</i>	All £550+ (plus VAT) (£325 + VAT half day)  <i>Camber £600+ (plus VAT) (£425 half day)</i>	All £850+VAT - 650+ (plus VAT) (£325+ VAT half day)  <i>Camber £850+ (plus VAT) (£425 + VAT half day)</i>
Medium scale:  Nationally known newspapers / magazines Mid - famous brands TV programmes and documentaries <i>(no filming over summer school holidays in Camber Sands unless approved by CO)</i>	All £850+ (£425 + VAT half day)  <i>Camber £1,000+ (£500 + VAT half day)</i>	All £1,700 +VAT, £1,500 +VAT <b>£1,000+</b> (£500 + VAT half day)  <i>Camber £1,500+ (£850 + VAT half day)</i>
Large Scale:  Major Feature Film Commercial for large famous brand <i>(no filming over summer school holidays in Camber Sands unless approved by CO)</i>	All £1,500 - £2,500+ (£750 - £1,250 + VAT half day)  <i>Camber £2,000 - £3,000 (£1,000 - £1,500 + VAT half day)</i>	All £2,000 - £5,000+ (£1,000 - £2,500 + VAT half day)  <i>Camber £3,000 - £5,000 (£1,500 - £2,500 + VAT half day)</i>

Please note:

- Special requirements for car parking will be negotiated on a case by case basis
- Standard charges assume the land / asset remain open and that normal services are not disrupted - where this is not the case, charges will be negotiated on a case by case basis to account for any loss of income, costs incurred and service disruption.
- Bespoke requests may incur additional charges
- All fees and charges are subject to review and may change

**WASTE CHARGES**

Unless stated all charges include VAT @ 20%

**Bulky Waste Charges (a)**

	<b>Charges 2021/2022</b>	<b>Proposed Charges 2022/2023</b>
Up to 3 items	£40.00	£40.00
4 – 6 items	£73.00	£75.00
7 – 9 items	£108.00	£110.00
Additional items above, per 3 items	£40.00	£40.00

**Garden Waste Charges (b)**

	<b>Charges 2021/2022</b>	<b>Proposed Charges 2022/2023 (From 15 July 2022)</b>
Annual charge per container	£45.00	£50.00

**SCRAP METAL DEALER LICENCE (3 years)**

Unless stated all charges include VAT @ 20%

	<b>Current Charge 2021/2022</b>	<b>Proposed Charge 2022/2023</b>
New Application	£500.00	£500.00
Renewal	£400.00	£400.00
Variation	£60.00	£60.00

## Appendix 8A

**Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS)**

Unless stated all charges include VAT @ 20%

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
First request for an inspection for FHRS scoring within three months of planned inspection	£150.00	£150.00
Further request for an inspection for FHRS scoring within three months of planned inspection	£200.00	£200.00
First request for an inspection for FHRS scoring after three months of planned inspection	Free	Free
Further request for an inspection for FHRS scoring after three months of planned inspection	£200.00	£200.00
Replacement FHRS sticker	£25.00	£25.00

Note: a discretionary service, fees should be set to reflect costs incurred, so the service can be provided.

**Health Certificates (for food exported)**

Unless stated all charges include VAT @ 20%

**[INTERNAL] EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR FISH AND MOLLUSCS, INCLUDING INSPECTION**

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
First hour (minimum)	£100.00	£105.00
First hour (minimum) on Bank Holidays	£200.00	£200.00
Subsequent hours or part thereof	£100 per hour	£100 per hour

Note: a discretionary service, fees should be set to reflect costs incurred, so the service can be provided.

**HEALTH CERTIFICATES (for other food exported)**

	<b>Current Charge 2021/2022</b>	<b>Proposed Charge 2022/2023</b>
First certificate issued	£70.00	£70.00
Subsequent certificates issued on the same working day (same batch)	£20.00 each	£20.00 each

Note: a discretionary service, fees should be set to reflect costs incurred, so the service can be provided.

**HMO Licences (5 years)**

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Initial (first) Application Fee	£920.00	£920.00
Initial Issuing Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Combined Fee (if paid at the same time)	£950.00	£950.00
Additional fee if premises inspected and found not to be licensed	£300.00	£300.00
Renewal Application Fee	£650.00	£650.00
Renewal Issuing Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Combined Fee (if paid at the same time)	£680.00	£680.00

Note: Fee required to be set by statute.

**CARAVAN SITES (MOBILE HOMES)**

<b>Relevant Protected Sites</b>	<b>Band</b>				
	<b>A</b> (2 – 5)	<b>B</b> (6 - 24)	<b>C</b> (25 - 99)	<b>D</b> (100+)	<b>E</b> (Single unit sites and family sites)
<b>Number of units on site</b>					
Annual Fee	No Fee Charged	£185.00 Plus £0.50 per unit for registration of fit and proper person	£215.00 Plus £0.50 per unit for registration of fit and proper person	£285.00	No Fee Charged

**Initial application to be registered as fit and proper person: £80 (£70 in 2021/22)**

**Appointed Manager Fee: £100**

If an application to be included on the register is not approved the fee will not be refunded.

Note: Fees required to be set by statute. The fees were amended by Cabinet in June (CB21/12).

## Rother District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	1 November 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Street Litter Binrastructure and draft Litter Strategy for Rother
<b>Report of:</b>	Deborah Kenneally, Head of Service, Neighbourhood Services
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Prochak
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To inform on Binrastructure award and present the draft Litter Strategy
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Officer Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>Recommendation to COUNCIL:</b> That the draft Litter Strategy for Rother attached at Appendix A be approved and adopted.

## AND

It be **RESOLVED:** That the:

- 1) Litter Strategy for England 2017 be noted; and
- 2) successful award of Binrastructure funding and its requirement for a Local Authority Litter Strategy be noted.

**Reasons for Recommendations:** To support Rother District to be a place where people can enjoy clean and high quality urban and rural environments.

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## Introduction and Background – A Litter Strategy for England 2017

1. The Litter Strategy for England 2017 has been designed to apply best practice in education, enforcement and infrastructure to deliver a substantial reduction in litter and littering behaviour, so that in the coming years demonstrable improvements are seen. The Strategy outlines that tackling litter can only be done in partnership with central and local government, volunteers, campaigners and businesses.
2. A fundamental part of the Strategy is the development of local government level litter strategies and a review of their 'binrastructure.' 'Binrastructure' is a term used to describe having the 'right bin in the right place' to underpin the objective of a clean environment. To support this, the Department for

Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP), a charitable organisation, offered grants up to the value of £25,000 for local authorities to review their 'binrastructure.' A requirement of the funding application was the submission of a draft Litter Strategy.

3. To this end, officers submitted a draft Litter Strategy and a grant application to WRAP earlier this year which was successful in achieving a grant award of £22,500.
4. More information about The Litter Strategy for England 2017 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/litter-strategy-for-england>

### **'Binrastructure' Funding**

5. The funding application was for 15 x 168 litre bins, 15 x 84 litre bins, two smart solar compactor bins plus signage and installation. Staff, bin emptying and maintenance costs were excluded from the scheme. Further details of the grant application are contained in the Appendix A of the Litter Strategy attached.
6. The grant application required officers to review the existing infrastructure and identify ways in which it could be improved. A number of the bins have already been allocated to beach locations in accordance with the WRAP grant, and we will work in partnership with parish and town councils to determine locations of the remaining bins.

### **A Litter Strategy for Rother District Council**

7. The draft strategy is attached at Appendix A.

### **Conclusion**

8. That Rother District Council approves a Litter Strategy to support the work of Central Government to reduce littering and create clean environments by working in partnership with all our stakeholders, including residents, community groups, businesses and visitors.
9. **Cabinet is recommended to:**
  - 1) Approve the draft Litter Strategy for Rother.
  - 2) Note the Litter Strategy for England 2017.
  - 3) Note the WRAP Binrastructure Grant award of £22,500 and the requirements of the award.

### **Financial Implications**

10. Street and beach cleansing is part of the Council's statutory services and is funded through the Revenue Budget and the cost of additional and replacement litter bins and their emptying is generally managed through this budget.
11. In this instance the cost of the above additional bins has been funded from the WRAP grant award. The cost of maintaining the bins will be borne by Rother District Council.

12. Further financial support to pay for the emptying of these additional litter bins has been supported by Hastings Direct and via the Welcome Back Fund.
13. It is proposed that further funding may be obtained through local businesses sponsoring litter bins as a means of advertising and to support culture change. We would also look to fund local educational and publicity campaigns using business sponsorship and link this to the UK Environment Bill when it is ratified in Autumn 2021.

## Environmental

14. Litter degrades the quality of land, water and air. Reducing litter will help protect wildlife and aquatic ecosystems.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	Yes	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No

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Report Contact Officer:	Deborah Kenneally
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Appendices:	Appendix A – Draft Strategy
Relevant Previous Minutes:	N/A
Background Papers:	N/A
Reference Documents:	N/A

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# **A LITTER STRATEGY FOR ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Purpose	Rother District Council Litter Strategy
Owner	Anna Evett (while draft)
Approved by	
Date	8 October 2021
Version number	Draft 4
Status	Final draft
Review date	
Consultation	Corporate Management Team/Portfolio Holder
Consultation Date	

## **FOREWORD**

1. Rother District covers some 200 square miles (Corporate Plan 2020) and is a predominately rural district with three main urban areas, Bexhill-on -Sea, Rye and Battle. As well as these historic towns and some of the most beautiful countryside in South East England, the District benefits from a broad range of coastline that attracts many visitors to the main shingle beaches of Bexhill, the famous sandy beaches and sand dunes of Camber Sands, and the more rural beaches of Winchelsea, Pett Level and Fairlight.
2. Reducing litter and improving the management of the litter we do experience, thus minimising the impact on our environment, is an area of great importance and concern to our residents in Rother where our towns and beaches experience substantial increases in litter during the summer season. The Rother Litter Strategy sets out ways to address these concerns and includes peripheral issues such as fly tipping.
3. Rother's beaches and towns together create a thriving tourist destination and for our residents, the District provides the setting for vibrant local communities each with its own unique identity.
4. However, whilst our district ranks well in England for its cleanliness (evidenced by NI195 survey reports), the District's natural beauty and attractive urban environments are sometimes blighted by litter. Furthermore, as a district with a broad coastline and rivers that lead directly into the English Channel, we have a global responsibility to ensure that litter does not find its way into the sea by acting locally to reduce litter in the environment.
5. Dedicated and committed volunteers from our local communities play a big part in tackling litter and the causes of litter. The majority of our residents care very deeply about their environment. However, a small but significant culture persists in believing that littering is acceptable and this needs to be challenged and altered if we are to meet our responsibilities.
6. The purpose of this strategy document is to set out our ambitions and the steps necessary to reduce littering. It identifies the scale of the problem, explains the actions we will take to affect change, and the challenges we face in making those changes. This strategy has been developed in line with the Litter Strategy for England 2017, the Rother Corporate Plan and the Rother Environment Strategy 2020-2030.

## **AMBITION**

7. To reduce the volume of litter in the first instance by reducing packaging through the implementation of the UK Environment Bill new regulations (due in October 2021); to make littering culturally unacceptable behaviour; to ensure we have the right litter bins in the right place to help people dispose of their litter responsibly.

## **THE BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

### **Litter and the law**

8. Litter is controlled under the legislative framework of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which was amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

9. It is an offence to drop or leave litter and not pick it up. It applies to all land that is open to the air, including land covered with water and privately-owned land. A person found guilty of dropping litter can be fined up to £2,500 in a magistrate's court. Most offences can be dealt with through serving a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) on the perpetrator by an authorised body such as a local authority or police force. FPN charges are set locally at between £75 and £150.
10. Litter is generally accepted to be anything below the size of a sack of household waste and is mostly understood as items related to smoking, chewing gum or eating and drinking on the move where unwanted items have not been properly disposed of or have been dropped inadvertently.
11. Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) places a legal responsibility (a 'duty') on certain organisations to ensure that land, as far as is practicable, is kept clear of litter. Section 91 of the EPA 1990 goes on to state that a person who is fed up with a long-standing litter problem can use a Litter Abatement Order against those organisations listed under Section 89 (the 'duty bodies') if they are failing in their duty to keep that land clean.
12. There are six 'Duty Bodies' – local authorities, statutory undertakers such as rail and road agencies, Crown Estate, colleges, schools and universities. Privately owned land not open to public access does not qualify for a Litter Abatement Order.
13. In practical terms local authorities generally find it difficult to issue FPNs as the perpetrator would need to be caught in the act of littering or be able to evidence a contravention of the Act. Some local authorities have used private third-party contractors to patrol high streets to catch offenders in the act of dropping litter but in general this has proved unpopular and unproductive.

## CAUSES OF LITTER

14. The causes of litter are diverse and complex with a lack of, or fragmented data on the impact or importance of each cause and the effectiveness of different approaches to dealing with them. This section of the Strategy, therefore, aims to highlight what the District Council understands to be the key causes of litter.
15. The causes of litter outlined below are not ranked for importance or priority as we do not have evidence on which are the most important. The Strategy will also set out to identify gaps in knowledge and which issues the District has the structures, resources and authority to tackle.
16. Where the Council is not in a position to act directly, the Strategy will outline in what ways it needs to focus on partnership working and community action to secure progress.
17. **Public lack of understanding of the impact of litter:** Despite the high-profile publicity of the impacts of litter on the environment, particularly around plastics, there is still a large disconnect between individual actions and collective impact. There is also a misunderstanding of how and where to use and dispose of biodegradable packaging.
18. **Lack of influence/control/powers:** Whilst there is a perception that the

District Council is responsible for all public land, there are areas where the Council has limited or no powers to act to prevent littering or to provide litter services.

19. **Cultural attitudes:** Our experience suggests that a number of cultural changes have led littering to become an acceptable behaviour. Examples include:
  - The increasing disconnect with the natural environment caused in part by alternative pastimes based around technology.
  - Changes in the way we consume food and drink and move to eating (and drinking) on the go.
  - Increased night-time economy and its impact on less responsible behaviour in urban centres.
  - Increased car ownership and improvements in car design separates travellers from the experience of the environment around them.
  - Expectations of responsibility for litter clearance.
  - Lack of awareness of wider costs of litter.
  - Culture of instant gratification, a compounding factor of eating on the go, the desire to live in the moment means not wanting to hold on to litter until a bin can be found and a reduced sense of responsibility beyond the self.
20. **Eating 'on the go':** With a move to eating 'on the go', there is an increase in disposable packaging. Today, food and drink are consumed in spatially different ways to the past. Under these conditions, it is not always possible to predict the locations for bins to meet the needs of those consumers eating 'on the go' but we do know that it is a problem in beach/seaside locations. Recent years has seen local providers choosing to use large cardboard or polystyrene boxes, rather than paper.
21. In addition, eating 'on the go' packaging often has high volume packaging (plastic bottles and food trays) meaning bins fill more quickly. In Bexhill (seafront) and Camber beach, at times it proves difficult to empty the bins quickly enough; users are reluctant to either crush or tear the containers or take them home.
22. Eating/drinking 'on the go' has also become commonplace whilst driving leading to roadside litter where litter bins may not be an appropriate solution but lead to further littering and fly tipping.
23. **Tourism and Leisure:** Rother is a destination for many types of tourists, largely to enjoy outdoor recreation, historic attractions and our beaches. Whilst this brings many benefits, tourists do not always have access to facilities for disposing of litter in the same way as residents, and it may not be so easy for them to take litter home. Tourism also supports demand for eating 'on the go'. Camber Sands beach is of particular concern as it is a large sandy beach and visitors travel for many miles to get there. There is a risk that any litter left on the beach will be swept out to sea.
24. **Smoking:** Keep Britain Tidy identifies smoking related litter as the most common type of litter found on the streets.
25. "Although cigarette ends are small, by law they still count as litter. Their small size makes them difficult and costly to clean, and also means they are easily

transported to our waterways and coast by wind and water. Not only do they contain toxins which pollute our waters, but they can be mistaken by wildlife for food, which can be deadly. Cigarette filters are not biodegradable. They are actually made of plastic, so they stay in the environment for a long time.”

26. Keep Britain Tidy provides useful data on this issue along with strategies for tackling it which can be explored further.
27. **Dog ownership:** Dogs play an immensely important role in our societies, from support dogs for the disabled, rescue dogs for emergency services and educational dogs for children with behavioural needs, through to companion animals for people of all ages. Dogs promote health and well-being, encourage regular exercise and help break down social barriers. However, dog fouling can cause serious health problems and is the cause of considerable numbers of complaints about street cleanliness.
28. Dog ownership is on the rise and, whilst the failure to clear up dog fouling is increasingly socially unacceptable, there remains a small minority of dog owners that either fail to clear up after their pets or clear up but fail to bin it. Failure to clear up properly after dog fouling causes specific additional concerns around health of people, livestock and wildlife. The problems are exacerbated by lack of clarity as to when, where and how to dispose of dog waste correctly. The problem is far worse in the winter when owners are under the cover of darkness.
29. **Drugs paraphernalia:** A relatively small issue in terms of volume of litter but significant in potential impact on human health, both for the public at large and for staff dealing with the issue. Drug paraphernalia is a difficult problem to tackle at a departmental or even county council level and requires partnership working and lobbying.
30. **Packaging:** Changes in shopping behaviour from high street to online, increasing use of marketing on packaging, use of packaging to increase shelf life of products all contribute to an increase in the volume of packaging and a change in the materials used in packaging. Inevitably, an increase in packaging has led to an increase in waste, whether intentionally or otherwise, some of which ends up as litter. During the pandemic we have seen a rise in cardboard from online deliveries and an increase in fly tipping of it and other packaging.
31. **Long distance transport:** There is a lack of rest facilities for long distance lorry drivers leading to littering of major laybys in the county. Challenges exist for such locations as bins in these locations attract fly tipping, misuse and abuse.
32. **Schools:** Walking routes to schools attract litter as many children eat on the go both to and from school. It only takes a small minority to drop litter on a daily basis on the same routes for litter to become a problem in these areas. The cohort effect makes challenging behaviours an ongoing requirement in an already highly pressured educational curriculum.
33. **Commercial and household waste collection:** Recycling targets put pressure on waste collection services. Whilst waste segregated by residents at the kerbside is widely seen as improving the quality of the recyclable

materials collected, the logistics of this approach can lead to the creation of litter. Example problems include historic urban areas (Bexhill, Rye and Battle town centres in particular) with houses in multiple occupation lacking in space for bins; households in converted properties above retail units not equipped to store multiple bins for waste segregation, and sometimes lack of knowledge regarding waste collections due to high turnover of occupants.

#### **WHERE ARE WE NOW**

34. In the UK the cost of dealing with litter is around £850m a year (Litter Strategy for England 2017) and whilst the types of litter have changed, the level of litter has not fallen for over 12 years. Fast food litter has increased over the last decade as people have taken up the habit of eating and drinking on the go. Litter can last a very long time in the environment, with some materials such as crisp packets, cans and glass bottles remaining intact for decades, and plastic bottles having a 'life' of hundreds of years.
35. England released a national strategy for litter in 2017 that includes a combination of education, enforcement and improved infrastructure.
36. The coronavirus pandemic, anecdotally, has made the litter problem worse; more people are enjoying outside spaces, more people are shopping online for goods, restaurants are closed and consumer takeaway food and beverages has increased.

#### **SCALE OF THE PROBLEM IN ROTHER**

37. Rother District is an area covering approximately 511.8 km square (Rother in profile 2006) of mostly high-quality rural landscapes and villages with many protected environments that are highly valued by local communities. These beautiful towns, villages and rural landscapes also contribute to the local economy by attracting tourists to the region. Litter has a negative impact on the built and natural environment and, ultimately, has a negative impact on the economy, wellbeing and safety of the people and wildlife.
38. Rother's litter is easily transported by wind or water to other places where it can do unseen damage such as in rivers and seas. There is a great deal of international concern about the sheer volume of plastic litter that is now entering our oceans and the difficulty in removing it. In addition to the obvious dangers to marine life, it is a hazard to the food chain, and assists potentially invasive species to travel around the globe, destroying habitats, threatening species and harming human health.
39. Rother's litter problem is a very visible manifestation of some people's lack of awareness and care for the local environment. Yet for others, it remains one of the issues that they care very much about.
40. Whilst the figures show that street cleanliness is generally good, (NI195 data year ending August 2020 indicates litter/detritus of around 4% in areas surveyed) there are still problem areas and issues that need to be tackled. With the current and ongoing constraints on resourcing there is a need to work more efficiently, particularly if we are to curb the recent fall in performance and to deal with changes in culture that are leading to new litter related challenges.

## **SPENDING ON LITTER COLLECTION IN ROTHER**

41. Considerable financial and man power resources are dedicated to collecting litter in the streets, emptying litter bins and litter picking along country lanes. The budget for 2021/2022 is £1.1m for beach and street cleansing which includes the collection of litter.
42. The clearance of litter is an avoidable cost but to reduce this requires significant culture change alongside well designed and planned infrastructure and services to meet current and future needs. Changing culture is challenging and requires ongoing investment in education, engagement and, occasionally, enforcement. Given that much of our infrastructure is old and designed and planned for a different time, updating this to meet current and predicted need in the current economic environment will be a challenge and new and innovative ways to deal with this will be necessary.
43. The Council engages a Waste Contractor, Biffa, to keep the streets, roads and beaches clean. Furthermore, dedicated volunteers regularly litter pick in the areas where they live, some of whom will also separate materials into recyclables and waste. Volunteers in rural areas carry out cleansing where it is difficult for the District Council to do so due to a lack of resources, and volunteers are often able to undertake additional regular deep cleans of their local area.

## **LITTER PREVENTION**

44. There is little education and prevention work. Currently very limited work is undertaken but there is room for improvement working with the general public on raising awareness about litter. East Sussex County Council's Communications Team have embarked on an anti-littering campaign focusing on the message 'respect, protect, enjoy.' These messages will be shared across social media platforms. The Environment Bill will tackle the root sources of packaging and Rother has taken part in the consultation process to ensure our concerns are heard. Councillor and Environmental groups have been working to persuade fast food outlets to switch to more environmentally friendly forms of packaging.
45. The Litter Strategy for England 2017 places great emphasis on working together to reduce littering. Litter is everyone's responsibility from retailers who provide take-away food, residents who allow their dogs to foul and members of the public who think it is socially acceptable to drop their litter for someone else to clean up.

## **WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE**

46. Feedback from Councillors, community groups and individuals and other stakeholders has made it clear that we want a cleaner district. Our ambition is: To make littering unacceptable behaviour and to seek new and innovative ways to reduce littering and to clear it promptly where it turns up. To achieve this ambition, we have reviewed our approach to dealing with litter and set out an action plan to help us achieve this.

## **OUR APPROACH**

47. Rother District Council will adopt a positive collaborative approach to tackling litter in the District. In response to views from our stakeholders, we have identified five thematic areas of work to tackle the many and diverse causes of litter that build on current practice and on which an action plan (set out in

the Appendix) has been developed. The five thematic areas of work are: Education; Enforcement; Infrastructure; Service design; and Partnership working.

48. The Action Plan will be underpinned by the best available data. Where gaps in the data exist or where data is scarce, we will work with our partners to collect and analyse data to underpin our approach.

#### **FIRST STEPS - REVIEW OF OUR BININFRASTRUCTURE REF: WASTE & RESOURCES ACTION PROGRAMME (WRAP) GRANT FUND FOR LITTER BINS**

49. For the purposes of applying for the WRAP grant, we chose to focus on having the 'right bin in the right place'. As Rother is geographically large and spread out, we have narrowed our focus further to two of our busiest areas, Camber Sands (and associated beaches) and Bexhill Seafront.
50. Camber Sands alone can attract up to 10,000 to 15,000 visitors a day on warm summer days, and as many as 25,000 people a day on hot weekends and bank holidays. In the current COVID situation and the 'stay-cation' in 2020, Rother received unprecedented numbers of visitors to both Camber and Bexhill and so the grant application was based on planning for similar unprecedented levels in 2021.
51. Litter is a seasonal issue in these areas and increases exponentially in line with visitor numbers, with the risk that any litter left on the sands and shingle will be washed out to sea or blown about in the wind. Visitors at both locations will often stay for the day, bringing their own food with them or purchasing take-away food to consume on the beaches. The resulting rubbish is then left by the nearest litter bin or in situ on the beach to be blown about the beaches and promenades and sometimes washed out to sea.
52. Officers reviewed the 'bininfrastructure' at both locations and successfully applied for a WRAP grant of £22,500 to install new litter bins and two solar compaction bins in certain locations.

#### Camber Sands

53. Camber Sands is a sandy beach and a SSSI site. There is a small village of approximately 1,000 residents. There are three car parks and limited on street parking due to the narrow road in and out of the village. The beach needs to be cleansed throughout the day during high season. Fixed bins are not an option on the sands as they do not stand up to the shifting grounds, tides and weather conditions. Following research and looking at the experiences in Bournemouth, Brighton and Hastings, robust fixed bins are required on the entrances to the beach, car parks and village. In addition to this, bulky bins are needed on the sands. Our current stock is in need of replacement and this has now been done as at October 2021.

#### Bexhill Seafront and Herbrand Walk

54. Areas of these beaches are heavily used during the summer and we expected visitor numbers to increase in the future. As a result of this strategy and the funding additional bins are now in place near to take-away food outlets along the seafront and on the shingle beaches at Herbrand Walk. In addition to these bins we have purchased and installed two solar compactor bins for

installation at a prominent spot along the seafront near the take away outlets and at Herbrand Walk. These bins, which are now in place as at October 2021, compact the litter and should be a talking point in the town with visitors keen to use them.

55. The existing bins will be repaired and refurbished and redeployed as part of the next phase of ensuring the 'right bin in the right place'.

## SECOND STEPS – USE THE TOOLS WE HAVE

56. Make use of our existing tools such as the 'report it' function on the website.
57. Publicise the 'report it' function and encourage residents to use it: this will give us valuable data and ensure that we can direct resources to hot-spot areas

## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

### Action Plan Overview

58. The below is a table to highlight relationships between issues and how they might be tackled.

Thematic area of work	Education	Enforcement	Infrastructure	Service Design	Partnership Working
<b>Causes of litter</b>					
Public understanding of the impact of litter	x				x
Lack of an updated county strategy for litter					x
Changes in culture	x	x	x		x
Eating on the go	x	x	x	x	
Tourism and leisure			x	x	x
Smoking related litter	x		x		
The impact of dog ownership	x	x	x		x
Packaging					x
Long distance transport			x	x	x
Schools	x		x		
Waste collection services			x	x	

### **Education**

Develop an education plan for residents and visitors about the impact of litter. To cover:

- Social media campaigns on particular timed themes, dog fouling, waste and recycling (what can be recycled) and how to reduce waste overall.
- Work with local schools and community groups.

### **Enforcement**

- Crack down on fly tipping, both the commercial fly tips plus the domestic fly tips especially at bring sites.
- Work with enforcement on targeted campaigns, publicise FPN and issue appeals for witnesses with large commercial fly tips.
- Work with other districts, county and police to gather evidence against repeat offenders.

## **Infrastructure**

- Review our current 'binrastructure' to ensure we have the right bin in the right place.
- Implement innovative designs of bins to make them easy to use.

## **Service Design**

- Work with Biffa to ensure that as many households as possible are on alternate weekly collections and identify ways that daily collections can be avoided.

## **Partnership Working**

- Identify community groups to work with in promoting key messages about litter prevention.
- Work with community and voluntary groups to organise regular litter picks and beach cleanses and to identify hot spots and changes to 'binrastructure.'
- Promote partnership working amongst local businesses for litter prevention.
- Recognise and reward the contribution of volunteers to tackling litter.
- Consider Quality of Place awards.

## **FUNDING**

59. As previously mentioned, to support the Rother Litter Strategy officers were successful in applying for grant funding from WRAP organisation in May 2021 to provide litter bins to the value of £22,500.
60. Further financial support to pay for the emptying of these additional litter bins has been supported by Hastings Direct and via the Welcome Back Fund.
61. It is proposed that further funding may be obtained through local businesses sponsoring litter bins as a means of advertising and to support culture change.
62. We would also look to fund local educational and publicity campaigns using business sponsorship and link this to the UK Environment Bill when it is ratified in Autumn 2021.

## **SUMMARY**

63. This Strategy builds on the work undertaken by Central Government and relies on partnership working with Parish and Town Councils (P&TC), community groups, businesses and individuals. We will be consulting with P&TCs about their 'binrastructure' and encouraging them to create their own litter strategies.
64. It is considered the first priority is to change people's attitude towards their use of packaging and reduce the amount of materials they use and subsequently discard.
65. The second priority is to change people's attitude towards littering being something we simply have to accept and pay to remove, by changing the culture.
66. Both the above priorities will take time to effect and, in the meantime, it is important to have in place an effective litter strategy to both manage the impact of the existing issues and work to support the above changes.

67. Officers look forward to working with Councillors, community groups and individuals to further develop and implement this strategy, and to build on their valuable work already in progress across Rother.

DRAFT

### **Below is extracted detail of the WRAP 'Binrastructure' grant application:**

In line with the guidance officers have included a 'Binrastructure' section within the draft litter strategy, to audit where the bins are across the District, and assess suitability for the location and main use. The audit covered:

The type of bin (physical characteristics) including make, model, capacity, aperture and fixings

- Location
- Target materials
- Owner and who is responsible for emptying
- Access
- Condition
- Signage

The information on usage and location in particular, determined our focus areas, i.e. hotspots. All bin locations and make and model of bins have been mapped on a software package. This work started at the beginning of 2019 and concluded in September 2020. The next step is to audit and assess the level of use for each of bin, the type of bin for the location and target materials. However, as this will need to be an ongoing project, it was agreed to prioritise the areas with the greatest need.

Looking at the data available from customer complaints, reports from members of the public on bins that need emptying, feedback from Cleansing Operatives, waste contractors and District Compliance Officers, the District's most popular beach and seafront areas were identified as a priority.

Identification of litter prone/hotspot locations: Camber Beach, Broomhill, Winchelsea Beach, Pett Level Beach and Bexhill Seafront were identified as hotspots. 2020 was a particularly bad year for littering in these locations due the COVID-19 pandemic and the vast increase in visitor numbers. Meetings have taken place with the District Coastal Team, Rother District Council Officers, Biffa and local representatives, to review the bin locations and emptying frequencies based on the 2020 summer season. A copy of the minutes of the last three meetings are available.

Type of locations: All locations across Rother were assessed at a very high level. It was readily agreed to prioritise the locations with the highest number of visitors (footfall) namely Camber and associated beaches and Bexhill seafront. These were the areas easily identified as having the greatest requirement for action. These are tourist hotspots and beach/see locations.

Prioritisation of target locations: The beach and seafront areas were prioritised because of the large amount of litter to be collected, to protect the tourist industry/economy, the threat to the environment (litter being swept into the sea) and the cost (financial and environmental) of the need to empty bins and pick litter.

Locations: Camber and associated beaches and Bexhill seafront were chosen, due to the extremely high level of visitors (£25,000 a day at Camber alone.) During the summer months (and as early as Easter and until October) the beach and seafront areas are extremely busy with holidaymakers and day tourists. They create an exceptional amount of litter and logistical planning (for Camber) in how to contain

and collect the litter.

How the project is aligned with the findings of the litter strategy and RBRP guidance principles: The litter strategy seeks to understand the causes of littering and how to deal with it. It covers public awareness, training, advertising and working with partners. It also seeks to understand if the District has the right infrastructure and is installing the right type of bin in the right location. It seeks to identify a more efficient way of tackling littering in the area.

Details of bins: The beach areas of Camber, Winchelsea Beach, Pett Level beach and Broomhill, are quite difficult terrains. Weather can be unforgiving with high winds blowing the sands causing damage to less robust bins. The sands shift daily and bases for the bins can't be fixed on the dunes. For these areas, from research (WRAP guidance, case studies, previous experience) it has been decided to purchase sturdy concrete bins that will be fixed in the car parks and entrances to the beaches, in the highest footfall areas. This will also assist in emptying. The bins chosen are 168 litre glass reinforced concrete litter bins with galvanised steel liners. The installation costs (not part of the application) are higher than other bins as a crane is needed. However, these bins withstand poor weather, high usage and are easy to maintain and hard to vandalise. We have trialled three of these bins in our beach areas and they have proved successful. The apertures are slide out lockable doors and it will be litter only (not recycling.) We have also costed for additional signage to direct people to take their litter off the beach and deposit in the bins at the entrance.

On the seafront at Bexhill we would like the same concrete bins plus two solar compactor bins. We have not tried solar compactor bins but research on the experience of other councils is positive. We would like to install two on an area of high use on Bexhill seafront, opposite a line of take-away food outlets. These food outlets produce a high number of boxes that cause our traditional bins to become full very quickly. The compacting element of the bins should help with fitting more into each bin. The capacity is 150 litres and it will be litter only (not recycling.) They are made from galvanised steel with slide out lockable doors of flap depending on model.

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## Rother District Council

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 1 November 2021

**Title:** Food and Drink Concessions

**Report of:** Graham Burgess, Property Investment & Regeneration Manager and Deborah Kenneally, Head of Neighbourhood Services

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Dixon

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of Report:** To facilitate the letting of mobile and static food and drink concessions on Council-owned property.

**Decision Type:** Non-Key

### Officer

**Recommendation(s):** It be **RESOLVED**: That:

- 1) the locations for potential mobile and static food and drink concessions set out in Appendix A below be approved; and
- 2) officers be authorised to promote the locations to the market and to enter into concession agreements for a period of three years from April 2022, on such terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by the Chief Executive.

### Reasons for

**Recommendations:** To enable the hiring out of concessions to take place in a managed way and subject to the necessary due diligence.

## Introduction

1. The Council regularly receives requests from food and drink businesses looking for opportunities to operate mobile and static units from land in the Council's ownership. These have increased significantly over the last year, most likely due to COVID-19 restrictions, which have resulted in the cancellation of many events and festivals which are normally a staple source of income for such businesses.
2. The Council has also received requests for more permanent trading pitches which would require a permanent or semi-permanent cabin or similar structure. Such requests tend to be 'ad hoc' for locations identified by the business and who are seeking a quick decision, but due to the level of due diligence required it is generally not possible to do so, nor desirable from a commercial, environmental or promoting a healthy lifestyle/eating aspect.
3. The due diligence would include:

- Ensuring that the operator is legitimate and operates in accordance with statutory requirements.
  - Assessing the proposed location to ensure that it is suitable and that a food and drink operation would not conflict with nearby residents and businesses.
  - Checking to ensure that the proposed location is permitted under the Council's own byelaws and Street Trading regulations.
  - Ensuring that there is an electrical supply (to avoid the need for diesel generators).
  - Agreeing a suitable value for the concession in order to generate an appropriate revenue stream for the Council.
4. In addition, in the interest of equal and fair opportunity, and given the numbers of enquiries, the Council should take steps to offer suitable pitches to market competition rather than adopt a 'first come first served' approach. Going out to the market would ensure that the Council would obtain best value for money.
  5. Therefore, there is benefit in taking a managed approach to pre-selecting suitable locations and offering these to the market place, thereby maximising the commercial potential of the Council's landholdings.

### **Details of the proposals**

6. Officers have considered locations where a mobile and static food and drink concession may be appropriate and a list of these is attached as Appendix A. These have been discussed with the Council's Environmental Health and Planning divisions to identify any concerns or constraints that might apply.
7. A 'mobile' concession applies to a vehicle or trailer that is not permanently placed in position but would be moved at the end of each day. A 'static' concession could be a semi-permanent kiosk, trailer or hut that remains in situ throughout the trading season but may be removed out of season.
8. In some locations it may be feasible to include rights to a small 'sitting out' area to permit tables and chairs to be set out; otherwise concessions will be for take-away service only.
9. It is proposed to invite concession operators to come forward with proposals for each location. Officers will select the most appropriate proposal for each location based on individual merit. This will be based not only on the financial offer but other considerations such as the quality of product, 'fit' with the location and with other services in the area. We will aim to attract businesses offering food and drink that promotes a healthy lifestyle.
10. It is proposed to offer three year concessions, with a view to reviewing and re-advertising in the third year. In order to allow flexibility for operators and for the Council, concessions will be on flexible terms, terminable by either party on a months' notice.
11. If not already available, all locations will be provided with an electricity supply. Based on recent experience this is likely to cost on average in the region of £2,000 per location, although this will vary from place to place. This would cover the cost of installing the supply itself, along with any ducting and

remedial work to restore paved surfaces, etc. These would be 'one off' costs that will be recouped through the licence fees received from the concessions.

12. Planning permissions will be required for each location, and if approved, officers will submit applications for the agreed locations as soon as practicable. Planning fees are expected to be in the region of £250 per location. Other 'up front' costs will include any advertising costs required to publicise the concessions to potential operators. The Council has existing contacts with a number of operators but we would seek to publicise the opportunity as widely as possible.

## **Options**

13. Do Nothing – if no concessions were to be offered this would represent a missed opportunity to facilitate better provision to visitors and residents and improve the range and choice of food and drink in these locations. It would also represent a missed opportunity to generate additional revenue for the Council
14. Respond to ad hoc enquiries from operators on a 'first come, first served' basis. As set out above this is not ideal as the operator may not be the best fit for the location, it results in duplication of effort and is not the most efficient use of officer time. It may also not result in the best financial deal for the Council, nor the most support for promoting healthy eating

## **Conclusion**

15. The recommended approach will establish the suitable locations for concessions, in consultation with the Council's Environmental and Planning colleagues, and enable a managed approach to offering these to the market. Concessions will be reviewed every three years, alongside a review of the locations to ensure that they remain appropriate and viable.
16. Cabinet is recommended:
  - a) To approve the locations set out in Appendix A.
  - b) To authorise officers to promote the locations to food and drink concessions and enter into concession agreements for a period of three years commencing in April 2022 and otherwise on such terms and conditions as deemed necessary by the Chief Executive.

## **Financial Implications**

17. The value of the concessions will vary depending on the location, however these are expected to be at least cost neutral in the first year and thereafter will be a net revenue generator to the Council. For comparison, the existing seasonal ice cream concession at De La Warr Parade Bexhill is currently let for £9,000 per season; the concession at Galley Hill is let for £3,500 and the concession at Western Car Park, Camber is let for £18,000.
18. Based on the nine locations identified there is likely to be an up-front cost in the region of £20,000 - £22,000 to ensure that all of the proposed locations have an electricity supply, to secure the necessary planning consents, and to

cover marketing costs. However, once in place the infrastructure and planning costs will not need to be repeated.

19. We will make use of existing contacts and social media to promote the concessions, however, it may be necessary to incur some cost in advertising / marketing. Again, this would be offset against the first years' income.

### Legal Implications

20. Planning permissions will be required and these will be subject to due process through the Planning system. Officers will also check to ensure that the concessions are not in breach of any legal covenants or byelaws that may apply to a given location.
21. Officers will liaise with the Council's Environmental Health team to ensure that operators are compliant with all requirements relating to food hygiene and health and safety.

### Environmental Impact

22. Potential for increased littering - each concession is to be responsible for litter and waste management and costs; businesses will need to demonstrate they have considered the environmental impact of their packaging and food waste.
23. Businesses will also be asked to demonstrate their ability to keep carbon footprint to a minimum, including use of fuel type and sustainable source of electricity.
24. There is a potential for increased noise pollution due to increased footfall in the vicinity. Whilst the proposed locations and the types of concession have been considered with this in mind, this will also be considered during the planning application process.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	Yes	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No

Chief Executive:	Malcolm Johnston
Report Contact Officer:	Graham Burgess, Property Investment & Regeneration Manager
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Appendices:	A - Identified locations for potential food and drink concessions
Relevant Previous Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None

## Identified locations for potential food and drink concessions

Location	Type	Sitting out area?	Mobile or static*
<b>Bexhill</b>			
East Parade, gravelled area to the east of Bexhill Sea Angling Club	Hot drinks and/or pre-prepared food	Yes	Either
Splash Deck below Pages Gap	Ice Cream / hot drinks / pre-prepared food	No	Mobile only
Bexhill Leisure Centre car park	Hot drinks and/or pre-prepared food	No	Either
<b>Rye</b>			
Rye Town Salts	Ice Cream / hot drinks / pre-prepared food	No	Mobile only
Gibbets Marsh Car Park	Ice Cream / hot drinks / pre-prepared food	Yes	Either
<b>Camber</b>			
Western Car Park	Ice Cream / hot drinks / pre-prepared food / hot food	Yes	Either
<b>Pett Level</b>			
Pett Level Car Park	Ice Cream / hot drinks / pre-prepared food / hot food	No	Mobile only
<b>Winchelsea Beach</b>			
Dogs Hill Road	Ice Cream / hot drinks / pre-prepared food	No	Mobile only
<b>Rye Harbour</b>			
Bus Turning Circle	Ice Cream / hot drinks / pre-prepared food	No	Mobile only

\* subject to planning permission

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