

**To all Members of the Council**

25 June 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of Rother District Council to be held at the Town Hall on **Monday 5 July 2021** at 6:30pm, when it is proposed to transact the business stated below.

1. To approve as a correct record and to authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 4 May 2021.
2. To receive apologies for absence.
3. Disclosure of Interest  
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.
4. To receive the Chairman's communications.
5. To answer questions from members of the public, if any, in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Council Procedure Rules (\*time limit 30 minutes).
6. To answer questions from Members of the Council, if any, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Council Procedure Rules (\*time limit 30 minutes).
7. To receive the report of the Cabinet on matters for determination by full Council at its meetings held on 24 May and 28 June to include, as under: (Pages 1 - 2)

**24 May 2021**

- Private Sector Leasing Scheme (CB21/04)

**28 June 2021 – TO FOLLOW**

8. To receive the report of the Head of Paid Service  
In accordance with paragraph 17a of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and paragraph 4 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, of any urgent decisions taken at the Cabinet meetings held on 24 May and 28 June 2021.
9. To receive the report of the Returning Officer on the Eastern Rother Ward

By-election held on the 6 May 2021 (Pages 3 - 4)

10. To receive the report of the Chief Executive on the Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies. (Pages 5 - 16)
11. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12 consideration be given to the following Motion to Council submitted by Councillor Clark: (Pages 17 - 18)

“Rother District Council resolves to make an official application to join the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities. This will be a first step in its commitment towards joining the World Health Organisation Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities and for Councillor Clark, as the Spokesperson for Older Persons, to have the initial task of taking forward Age-Friendly Communities in Rother.”

Malcolm Johnston  
Chief Executive

Town Hall  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
East Sussex, TN39 3JX

*\*Any supplementary verbal questions put will be audio recorded for ease of reproducing the minutes of the meeting*

**For details of the Council, it's elected representatives and meetings  
visit the Rother District Council Website [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk)**

**Rother District Council**

|               |   |                                  |
|---------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Report to     | - | Council                          |
| Date          | - | 5 July 2021                      |
| Report of the | - | Cabinet                          |
| Subject       | - | References from Cabinet Meetings |

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The Council is asked to consider recommendations arising from the Cabinet meetings held on 24 May and 28 June 2021, as set out below.

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**CABINET – 24 May 2021****CB21/04. PRIVATE SECTOR LEASING SCHEME**

The Head of Housing and Community outlined two measures proposed to improve housing outcomes and reduce the cost to the Council of providing temporary accommodation (TA) by preventing homelessness through greater access to quality and affordable accommodation.

To date, the Council had over 100 households within TA with the average stay of a household with children being 66 days at a cost of £2,500. During the COVID-19 pandemic, fewer properties had been made available to the Rother Tenant Finder Scheme (RTFS) as a result of a significant stagnation in the lettings market and increased rental charges. Therefore it was considered opportune to review the RTFS, as well as various incentives offered to private sector landlords and estate agents. It was noted that the RTFS had secured a limited number of properties during the pandemic, as a result of the provision of 0% tenant loans, as well as incentive payments to landlords and agents, funded through a combination of external government grants.

The two measures proposed to secure more accommodation were a Private Sector Lease Scheme (PSLS) and Rent Guarantee Scheme (RGS).

The PSLS would provide the Council access to properties for a fixed period and property owners would be guaranteed a fixed monthly payment. Properties would need to meet or exceed defined national standards and the property owner would retain full responsibility for the management, maintenance and repair of the external fabric of the building. At the end of the lease period, the property would be returned to the owner in the same condition as at commencement of the lease (except for an allowance on reasonable wear and tear). Initially, properties would be managed by an external management organisation with the potential to bring in-house once economies of scale could be achieved and property management expertise had been developed.

Cabinet was advised that the scheme would be funded from an external Homeless Prevention Grant allocated annually by the Ministry of Housing Community and Local Government (MHCLG). It was proposed that 30 properties be leased over 24 months (15 Year 1, 15

Year 2) and reviewed at the end of this period to ascertain whether the scheme was operating effectively. Each property would contribute 5% annual income to offset any repair costs.

The RGS, also funded from the external Homelessness Prevention Grant would underwrite landlord arrears risks, subject to the following conditions:

- time limited to 12 months;
- the Council would be liable for up to six months of rent arrears accrued during the first 12 months of the tenancy;
- guarantees would be provided for Assured Shorthold Tenancies with a minimum fixed term of 12 months;
- tenancies must be assessed as affordable for the tenant; and
- the landlord or their agent must inform the Council in writing within seven days of the first missed rent payment and within seven days of all subsequent missed payments.

The Council's Tenancy Sustainment Officer would monitor tenants' rent accounts and offer support to sustain rental payments. However, even with support there was a risk that some tenants would default on their rent payments. A 20% arrears level was considered a reasonable worst-case scenario; however the team would operate to an arrears target of 5% which was comfortably achieved by most Registered Providers.

The two options enabled the RTFS to make a more competitive offer to landlords and property owners that would enable the Council to reach its Corporate Plan target of securing 100 tenancies per year for homeless households by March 2023.

The two measures would prevent the need for the Council to place households in expensive TA, avoiding the associated cost. The P SLS proposal would enable the Council to avoid up to £11,000 of TA costs in its first year and £7,000 in its second year. The RGS would enable the Council to avoid up to £48,000 for every 30 rent guarantees issued.

**RECOMMENDED:** That:

- 1) lease agreements be entered into with property owners to enable the provision of tenancy agreements between the Council and households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- 2) the Head of Service Housing and Community be authorised to enter into property and rent account management contracts; and
- 3) fixed-term rent guarantees be issued to private sector landlords to enable access to households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

(Cabinet Agenda Item 9)

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**CABINET – 28 June 2021 – TO FOLLOW**

Councillor D.B. Oliver, Leader of the Council

Page 2

**Rother District Council**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

5 July 2021

**REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER**

**BY- ELECTION – 6 MAY 2021**

1. I have to report the result of the by-election held on Thursday, 6 May 2021 to elect a District Councillor for the seat vacated by the resignation of Councillor Mrs S. Hart.

**Eastern Rother**

HACKING, Lizzie (Con) – 999 – **ELECTED**

LAMB, Kate (Liberal Democrat) – 273

MADDEN, Ash (Lab) – 300

% Turnout = 40.77

2. Following the election I have also to report that:
  - (i) Councillor Lizzie Hacking has given formal notice of her wish to join the Conservative group;
  - (ii) The revised membership of Political Groups is as follows:

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Conservative                | 14        |
| Association of Independents | 12        |
| Liberal Democrat & Green    | 8         |
| Labour                      | 3         |
| Independent Member          | 1         |
|                             | <u>38</u> |

3. Following the by-election a review of the committee seats has been undertaken, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, resulting in no change to the overall seat allocation.
4. Councillor Lizzie Hacking has been appointed to the Licensing and General Purposes Committee in accordance with the Group Leader's wishes.

Malcolm Johnston  
Returning Officer

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## Rother District Council

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Report to     | - | Council   |
| Date          | - | 5 July 2021                                       |
| Report of the | - | Chief Executive                                   |
| Subject       | - | Appointments of Representatives to Outside Bodies |

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### **Recommendation:** It be **RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) appointments be made to the outside bodies attached at Appendices 1 and 2 for a term of one year except where stated otherwise, and attendance be designated as an approved duty;
  - 2) subject to mutual agreement between the Trustees of The Bexhill Trust and Bexhill Town Council, responsibility for making appointments to The Bexhill Trust pass to Bexhill Town Council from Rother District Council with immediate effect, pursuant to a community governance agreement under Section 99 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Charity Trustees under Section 297 of the Charities Act 2011;
  - 3) subject to the approval of 2) above The Bexhill Trust be removed from the list of outside bodies to which this Council appoints; and
  - 4) Members be reminded of the need to report annually via the Members' Bulletin on the outside bodies to which they are appointed.
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### **Introduction**

1. Full Council has retained the responsibility for approving the list of outside bodies to which formal appointments are made, making such appointments at the Annual Council Meeting (ACM) or as otherwise required. This year, due to the ACM taking place earlier than expected as a consequence of the cessation of remote meetings, the appointments to outside bodies were agreed to be made at this meeting.

### **Appointments Required**

2. Attached at Appendix 1 is a list of Outside Bodies to which the Council is required to make an appointment for the 2021/22 civic year. It also shows the name(s) of the current representatives that were appointed for the last municipal year.

### **The Bexhill Trust**

3. The newly established Bexhill Town Council (BTC) has already considered in principle that the responsibility for the appointment of Trustees to The Bexhill Trust should transfer from Rother District Council (RDC) to BTC. Correspondence has also been received from the Clerk to The Bexhill Trust seeking clarification regarding the appointing authority.

4. The Bexhill Trust was established in December 1917 by seven founders, two of whom were the mayor and deputy mayor of the Borough of Bexhill. The area of benefit was the borough of Bexhill and the beneficiaries were stated to be in the inhabitants of the borough's area. The charity was not an off-shoot of the Borough Council and operated separately from the Council and subsequently RDC.
5. Neither the Borough Council nor RDC had or has any role in the management of the charity. The powers of any local authority appointor is to appoint the trustees; it cannot direct or seek to influence the trustees once appointed and such trustees thereafter must operate in the interests of the charity only in accordance with charity law (and not as delegates of the appointing local authority).
6. The responsibility for appointing the trustees passed to RDC in 1974 pursuant to Section 179 of the Local Government Act 1972. At no time were the Bexhill Charter Trustees the appointors of The Bexhill Trust Charity Trustees.
7. The power of appointing trustees did not pass to BTC on 1 April or 10 May 2021 either under the community governance order or the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008.
8. It is open to the Charity Trustees to make a change to the governing document under Section 280 of the Charities Act 2011 to enable BTC to become the appointor of trustees but cannot do so without the consent and agreement of both RDC and BTC. It is understood that a number of current Trustees believe this is a logical step.
9. It is therefore recommended that RDC agrees to the transfer of the power of appointment pursuant to a community governance agreement under Section 99 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the charity trustees under Section 297 of the Charities Act 2011, subject to the formal agreement of The Bexhill Trust. Passing the responsibility for appointing Trustees to BTC will result in a minor reduction in administrative time for RDC.

### **Reserved Appointments / Appointments not required**

10. There are a number of appointments which are reserved for Members holding a certain position within the Council, for example the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homes will be the Council's representative on the Sussex Local General Panel.
11. Those that are reserved in this way are listed at Appendix 2; these appointments are therefore not open for re-appointment and/or nomination but are shown for information and completeness following the appointment of Cabinet Members and allocation of portfolios confirmed by the Leader at the ACM. Substitutes, where appropriate, have also been confirmed by the Leader of the Council. Where an appointment is reserved for the Leader of Council, in practice, this will mean the Leader of the Council or a named replacement in his/her place.
12. Attached at Appendix 3 is a list of the Outside Bodies that do not require an appointment to be made this year as these appointments are of a longer duration – this is therefore for information only.



## **Considerations**

13. In considering each appointment, Members will need to take account of the following:
  - the benefit to the authority that continued membership provides; and
  - the views of the previous Member representative, if available.
14. To aid the Council's deliberations, Member representatives have been asked to submit comments in support or otherwise of the outside bodies to which they were previously appointed; these comments are attached at Appendix 4 for consideration. Any comments received subsequent to the publication of this report will be circulated at the meeting.
15. Where the Council has appointed non-Councillors as its representatives to certain outside bodies, it is confirmed that all are happy to continue to represent the Council in their appointments if that is Members' decision.
16. Members are requested to consider each outside body that requires an appointment and appoint thereto. In the light of any evidence given by the previous representative, either on the night or in writing, the Council may also wish to agree to the removal of any outside body from the current list.

## **Removals from the List**

17. Since appointments to outside bodies were made in June 2020, there have been no removals from the Council's list of approved outside bodies; should the proposal in this report concerning The Bexhill Trust be approved, this outside body will be removed from the list.

## **Additions to the List**

18. Since appointments to outside bodies were made in June 2020, there have been no additions to the Council's list of approved outside bodies.

## **Reports on Outside Bodies**

19. It has previously been agreed that Members appointed to outside bodies are required to produce an annual report (published in the Members' Bulletin) to keep all other Councillors informed of the work of the outside body or bodies to which they had been appointed. No reports have been received from the appointed representatives during the last year, but it is acknowledged that in some cases this is due to the fact that the outside body has not met or the Council's representative has been unable to attend any meetings.
20. A template for reports and timetable will be circulated after the meeting to those Members who represent the Council on outside bodies for reports to be submitted for inclusion in the Members' Bulletin.

## Risk Management

21. Failure to appoint representatives to outside bodies may result in the loss of conduit between the Council and the respective external organisations.

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

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Chief Executive:           | Malcolm Johnston  |
| Report Contact Officer:    | Lisa Cooper, Democratic Services Manager  |
| e-mail address:            | <a href="mailto:lisa.cooper@rother.gov.uk">lisa.cooper@rother.gov.uk</a>  |
| Appendices:                | 1 Appointments Required 2021/22<br>2 Reserved Appointments 2021/22<br>3 No Appointments Required<br>4 Members' Comments |
| Relevant Previous Minutes: | None  |
| Background Papers:         | None  |
| Reference Documents:       | N/A.  |

## APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

| OUTSIDE BODY  | DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2020/21  | APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2021/22  |
|---|---|---|
| Battle Abbey Liaison Group (formerly the Battle Abbey Advisory Group) | Councillor Cook   | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Cook</b>   |
| Bexhill Chamber of Commerce and Tourism                               | Councillor Timpe  | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Timpe</b>  |
| Bexhill Town Forum Executive Committee                                | Councillor Langlands (Substitute: Councillor Drayson)   | One appointment and one substitute appointment required<br><b>Propose Langlands / Drayson (S)</b> |
| Bexhill Trust*  | Councillors J.J. Carroll (May 2021), B.J. Drayson (June 2024), S. Errington (June 2024), & Mayor (R) and Deputy Mayor (R) (ex-officio)<br><br>(Non-Councillors: Azad (May 2021), Kenward (June 2022), Mrs J. Potts (May 2021) and M.R. Watson (May 2021)) | Four appointments required (to replace Carroll, Azad, Potts and Watson)                           |
| Combe Valley Community Interest Company                               | Councillors Brewerton and Byrne   | Two appointments required<br><b>Propose Timpe and Byrne</b>                                       |
| Connecting Hastings and Rother Together, Local Action Group           | Councillor Coleman<br>Substitute: Councillor Courtel  | One appointment and one substitute appointment required<br><b>Propose Coleman / Courtel (S)</b>   |
| Dungeness Power Station Site Stakeholders Group                       | Mr Hoggart (Substitute: Councillor Osborne)   | One appointment and one substitute appointment required<br><b>Propose Hoggart / Osborne (S)</b>   |
| East Sussex Energy, Infrastructure & Development Ltd                  | Councillor Dixon  | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Dixon</b>  |
| East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board                                | Councillor J Barnes   | One appointment required<br><b>Propose J Barnes</b>   |

| OUTSIDE BODY   | DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2020/21  | APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2021/22   |
|--|---|--|
| East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee   | Councillor Mrs Barnes (Substitute Councillor Osborne)   | One appointment and one substitute appointment required (Member of Overview and Scrutiny Committee)<br><b>Propose Mrs Barnes / Osborne (S)</b> |
| Hastings and Bexhill Renaissance Ltd (SeaSpace)  | Councillor Dixon  | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Dixon</b>   |
| Hastings Furniture Service (SLA)   | Councillor Courtel  | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Courtel</b>   |
| Local Government Association – Coastal Issues Special Interest Group   | Councillor Mier   | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Mier</b>  |
| Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board (formerly - Pevensey Levels Internal Drainage Board (Shadow Board)) | Councillor Thomas   | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Thomas</b>  |
| Police & Crime Commissioner Panel (4-year appointment)   | Councillor Drayson (Substitute: Councillors Brewerton and Jeeawon)  | <b>Propose Mier as substitute to replace Brewerton</b>   |
| Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board  | Councillors Mier, Norton, Osborne, Prochak, Mr Hoggart, Mr Lovejoy and Mr Nickerson.  | Seven appointments required<br><b>Propose Mier, Norton, Osborne, Prochak, Mr Hoggart, Mr Lovejoy and Mr Nickerson.</b>                         |
| Romney Marsh Partnership   | Mr Hoggart  | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Hoggart</b>   |
| Rother Voluntary Action (SLA) (4-year appointment)   | Councillor Brewerton (Substitute: Councillor Errington)   | <b>Propose Mrs Cook to replace Brewerton</b>   |
| Rural Rother Trust   | Chairman of Council – Councillor Drayson (R), Vice-Chairman of Council – Councillor Harmer (R), and Councillors Browne, Ganly, Mrs Kirby-Green, Mier and Prochak. | Five appointments required<br><b>Propose Browne, Ganly, Mrs Kirby-Green, Mier and Prochak.</b>   |
| Rye Harbour Nature Reserve   | Mr A.H. Lloyd and Councillor  | Two appointments and   |

| OUTSIDE BODY               | DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2020/21 | APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2021/22  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Management Committee (SLA) | Norton<br>(Substitute: Mr Hoggart) | one substitute appointment required<br><b>Propose Lloyd, Norton / Hoggart (S)</b> |
| Rye Partnership            | Mr Hoggart                         | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Hoggart</b>                                |
| Team East Sussex (TES)     | Councillor Bayliss                 | One appointment required<br><b>Propose Bayliss</b>                                |

**(SLA)** = Voluntary Sector Service Levels Agreements

\*Should the proposal to transfer responsibility for appointing Trustees to Bexhill Town Council be agreed, no appointments required.

**RESERVED APPOINTMENTS (R)**

| <b>OUTSIDE BODY</b>                                  | <b>REPRESENTATIVE(S)<br/>APPOINTED IN 2020/21</b>   | <b>CONFIRMED<br/>APPOINTMENTS<br/>2021/22</b>         |
|--|---|---|
| Action in Rural Sussex (SLA) (R)                     | Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environmental Management – Councillor Field<br>(Substitute: Councillor Prochak)                                  | <b>Field</b><br><b>Substitute: Prochak</b>            |
| 1066 Country Member Liaison Group (R)                | Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture & Tourism – Councillor Timpe  | <b>Timpe</b>  |
| A21 Reference Group (R)                              | Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environmental Management and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Field and Osborne | <b>Field</b><br><b>Osborne</b>                        |
| De La Warr Pavilion (R)                              | Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities Culture and Tourism and Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillors Timpe and Prochak                 | <b>Timpe</b><br><b>Prochak</b>                        |
| District Councils' Network (DCN) (R)                 | Leader of the Council – Councillor Oliver   | <b>Oliver</b>   |
| East Sussex Strategic Partnership (R)                | Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillor Prochak<br>(Substitute: Councillor Oliver)  | <b>Prochak</b><br><b>Substitute: Oliver</b>           |
| Hastings and Rother Task Force (R)                   | Leader of the Council - Councillor Oliver<br>(Substitute: Councillor Prochak)   | <b>Oliver</b><br><b>Substitute: Prochak</b>           |
| High Weald AONB Forum / Joint Advisory Committee (R) | Chairman of the Planning Committee – Councillor Vine-Hall   | <b>Vine-Hall</b>                                      |
| Local Government Association (R)                     | Leader of the Council – Councillor Oliver   | <b>Oliver</b>   |
| Rother Local Strategic Partnership (R)               | Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillor Prochak   | <b>Prochak</b>  |
| South East Employers (R)                             | Chairman of Licensing & General Purposes Committee – Councillor Mier<br>(Substitute: Councillor Coleman)                                      | <b>Mier*</b><br><b>Substitute:</b><br><b>Coleman*</b> |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| The Sussex Local General Panel (formerly known as the AmicusHorizon Area Panel) (R) | Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing & Homes – Councillor Byrne  | <b>Byrne</b>                             |
| Tourism South East (R)  | Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities Culture & Tourism – Councillor Timpe (Substitute: Councillor Dixon) | <b>Timpe</b><br><b>Substitute: Dixon</b> |

**(SLA)** = Voluntary Sector Service Levels Agreements

\*subject to appointment as Committee Chairmen / Vice-Chairman.

## NO APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

| OUTSIDE BODY   | DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2020/21                           | APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2021/22 |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Battle Area Sports Centre Management Committee (4-year appointment)                            | Councillors Cook and Dixon (Substitutes: Curtis and Prochak) | None required                    |
| Bexhill Museum Limited (formerly Society of Bexhill Museums) <b>(SLA)</b> (4-year appointment) | Councillor Thomas (Substitute: Councillor Langlands)         | None required                    |
| Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee (3-year appointments)  | Councillors Norton and Stevens                               | None required                    |
| Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC) <b>(SLA)</b> (4-year appointment)             | Councillor Coleman (Substitute: Councillor Mier)             | None required                    |
| Hastings and Rother Mediation Service <b>(SLA)</b> (4-year appointment)                        | Councillor Thomas (Substitute: Councillor Vine-Hall)         | None required                    |
| Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau <b>(SLA)</b> (4-year appointment)                       | Councillor Gray (Substitute: Councillor Timpe)               | None required                    |
| Rye Sports Centre Advisory Committee (4-year appointment)                                      | Councillors Osborne and Stevens                              | None required                    |
| Safer Rother Partnership (4-year appointment)  | Councillor Drayson   | None required                    |



**Bexhill Chamber of Commerce: Councillor Timpe**

I have not been advised of a meeting since last year but believe that a continued relationship would be useful.

**De La Warr Pavilion: Councillor Prochak**

To have two councillors on the DLW Board of Trustees is a vital link between the Council and the DLW. As you know Rother own the building and it is in our interest to ensure the operation is viable and forward looking. The link has been even more important during the pandemic when the business plan of live music, catering and retail to provide revenue fell apart with lockdown. We were meeting weekly initially and have had regular meetings to understand how the DLW planned staffing and application for funding to see them through. Rother's initial funding support was a life line.

Also although not written in to the appointments' criteria it is of benefit to have a rural and a Bexhill member.

**Hastings Advice and Representation Centre: Councillor Mier (substitute)**

A well-established organisation providing much needed support.

**East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Mrs Barnes**

- Does membership bring a tangible benefit to the Council, yes; to the organisation, yes.
- Level of funding - n/a.
- What does the outside body do? Scrutinises healthcare services in East Sussex.
- Managed by ESCC in partnership with Eastbourne BC, Hastings BC, Lewes DC and Rother DC. There is a representative from each one. We look at health issues and suggest ways of improvement; in short, being a critical friend.
- How many times has it met since you were appointed and when did it last meet? It meets 4 times a year, latterly by Teams. I am also currently on a task and finish group to scrutinise the setting up of Urgent Treatment Centres. The committee normally meets in the Council Chamber at ESCC.
- What level of funding does Rother provide? As far as I know it doesn't make a contribution.
- Is this outside body achieving what it set out to do? Most definitely. Calling senior members of the healthcare providers to account is an essential check on the service they are providing.
- What are the current issues pertinent to this outside body?
  - Making sure the 111 service works efficiently.
  - Increasing the rate of cancer diagnosis.
  - Setting up of the Clinical Assessment Service.
- Detailed proposals to close Eastbourne walk-in centre as part of the changes to urgent care in East Sussex, resulted in a consultation process with users of the service, leading to a recommendation that the walk-in centre should be closed.
- Plans to merge the three CCGs in East Sussex and wider development of an integrated Care System across Sussex has now been given approval by NHS England.
- During the Covid crisis the CCG has provided useful data on how the vaccination programme is progressing in East Sussex and I have forwarded that to RDC.

**LGA Coastal Issues Special Interest Group: Councillor Mier**

I have a clear interest as representing coastal villages, one at risk from sea erosion / landslip and one at risk from sea flooding.

**Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board: Councillor Mier**

Very important. Part of my Ward is within the area of the Board and is near sea level, and at risk of flooding if watercourses not maintained. Other parts of Ward form the catchment area to the Board's area, so mutual interest.

**Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board: Councillor Prochak**

As an appointee to the IDB, I would like to confirm that although at a distance from Bexhill, their work and responsibilities are important to the eastern end of Rother as well as for the non-main river waterways further west.

With the extremes of weather owing to climate change, their work becomes even more challenging.

Just a comment is that I am not sure why we have as many as 4 representatives.

**Rother Rural Trust: Councillor Mier**

A small charity, but very active and providing useful support to those needing one-off support to overcome crises. Trustees regularly asked to comment on grant applications.

**Rother District Council**

|               |   |                                   |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Report to     | - | Council                           |
| Date          | - | 5 July 2021                       |
| Report of the | - | Chief Executive                   |
| Subject       | - | Motion – Age-Friendly Communities |

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**Background**

1. Age-Friendly Communities is a concept developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2006 and its global network now has over 800 members worldwide. In an age-friendly community, services, local groups, businesses and residents all work together to identify and make the necessary changes in both the physical and social environment to support and enable older people to lead healthy and active lives. Working together with Rother Voluntary Action (RVA), East Sussex County Council and the Centre for Ageing Better, the spokesperson for Older Persons, along with interested councillors involved in the Healthy Ageing and Innovation in Rural Europe (HAIRE) Project, have identified the first steps we need to take in developing baseline assessments and an action plan to become age-friendly.
2. Becoming an Age Friendly Community costs nothing in itself, nor is it a commitment to spend funds that are not available. It is a statement of intent to:
  - promote and use positive images and language around ageing;
  - better support people to be physically active;
  - support people through ‘transitions’ in later life that affect their ability to age well (such as becoming a carer, acquiring a long-term health condition, losing mobility, moving home, or being bereaved);
  - promoting and developing opportunities to age well by continuing to be an ‘active citizen’ in Rother in meaningful ways to people; and
  - share the learning of how we have improved the lives of our residents in later life with the global Age Friendly Communities Network.
3. To become officially recognised as age-friendly, the leadership in a town, city or county must make a written commitment to actively work towards becoming a great place to grow old in for all its residents. This must be done with the support and engagement of older people and relevant stakeholders. The HAIRE project has already held hundreds of hours of in-depth conversations with local older people about their lives, needs, and aspirations and we will build and act on this understanding in our journey towards becoming more age-friendly.

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