

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date and Time - **Monday 11 September 2023 – 6:30pm**

Venue - **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea**

Councillors appointed to the Committee:

P.N. Osborne (Chair), Mrs V. Cook (Vice-Chair), J. Barnes (MBE),
Mrs M.L. Barnes, S. Burton, C.A. Clark, B.J. Coupar, C.A. Creaser,
T.M. Killeen (MBE), M.C. Legg, C.R. Maynard and S.B. McGurk.

Substitute Members: F.H. Chowdhury, N. Gordon, P.J. Gray, C. Pearce, J. Stanger

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To authorise the Chair to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 July 2023 as a correct record of proceedings.

2. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTES

The Chair to ask if any Member present is substituting for another Member and, if so, to declare his/her name as substitute Member and the name of the absent Member.

3. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

To consider such other items as the Chair decides are urgent and due notice of which has been given to the Head of Paid Service by 12 Noon on the day of the meeting.

4. 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.

5. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AS AT QUARTER 1 - 2023/24 (Pages 3 - 14)

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For all enquiries – please contact louise.hollingsworth@rother.gov.uk (Tel: 01424 787815)

Rother District Council putting residents at the heart of everything we do.

6. **ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL OWNED / LEASED ACCOMMODATION POLICIES** (Pages 15 - 46)
7. **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH GROUP** (Pages 47 - 52)
8. **RAIL TICKET OFFICE CONSULTATION** (Pages 53 - 56)
9. **WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 57 - 58)

Lorna Ford
Chief Executive

Agenda Despatch Date: 1 September 2023

Rother District Council

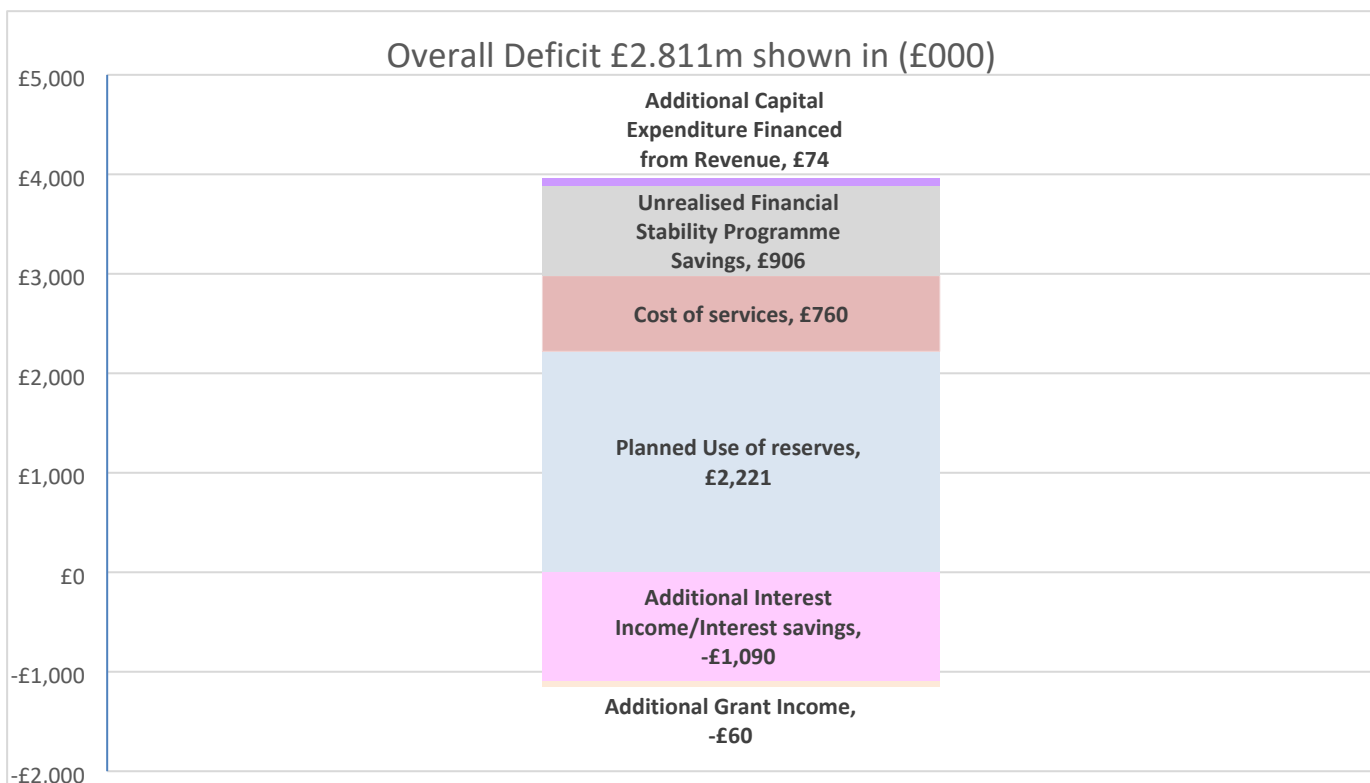
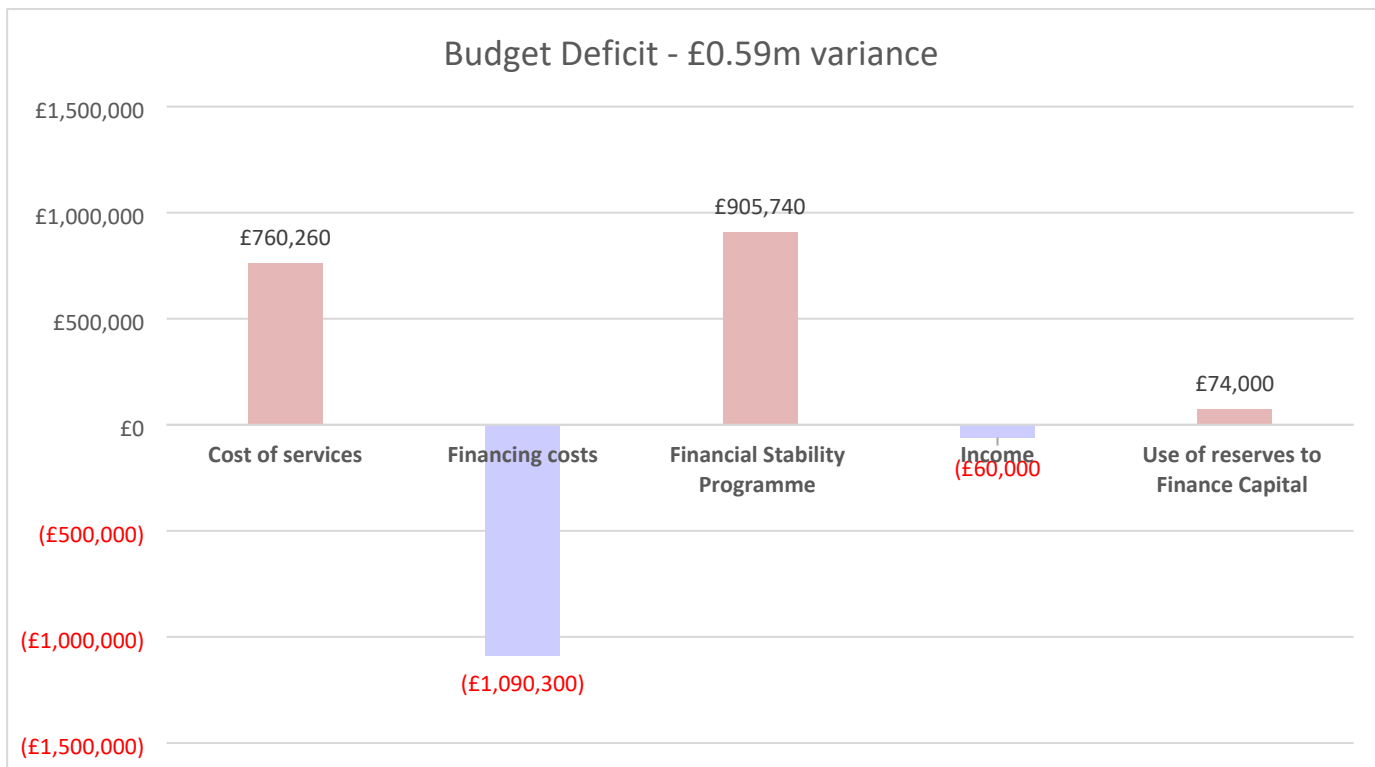
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 September 2023
Title:	Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring as at Quarter 1 - 2023/24
Report of:	Duncan Ellis – Interim S151 Officer
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of Report:	To note the estimated financial outturn for 2023/24 based on expenditure and income to the end of Quarter 1, 30 June 2023.
Officer	
Recommendation(s):	It be RESOLVED : That the report be noted.

Introduction

1. This report updates Members on the Council's financial position as at the 30 June 2023 and projects a provisional outturn for 2023/24. The revenue budget and capital programme statements are summarised in Appendices A and B, respectively. The impact of the forecast on the Council's reserves is summarised in Appendix C. The report also includes a brief update on the Collection Fund performance.
2. The presentation of the revenue budget reflects the revised management reporting structure.
3. Since the detailed budget was approved by Cabinet on the 6 February 2023 a virement has been applied to reflect the internal service restructure, which is reported upon in Appendix A.

Overall position

4. The forecast for the 2023/24 financial year is based on the position as at 30 June 2023 and indicates a deficit position of £2.811m at 31 March 2024, against a budgeted deficit of £2.21m which is a variance of £0.59m. In comparison, we drew down c£1.7m less from reserves in 2022/23. The opportunity remains for action to be taken to address this position to reduce the planned contribution from reserves and realise planned Financial Stability Programme (FSP) savings, both in year and ongoing, to address the financial position of the Council. The graph below shows the breakdown of the forecast variance to budget and the second graph shows the breakdown of the overall deficit.



Revenue Budget

- The revenue budget forecast as at the 30 June 2023 indicates a deficit of £0.516m against the approved budgeted drawdown from Reserves of £2.035m resulting in a forecast reserve drawdown of £2.55m. The position is detailed in Appendix A and the main variances are summarised in paragraphs 6 to 12.

Cost of Services - £760,000 forecast deficit

Chief Executive – forecast Deficit £334,000

6. **Chief Executive** - £43k forecast deficit. The forecast includes an overspend in respect of staffing costs due to severance costs and agency cover for statutory officer posts.
- a. **Chief Finance Officer** – £43k surplus due to capitalisation of staff costs
 - b. **Democratic Services and Elections** - £313k forecast deficit. £243k of the deficit relates to unbudgeted costs of the Council's district elections and a further £60k relates to additional member related costs. The remaining deficit relates to systems and unbudgeted software inflation costs.
 - c. **Human Resources** - £20k forecast deficit. £8k of the deficit is in respect of staffing costs and £10k relates to unrealised anticipated savings on NNDR for the Town Hall with the remaining deficit made up of small amounts on materials etc.

Deputy Chief Executive – forecast Surplus (£62,000)

7. **Deputy Chief Executive** – (£4k) forecast surplus. This is made up of small surpluses on supplies and services.
- a. **Environmental Services, Licencing and Community Safety** – (£15k) forecast surplus. The surplus is due to additional income from fixed penalty notices (£33k) offset by additional salary costs.
 - b. **Revenues and Benefits** – (£73k) forecast surplus. The surplus is due to a large housing benefits overpayment (£40k) and salary savings (£75k) offset by increased systems and data costs of £47k.
 - c. **Internal Audit** – no forecast surplus/deficit.
 - d. **Digital and Customer Services** - £14k forecast deficit. The deficit is due to £9k of additional staffing costs and unbudgeted systems inflation costs of £5k.
 - e. **Corporate Programme and Improvement** - £21 k forecast deficit. This is due to additional staffing costs.
 - f. **Corporate Policy and Projects** – (£5k) forecast surplus. The surplus is due to additional unbudgeted income relating to the community lottery.

Director – Place and Climate Change – forecast Deficit £489,000

8. **Director - Place and Climate Change** - £2k forecast deficit. The deficit relates to additional costs of attendance at conferences.
- a. **Planning Development Management** - £79k forecast deficit. The deficit is due to £159k of additional staffing costs and £53k of additional systems costs offset by unbudgeted surplus income (£134k).
 - b. **Planning Policy** - £63k forecast deficit. The deficit is due to additional staffing costs.
 - c. **Neighbourhood Services** – (£102k) forecast surplus. The surplus is made up of savings on the grounds maintenance contract (£150k) and additional unbudgeted car park income (£200k) offset by additional costs of car park resurfacing works of £45k, unrealised anticipated savings from devolvement of public conveniences to parishes of £140k, outstanding shortfalls on recycling property numbers of £50k and £14k of costs relating to new air pumps at Bexhill Leisure Centre.
 - d. **Climate Change Strategy** - £8k forecast deficit. The deficit is due to additional training costs.
 - e. **Housing** - £400k forecast deficit. The deficit is primarily due to estimated costs of temporary accommodation amounting to £540k reduced by £85k through proposed mitigating measures (see note below). Further costs relating to staffing costs of £85k and council tax on owned empty properties of £14k

offset by unbudgeted income (£122k) relating to recovered DFG administration costs and underspends relating to the UK resettlement programme (£32k).

f. Regeneration - £39k forecast deficit. The deficit is due to £20k of additional staffing costs, £13k of additional maintenance salary costs, £5k of additional repairs costs, £19k of increased costs relating to properties offset by savings (£18k) related to business rates and void properties.

- **Housing – Temporary Accommodation (TA) – deficit £540k**

The forecast deficit in respect of TA of £540k is a significant concern and officers have been reviewing options to address this. The issue is being exacerbated by the amount of rent that the authority can offer private sector landlords – currently between Local Housing Allowance (LHA) levels and 10% below these.

With increasing costs it is not currently viable for landlords to accept our rental offers and it is proposed that payments increase. The table below demonstrates the cost savings to the TA budget should market rent be paid to landlords. The market rent in the below table is the average across Rother. Knowledge of the Private Rented Sector Team and localised market rents for each area would inform the offer to landlords without exceeding the market rent for Rother. The average monthly saving per household would be £1,025. Checks would be carried out to ensure landlords had not evicted previous tenants to access to this scheme and property checks under Housing Health and Safety Rating System would be carried out.

Bedrooms	Market Rent (pcm)	Current cost to RDC of 3 rd party TA (cost minus HB recovery, pcm)	Cost to council if market rent paid to owner (pcm)	Saving in TA costs (pcm, per placement)
1	£690	£1,411.28	£372.54	(£1,038.74)
2	£875	£1,515.25	£432.89	(£1,082.36)
3	£1150	£1,523.27	£584.39	(£938.88)
4	£1650	£2,043.50	£1,001.90	(£1,041.60)

If 15 properties were secured this would create a net annual saving of £169,125 (allowing one month void period for each property over a year). Given the position in the year it is anticipated that 50% of the net annual saving could be realised in 2023/24 reducing the deficit of £540k to £455k.

Should this proposal be agreed the impact on the forecast deficit position will be a reduction of (£85k) – this saving has been assumed in the overall forecast position (see appendix A).

Net Financing Costs – forecast Surplus (£1,090,000)

9. The budget was calculated on the assumption that the pace of the Council's capital programme would accelerate significantly once lockdown had finished. The interest due to be paid is lower than expected by (£470k) and the MRP is expected to be £291k higher than anticipated. Members should note that Financing costs will be subject to a detailed review of the capital programme for affordability. The review will be crucial in determining future programme

deliverability, particularly in view of high inflation and recently increasing interest rates.

10. Interest income from investments is expected to yield an additional (£710,000) due to the interest rate increases since the budget was calculated. Further increases in the Bank of England base rate are likely to see these rates climb slightly further during 2023/24.
11. The budgeted contingency is shown as a surplus for the purposes of the report.

Financial Stability Programme – forecast Deficit £906,000

12. A number of small savings are being forecast by the end of the financial year, currently driven mainly by Neighbourhood Services and IT, but more are being sought to be delivered on the planned savings budget and need to be confirmed by budget holders in Quarter 2. Members will receive a financial update in the early autumn committee reporting cycle with a plan to address Financial Stability Programme forecasts for 2023/24 and for the following years of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Income – forecast Surplus (£60,000)

13. Since the budget was approved the Council have received several small grants totalling £60,000 from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. The largest sum is a New Burdens grant of £34,000.

Capital Programme

14. The Capital Programme comprises a range of strategic projects that span more than one year and many operate for several years or have recurrent investments. Projects that have not spent all their allocation in the year of inception have the remaining funding carried forward into future financial years, profiled based on the anticipated expenditure for the project. The Interim S151 Officer is working with Heads of Service and elected Members to undertake a fundamental review of capital schemes which currently amount to more than £155m as reported in the 2022/23 outturn report. The table below shows the profiling of the capital programme as forecast as at 30 June 2023:

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Expenditure	27,696	68,045	23,503	8,694	28,183	156,121
Funded by:						
Capital Receipts	2,974	117	0	0	0	3,091
Grants & contributions	9,752	6,615	14,927	7,589	1,625	40,508
CIL	513	1,484	1,321	850	0	4,168
Borrowing	8,998	20,699	125	125	125	30,072
Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	260	130	130	130	130	780
Borrowing & Loan for RDC Housing Company Ltd	5,000	39,000	7,000	0	26,303	77,302
Section 106	200	0	0	0	0	200
Total	27,697	68,045	23,503	8,694	28,183	156,121

15. Appendix B shows the original budget approved by Cabinet on the 6 February 2023 updated for the outturn position as at 31 March 2023, new projects during Q1, scheme budget additions and reductions and re-profiling of anticipated expenditure over the MTFs period. The actuals figures represent expenditure (£2.4m – 8% of revised 2023/24 budget) incurred during the first 3 months of this financial year and the resulting variance is shown against the revised budget. At the time of writing a further £0.66m has been spent on capital projects
16. The revised 2023/24 budgets have been derived from reviewing the project cashflows and assessing the expected position at this time. Up to £27.7m is forecast to be spent in this financial year. During quarter 1 the following budget increases/decreases were applied to the capital programme:

Scheme	Increase £(000)	(Decrease) £(000)	Revised overall budget £(000)	Reason for change
De La Warr Pavilion Project	885		24,098	Inflation and cost increases
Heart of Sidley Programme	406		3,099	Inflation and cost increases
Bexhill Leisure Centre refurbishment	60		200	Capital investment in site
PIS - Beeching Park Estate		(22)	428	Project complete – no further spend
PIS - Buckhurst Place		(318)	10,182	Project complete – no further spend
Bexhill Promenade - Protective Barriers		(2)	48	Project complete – no further spend
Housing - Temporary Accommodation Purchase		(550)	17,644	Borrowing revised
Housing - Temporary Accommodation Purchase	195			Additional grant monies
Bexhill Promenade - Shelter 1		(12)	59	Project complete – no further spend
Total Scheme increases/(decreases)	1,546	(904)		
Funding				
Grants and contributions	1,486			
Borrowing		(904)		
Capital Receipts	60			
Total Funding increases/(decreases)	1,546	(904)		

The De La Warr Pavilion and Heart of Sidley scheme increases proposed are to take account of inflation and general cost increases since the original scheme values were calculated. It is anticipated that that these additional costs will be grant funded, albeit unsecured at this point, rather than an additional pressure on the Council's funding.

Impact on Reserves

17. The forecast impact on Reserves is a drawdown of £2.551m for revenue, which is £0.516m higher than the planned use of £2.035m and £0.260m for capital which is £74k higher than the planned use of reserves. Whilst the overall level of reserves is higher than budgeted this is due to lower use of reserves in 2022/23, resulting in higher than anticipated levels being brought forward into 2023/24. The additional forecast use of reserves will deplete these to £10m, although it should be noted that £3.7m of this relates to the Grants Reserve (see Appendix C).

Collection Fund

18. The collection rate as at the 30 June 2023 for the Council Tax part of the Collection Fund was 30.02% of the collectable debit, which is 0.21% higher than the corresponding figure in 2022/23. The budgeted yield is 30.65%, which is 0.3% lower than the same period in 2022/23. Collection performance is shown below:

	2023/2024	Equivalent Period 2022/2023
Income Received	£91,520,847.15	£86,307,494.22
Income Received as a % of collectable debit	30.02%	29.81%
Budgeted yield (at 98.3% collection)	£89,626,816.94	£84,513,438.24
Income Received as a % of budgeted yield	30.65%	30.45%

19. The collection rate as at the 30 June 2023 for the Business Rates part of the Collection Fund was 29.38% of the collectable debit, which is 0.11% higher than the corresponding figure in 2022/23. Collection performance is shown below:

	2023/2024	Equivalent Period 2022/2023
Collectable debit	£17,010,648.28	£17,721,864.63
Income Received	£4,997,899.91	£5,186,524.73
Income Received as a % of collectable debit	29.38%	29.27%
Amount outstanding for year	£12,012,748.37	£12,535,339.90

20. Collection rates have held up well despite the squeeze on finances following the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Current economic situation may well lead to a decline in future collection rates, which will have an adverse impact on the income that the Council receives from Council Tax and Business Rates.

Conclusion

21. The forecast outturn at Quarter 1 2023/24 is a deficit of £2.811 million, which is £0.59m higher than the approved planned use of Reserves. The Interim S151 Officer will work closely with Heads of Services and Members to reduce areas of overspend and the impact on reserves.
22. The Council's capital programme is forecast to outturn at £27.7m with £8.2m being re-profiled into future years of the MTFs based on the anticipated timing of the expenditure.

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

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Appendices:	Appendix A Revenue Budget Forecast Appendix B Capital Programme Forecast Appendix C Reserves
Relevant Previous Minutes:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Reference Documents:	None.

Revenue Budget 2023/24 Forecast as at the 30 June 2023

Line	Rother District Council General Fund Summary	Original 2023/24 Budget £ (000)	Revised Budget 23/24 Q1 £ (000)	23/24 Q1 Actual £ (000)	2023/24 Q1 Forecast £ (000)	2023/24 Q1 Variance £ (000)
1	Deputy Chief Executive	331	331	11	327	(4)
1a	Environmental Services, Licensing & Community Safety	676	676	252	661	(15)
1b	Revenues & Benefits	1,308	1,308	1,868	1,235	(73)
1c	Internal Audit	165	165	43	165	(0)
1d	Digital & Customer Services	1,899	1,899	297	1,913	14
1e	Corporate Programme & Improvement	94	94	25	115	21
1f	Corporate Policy & Projects	402	402	149	397	(5)
2	Chief Executive	354	354	121	397	43
2a	Chief Finance Officer	1,483	1,483	392	1,440	(43)
2b	Democratic Services	652	652	461	965	313
2c	Human Resources Services	512	512	198	532	20
3	Director Place and Climate Change	115	115	32	117	2
3a	Planning Development Management	658	658	30	737	79
3b	Planning Policy	471	471	285	534	63
3c	Neighbourhood Services	5,942	5,942	616	5,840	(102)
3d	Climate Change Strategy	71	71	9	79	8
3e	Housing	2,607	2,607	483	3,007	400
3f	Regeneration	(873)	(873)	(694)	(834)	39
4	Total Cost of Services	16,867	16,867	4,580	17,627	760
5	Interest from Investments	(586)	(586)	(228)	(1,296)	(710)
6	MRP	224	224	0	515	291
7	Interest payments	1,106	1,106	228	635	(471)
8	Budget Contingency	200	200	0	0	(200)
9	Salaries turnover	0	0	0	0	0
10	(i) Increase income - Property Investment Strategy					
11	(ii) Increase income (net) - other	(69)	(69)	0	0	69
12	(iii) Lean and Demand	(180)	(180)	0	0	180
13	(iv) Service Prioritisation	(762)	(762)	0	(200)	562
14	(v) Reduced Staffing Structure	(95)	(95)	0	0	95
15	Net Cost of Services	16,705	16,705	4,580	17,281	576
	Income					
16	Special Expenses	(751)	(751)	0	(751)	0
17	Net Business Rates and Section 31 Grants	(4,699)	(4,699)	0	(4,699)	0
18	Non-specific Revenue Grants	(1,570)	(1,570)	0	(1,630)	(60)
19	Council Tax Requirement (Rother only)	(7,650)	(7,650)	0	(7,650)	0
20	Other Financing Contributions to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	186	186	0	260	74
21	Total Income	(14,484)	(14,484)	0	(14,470)	14
22	Contributions from Reserves/Funding Gap	(2,221)	(2,221)	0	2,811	590

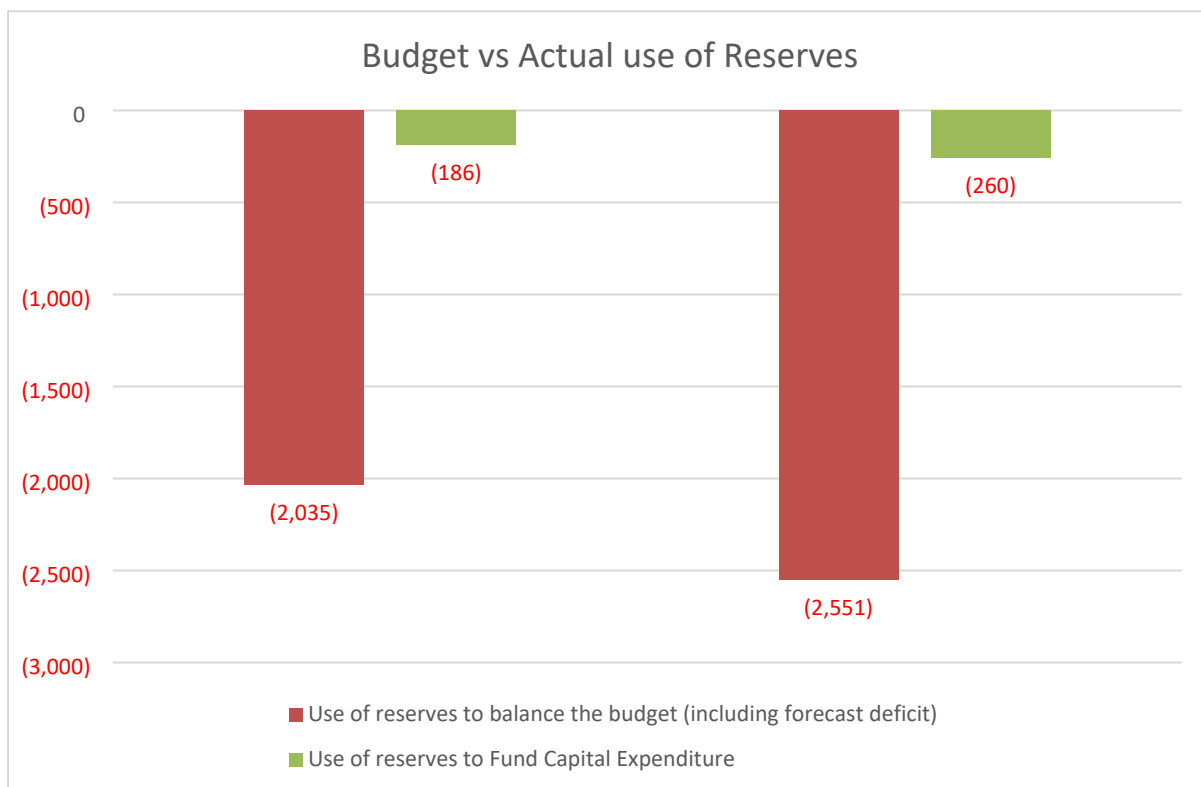
Capital Programme 2023/24 Forecast as at the 30 June 2023

	Total scheme budget At 22/23 Outturn	Prior year spend	Total scheme budget increases/ (decreases) in Q1 23/24	Remaining scheme budget	2023/24 Q1 Budget Re profiles	Budgets profiled into 24/25- 27/28	2023/24 Budget Updated	2023/24 Q1 Actual	2023/24 Q1 Variance	
	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	
Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration										
Other Schemes										
Corporate Document Image Processing System	120	33	0	87	0	0	87	0	(87)	
Rother Transformation ICT Investment	386	269	0	117	0	0	117	0	(117)	
Community Grants	1,416	636	0	780	0	520	260	18	(242)	
Development of Town Hall Bexhill	856	856	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Ravenside Roundabout	200	0	0	200	(200)	200	0	0	0	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	131	0	0	131	0	0	131	0	(131)	
CIL Scheme 1 Village Hall Energy Project	500	17	0	483	(116)	141	342	0	(342)	Re-profile into 24/25
Property Investment Strategy										
Beeching Road Hotel and Foodstore Development	15,000	396	0	14,604	(2,500)	14,500	104	6	(98)	Minimal spend in 23/24 - re-profiled into 24/25
PIS - Beeching Park Estate	450	0	(22)	428	0	0	428	428	(0)	Scheme spend complete
PIS - Beeching Road 18-40 (Creative Workspace)	1,235	1,235	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	
Barnhorn Green GP Surgery and Industrial Development	9,741	1,486	0	8,255	0	4,942	3,313	107	(3,206)	
PIS - Buckhurst Place	10,500	10,182	(318)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Scheme spend complete
Housing Development Schemes										
Community Led Housing Scheme - CHF	327	327	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Blackfriars Housing Development - infrastructure only	11,500	6,416	0	5,084	0	0	5,084	671	(4,413)	
RDC Housing Company Ltd Investment	79,923	2,620	0	77,303	(2,000)	72,303	5,000	0	(5,000)	Re-profile into 24/25
Development of council owned sites	270	57	0	213	0	0	213	0	(213)	
King Ofa Residential scheme	805	146	0	659	-300	300	359	19	(340)	Re-profile into 24/25
Mount View Street Development - Housing	4,493	4,493	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	
Community Led Housing Schemes - Cemetery Lodge	200	0	0	200	0	0	200	0	(200)	
Camber, Old Lydd Road	369	27	0	342	-202	202	140	3	(138)	Re-profile into 24/25
Housing and Community Services										
De La Warr Pavilion - Capital Grant	388	275	0	113	0	57	56	15	(41)	
Bexhill Leisure Centre - site development	396	318	0	78	0	0	78	0	(78)	
Fairlight Coastal Protection	291	74	0	217	0	150	67	0	(67)	
Disabled Facilities Grant	14,223	6,098	0	8,125	0	6,500	1,625	381	(1,244)	
Sidley Sports and Recreation	857	857	0	0	0	0	0	(12)	(13)	
New bins	1,153	518	0	635	0	500	135	0	(135)	
Bexhill Promenade - Protective Barriers	50	48	(2)	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	No further spend anticipated
Housing - Temporary Accommodation Purchase	12,830	5,364	(355)	7,112	0	750	6,362	657	(5,705)	Borrowing element overstated - adjusted to re-align
Bexhill Promenade - Shelter 1	71	59	(12)	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	No further spend anticipated
Bexhill Promenade - Outfall pipe	200	9	0	191	0	0	191	0	(191)	
Bexhill Leisure Centre - refurbishment	140	110	60	90	0	60	30	0	(30)	Additional capital investment
Capital - Sidley House Open Space Improvements - Parks LUF	75	4	0	71	0	0	71	1	(70)	
Pebsham Toilets	54	0	0	54	0	0	54	0	(54)	
Camber Conveniences	1,012	0	0	1,012	(943)	943	69	0	(69)	CIL element re-profiled into 24/25
Strategy & Planning										
Payments to Parishes - CIL	211	40	0	171	0	0	171	0	(171)	
Resources										
ICT Infrastructure Replacement Programme	137	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	
New website development	31	23	0	8	0	0	8	0	(8)	
Invest To Save initiatives (Financial Stability Prog)	750	45	0	705	0	0	705	0	(705)	
LUF De La Warr Pavilion Project LUF Grant	23,203	9	885	24,079	(539)	22,058	2,021	12	(2,009)	Revised cost predictions and spend re-profiled
Capital - LUF Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25	
LUF Heart of Sidley Programme	2,692	2	406	3,096	83	2,825	271	6	(265)	Revised cost predictions and spend re-profiled
Battle Train Station	1,000	0	0	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	0	0	0	Re-profiled into 25/26
Seddlescombe Traffic Calming Measured	74	0	0	74	(74)	74	0	0	0	Re-profiled into 25/26
Battle Sports Pavilion	400	0	0	400	(400)	400	0	0	0	Re-profiled into 24/25
Total Capital Programme	205,697	50,218	642	156,121	(8,191)	128,425	27,696	2,338	(25,359)	
								8%		
Funded By:										
Capital Receipts	3,192	1,092		2,100	0	117	2,974			
Grants and contributions	55,280	16,011	1,486	40,755	374	30,756	9,752			
CIL	3,978	57		3,921	(3,683)	3,655	513			
Borrowing	60,360	29,384	(904)	30,072	(2,882)	21,074	8,998			
Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	2,764	1,054	60	1,770	0	520	260			
Borrowing and Loan for Rother DC Housing Company Ltd	79,923	2,620		77,303	(2,000)	72,303	5,000			
Section 106	200	0		200	0	0	200			
Total Funding	205,697	50,218	642	156,121	(8,191)	128,425	27,696			

Reserves

Reserves forecast	2023/24 Budget	Q1 Forecast	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Opening Balance	7,528	12,828	5,300
Use of reserves to balance the budget (including forecast deficit)	(2,035)	(2,551)	(516)
Use of reserves to Fund Capital Expenditure	(186)	(260)	(74)
Forecast balance	5,307	10,017	4,710

*As per draft 2022/23 Outturn (of which £3.7m relates to the Grants Reserve)



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Rother District Council

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 September 2023
Title:	Rother District Council Owned / Leased Accommodation Policies
Report of:	Joe Powell, Head of Housing and Regeneration
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of Report:	to propose the implementation of the Rother District Council owned / leased accommodation policies

Officer Recommendation(s): It be **RESOLVED**: That the following Rother District Council Owned / Leased Accommodation Policies be recommended to Cabinet and full Council for adoption:

- Unacceptable Behaviour Policy;
- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy;
- Recharge Policy;
- Compensation Policy;
- Domestic Abuse Policy; and
- Window Restrictors Policy.

Introduction

1. In 2020, Rother District Council (RDC) became a Registered Provider (RP) of accommodation. Thus far, we have 33 units of accommodation that we own and one unit of accommodation that we lease and manage. The number of units of accommodation we own and lease is set to rise further as we increase the scale of the Temporary Accommodation Support Scheme (TASS) and leasing scheme. We currently have offers on 11 houses in Bexhill and one flat in Rye.
2. As a RP, we must ensure we have a suite of policies in relation to our accommodation, tenants and staff/contractors, in order to comply with Housing Ombudsman, Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 and our duties as a landlord.
3. The policies apply to RDC tenants of temporary accommodation (TA) and leased properties only. The six named policies listed above will apply to all activity undertaken by Council staff or contractors that may be involved in property management and support of tenants. The policies can be read in full at Appendices A-F.
4. A further suite of policies will be brought forward for approval next year that will focus on Health and Safety at our properties, in order to comply with the new Social Housing (Regulation) Act and those aspects that come into force in 2024.

Background

5. The Housing Ombudsman has undergone some significant changes since its introduction in July 2020. From April 2022, they updated their Complaint Handling Code to strengthen a positive complaint handling culture. Although this code is focused on complaints, as part of the self-assessment that we complete for the Housing Ombudsman we need to have an unacceptable behaviour policy (see Appendix A).
6. RPs have a responsibility to prevent anti-social behaviour by keeping the neighbourhood and communal areas under their control safe and clean. Landlords should make it easy for tenants to report anti-social behaviour (ASB), take complaints seriously and act professionally. We have to also publish documents that set out the types of behaviours that can be tackled – we have set this out in the ASB Policy (Appendix B).
7. Damage to property is often associated with anti-social behaviour. While the Council has only experienced two cases of minor damage to property since we became a RP in 2020, the more we increase our stock, the risk of damage to property may increase. When incidents of damage to property occur, we require a means of recouping the associated costs to the Council, we can better achieve this through a formalised Recharge Policy (Appendix C).
8. We aim to provide a good quality service to all our customers. However, where we fall short of meeting these standards and commitments, we will take action to put this right as quickly as possible. When putting the situation right and apologising is not sufficient, we will consider offering compensation. The compensation we offer should restore the person to the position they would be in had the service failure not occurred. The Compensation Policy sets out our approach to this (Appendix D).
9. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on Local Authorities to ensure they offer safe accommodation to those at risk of domestic abuse. Refuge is not a solution to housing families while awaiting suitable long-term accommodation through private rented or social housing. The majority of refuge accommodation within East Sussex is shared facilities. Our properties, although not staffed permanently, have staff on hand to support customers. We also make property adaptations to support those at risk of domestic abuse and enhance the security. This Policy (Appendix E) is designed to formalise our approach.
10. The Health and Safety Executive advises that where assessment identifies that people are at risk of falling from windows at a height likely to cause harm, then suitable precautions must be taken. RDC have installed restrictors on all windows on first floor and above, and on ground floor windows where the drop is more than the average ground floor drop and the surface is hard. All tenants will be given the window restrictor policy (Appendix F) at their initial tenancy sign up.

Conclusion

11. It is a requirement of the Housing Ombudsman, Social Housing (Regulation) 2023 and Domestic Abuse Act 2021 that we have the above listed policies adopted and we recommend that Members approve these.

Equalities and Diversity

12. An equality impact assessment has been completed for each policy.

Financial Implications

13. If we are found to be in breach of the Complaints Handling Code or Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023, RDC could be prosecuted, which is likely to include a significant fine and may impact on future funding bids.

Legal Implications

14. All bodies registered with the Regulator for Social Housing must be in the Ombudsman's jurisdiction by effect of the 1996 Housing Act and 2011 Localism Act. Through having this membership, RDC is held accountable and if we do not follow our policies then compensation may be requested by Ombudsman or Regulator of Social Housing to our tenants.

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

Chief Executive:	Lorna Ford
Report Contact Officer:	Joe Powell
e-mail address:	Joe.powell@rother.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A - Unacceptable Behaviour Policy Appendix B - Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Appendix C - Recharge Policy Appendix D - Compensation Policy Appendix E - Domestic Abuse Policy Appendix F - Window Restrictors Policy
Relevant previous Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None

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Rother Owned/Leased Accommodation

Unacceptable Behaviour Policy

1. **Aims**

This policy sets out the Council's approach to managing unacceptable behaviour from their tenants towards Rother District Council staff and their contractors. It informs our tenants of what the Council considers unacceptable and of the actions that can be taken.

2. **Scope**

This policy applies to anyone living in a property owned or managed by Rother District Council.

This policy covers behaviour exhibited on all types of communication including:

- Letter
- Telephone
- Email
- Social media
- In person

We manage incidents of unacceptable behaviour between residents or their visitors through our anti-social behaviour policy and processes.

3. **How we define unacceptable behaviour**

We understand that in times of trouble or distress people may act out of character. We do not view behaviour as unacceptable just because an individual is assertive or determined in their approach to us. Behaviour may become unacceptable if it causes distress to Council officers or becomes so demanding or persistent that it places unreasonable demands on the Council and impacts on the level of service that can be offered to other tenants. It is these actions that we aim to manage under this Policy.

Unacceptable behaviour can be as follows:

- **Aggressive or Abusive behaviour**
Aggression is not limited to acts that may result in physical harm. It also includes behaviour or language that may cause colleagues to feel afraid, threatened, or abused.

Examples of aggressive behaviour include but are not limited to:

Threats, shouting, physical violence, personal abuse, derogatory remarks, rudeness and unsubstantiated allegations against staff

- **Unreasonable demands**
Demands become unreasonable when they start to have a negative impact on the work of the Council. This may be due to a variety of reasons, but examples include: the amount of information that is asked for or the nature and scale of service expected.
- **Unreasonable persistence/repeated contact**

Unreasonable persistence is where despite our reasonable attempts to resolve a matter, the resident continues to make repeated contact about the same issue and/or persistently refuses to accept the outcome of a decision or is seeking an outcome which we are unable to give for policy, legal or other valid reasons.

The way in which these tenants approach us may be entirely reasonable, but their persistent behaviour in continuing to do so is not.

Examples of this type of behaviour include but are not limited to:

- Demanding to only deal with, or unreasonably refusing to deal with, a particular colleague
- Asking for responses within an unreasonable time period
- Making unfounded complaints or requests for repairs
- Continual phone calls, letters, or emails to colleagues (or any other type of communication)
- Persistently approaching us through different routes, and to different colleagues, about the same issue.

4. How we will manage unacceptable behaviour

Each case of unacceptable behaviour will be considered on an individual basis. The Council recognises that in some cases such behaviour may be unintentional and what amounts to unacceptable demands will depend on the circumstances surrounding the particular issue(s) and the behaviour exhibited by the tenant.

There are a variety of options that the Council might consider using depending on the circumstances of the case. Officers will advise the tenant(s) that their behaviour is considered unacceptable together with the reasons why, so that they have the opportunity to reflect and amend their behaviour. Should the negative behaviour continue, officers will determine the course of action that is considered appropriate for the circumstance which may include putting in place restrictions. In implementing this course of action, the tenant will be advised in writing of what course of action we have determined as necessary, how long any restrictions may last for and how to appeal our decision.

A decision to exercise any sanction under this policy will usually be taken by the Head of Housing and Regeneration. Actions that may be taken include, but are not limited to:

- restricting times when we will accept telephone calls from a tenant to particular days and/or times;
- limiting communication to one type of contact (e.g. email);
- limiting contact to one particular member of staff;
- replying on a scheduled basis, for example responding once every 20 working days to any legitimate issues raised;
- entering into an agreement regarding the tenant's future behaviour before continuing with their enquiry/complaint or to provide services to them;
- placing the tenant on the Council's 'Customer of Concern' database;
- applying a "warning flag" on the service user's electronic record to classify them as using unacceptable behaviour;

- maintaining contact through someone who is independent of both the Council and the tenant;
- banning or restricting the tenant from entering the Council offices for a defined period;
- closing communication with the tenant on a specific issue where a complaint has been closed or unreasonable demands or persistence on a specific matter continues;
- reading and filing correspondence which will only be acknowledged or responded to if appropriate to do so (e.g. where new legitimate issues arise); and
- use of legal remedies to tackle anti-social, threatening or abusive behaviour towards staff or Council property.

The tenant will be advised of how long any action will remain in place. The length will depend upon the particular circumstances of the case but will be anywhere from three to twelve months, which may be extended should the situation continue.

Should the behaviour threaten the personal safety of staff, our contractors or our tenants or the individual we are trying to interact with, prior warning will not be provided. Should the behaviour become extreme, we may consider it necessary to report the matter to the Police or other relevant authorities. If we take any action to manage the unacceptable behaviour as listed, a tenant may appeal against this decision using the Formal Complaints Procedure for Rother District Council tenants.

5. Reasonable Adjustments

We understand that some of our tenants may have disabilities which may make it difficult for them to express themselves or communicate clearly, especially when they are anxious or upset. We also recognise that some disabilities can make it difficult for tenants to assess the impact that their behaviour might have on other people.

We will always consider making reasonable adjustments for a disabled tenant, based on evidence of the disability and will seek further advice from professionals involved in the tenant's care, if we are asked to do so. For example, we could consider using different methods of communication, or agree to give clear warnings when we feel that a tenant's behaviour is unacceptable so that they have the opportunity to change it.

However, we would not consider it to be reasonable to expect our staff or contractors to accept being subjected to aggressive, offensive or abusive actions, language or behaviour. Even if a tenant has a disability, we may still use the policy if there are actions or behaviours which are having a negative effect on our staff or our work.

Where a tenant needs to be represented by a third party (for example a family member or support worker), such provisions will be accepted with written consent from the tenant. The same provisions contained within this policy relating to acceptable behaviour will also apply to the advocate.

6. **Review**

We will carry out a review of this policy every three years or sooner, subject to any legal, regulatory or internal changes. We will consult and involve our tenants at these reviews through satisfaction surveys and feedback groups.

7. **Data Protection**

Rother District Council collects, holds and uses a considerable amount of information, including personal data, so that it can provide its services to you. Rother District Council is fully committed to protecting your personal data. You can find a copy of our Privacy Policy at www.rother.gov.uk/data-protection-and-foi/privacy-policy/

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Rother Owned/Leased Accommodation

Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

1. **Aims**

Rother District Council (RDC) are committed to preventing, tackling and managing anti-social behaviour (ASB), at properties they own and lease, in line with the Housing Regulator's Neighbourhood and Community Standard.

RDC have a duty, as the landlord, under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 to respond to ASB in an effective and efficient manner at properties they manage. Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, we also have additional powers to take action against those causing ASB.

2. **Scope**

This policy applies to anyone living in a property owned or managed by RDC.

3. **Definition of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

Anti-Social Behaviour is described in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as:

'Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person. Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises. Or conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.'

4. **Objectives**

Our core objectives include:

- Making people feel safer
- Preventing offending by children and young people
- Reducing adult re-offending
- Take a balanced approach to manage ASB cases
- Developing community cohesion
- Reducing crimes of all types
- Reducing the harm caused by children and young people
- Be fair and proportionate in any action taken
- Work in partnership with other agencies
- Send a clear message that we do not tolerate any form of intimidation, harassment, discrimination or victimisation because of a person's age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin or religion

5. **Reporting ASB**

RDC tenants, or people affected by their behaviour, can report ASB directly to RDC housing staff. Reports can be made via phone, in writing or in person. We will not disclose the details of those making a complaint about ASB to the alleged perpetrator, without prior consent.

When you report ASB, we will consider your needs and the harm the ASB causes you and others. We will consider the risks to you and work with other agencies to protect your immediate safety, provide you with support, investigate the ASB and take action to stop further incidents.

6. **What action will we take to deal with ASB?**

We will work in partnership with a wide range of agencies such as Police, Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Environmental Health. We will use a wide range of preventative measures, early interventions and legal action to tackle ASB.

The actions we may take are proportionate to the following:

- Seriousness, impact and frequency of the behaviour
- Level of risk the ASB poses
- Evidence available to support the case

Where a tenant causing ASB needs additional support, we will take reasonable steps to help them access that support. Their needs will be assessed against the impact of their behaviour on others.

If the tenant is housed for temporary accommodation (TA) purposes, any eviction as a result of ASB will be investigated by the Housing Needs Team. As a result of this investigation, this could result in the Duty the Council has to provide both TA and the final offer of accommodation being ended.

7. **Recording and Monitoring**

The Housing Solutions team hold a database where they maintain records of anti-social behaviour, harassment and intimidation. All information is confidential.

8. **Review**

We will carry out a review of this policy every three years or sooner, subject to any legal, regulatory or internal changes. We will consult and involve our tenants at these reviews through satisfaction surveys and feedback groups.

9. **Data Protection**

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Rother Owned/Leased Accommodation

Recharge Policy

1. **Aims**

This Policy sets out our approach to charging residents for repairs and related costs they are responsible for. It describes:

- When we will charge for repairs
- How we will charge for repairs
- What happens if residents do not pay recharges
- What residents can do if they are not happy with a charge

2. **Scope**

This policy covers all residential properties owned or managed by Rother District Council (RDC).

We will not tolerate malicious or intentional damage to property and promote a responsible attitude by our residents. Tenants are responsible for any accidental or deliberate damage caused by members of their household or any visitors (including children). We ensure that tenants are aware of their responsibilities when they sign their occupancy agreement. We encourage them to have contents insurance to cover accidental damage to the property.

3. **When we will charge for repairs**

We will charge for repairs when they are:

- Tenant responsibility (as detailed in their tenancy agreement and our Responsive Repairs Policy)
- The result of damage caused by the tenant, other household members or a visitor (whether deliberate, accidental or through negligence)
- Repairs that the tenant has carried out which are not to the required standard

We will charge when the works needed are the tenant's responsibility or there is deliberate damage. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Repairs due to damage or misuse: when works are due to damage or misuse by the tenant, their family or friends to fixtures or fittings in your home or communal areas. The damage can be accidental or deliberate. Examples of some communal fixtures and fittings are intercoms, windows, doors, walls, footpaths, waste pipes and lights
- Vandalism: works to rectify vandalism damage where an individual admits causing the damage or is prosecuted by the Courts
- Alterations: if you carry out improvement works not of an acceptable standard we will rectify the work ensuring the health and safety of residents and the property
- Alterations where you have not asked our permission
- Garden and property clearance when tenancy ended: gardens and communal areas should be kept clear and tidy. Properties should be left empty, including the loft space. We will recharge you for the costs of removing and storing anything left in a property or garden

- Clearing, cleaning and repairing a filthy or verminous property: terms are defined under the Public Health Act 1936 (Section 83 as amended by section 35 of the Public Health Act 1961)
- Damage to furnishings supplied by RDC

We may not charge you in exceptional circumstances, including:

- Where damage is criminal, caused either by an unknown person or in situations of domestic abuse, or harassment
- Where damage is found following the end of a tenancy and it is considered insensitive or inappropriate to pursue the former resident or their next of kin for the charges. For example, where residents have been moved into hospital, residential care, or they have died

4. How will we charge for repairs

When a tenant reports a repair to us, we will let them know who is responsible wherever possible. If it is RDC or another relevant landlord, we will follow the Responsive Repairs Policy to get the work done. If it is an emergency or your tenancy has ended, we will carry out the works and recharge the costs to you.

If it is something the tenant is responsible for, we will instruct a contractor, or use in-house maintenance where possible. Depending on cost, we may need to obtain a number of quotes, and a contractor instructed as per RDC's procurement requirements. We will notify the tenant, at the earliest we can, of the price and ask them how they would want to pay. We can accept full payment within 28 days, or we can agree a payment plan if they let us know they need to spread the cost.

5. What if the recharge is not paid

If the recharge is not paid, we will:

- Look to recover the debt in line with our Debt Management Policy
- Take court action
- Not agree a transfer while money is owed for a repair (except urgent moves)

6. Appealing a recharge

If the tenant feels they should be exempt from a recharge, they can ask us to review their case. We will review the reasons for a recharge. We will not consider altering the amount we are recharging you. A senior manager (determined by the nature of the recharge) will consider your case and let you know their decision within 10 working days.

7. Review

We will carry out a review of this policy every three years or sooner, subject to any legal, regulatory or internal changes. We will consult and involve our tenants at these reviews through satisfaction surveys and feedback groups.

8. **Data Protection**

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Rother Owned/Leased Accommodation

Compensation Policy

1. **Aims**

This Policy outlines when we can award compensation to our customers, including:

- Residents
- People who live close to, or are affected by, a property we own or manage

2. **Scope**

We aim to provide a good quality service to all our customers. When we fail to meet these standards and commitments, we will take action to put this right as quickly as possible. When putting the situation right and apologising is not sufficient, we will consider offering compensation.

The compensation we offer should restore the person to the position they would be in had the service failure not occurred. We may make a goodwill gesture, where appropriate, to accompany an apology. This may take the form of flowers or vouchers.

We may consider practical action to provide all or part of a suitable solution to the service failure. For example, we may compensate you by:

- Agreeing a temporary solution to the problem, such as providing an alternative form of heating until there is a permanent solution
- Doing additional repair or decoration works beyond our normal service offer or contractual requirements

3. **Mandatory compensation**

We make some compensation payments as part of our contractual or statutory requirements.

These are:

- Home loss payments - If you have lived in your home for a minimum of 12 months and are required to move home permanently as a result of redevelopment or demolition (this does not apply for temporary accommodation placements)
- Disturbance payments - For reasonable moving costs if you are required to move to another property either:
 - Temporarily or
 - Permanently, if you have lived in your home for less than 12 month. This does not include temporary accommodation (TA) placements
- Improvements - If your tenancy is ending, you may be entitled to compensation for any improvements you have made to your home, providing we have approved them, although this approval in itself will not guarantee any compensating payments and the decision will be made on a case-by-case basis. This does not apply to fixed term tenancies, or TA placements

4. **Compensation for quantifiable loss**

Compensation payable for quantifiable loss is where the service failure has resulted in a measurable loss. Examples include:

- Higher energy costs of running alternative sources of heating when we have failed to repair the heating system within a reasonable timeframe
- Higher water bills due to our failure to remedy a leak
- Paying for repairs where we have failed to meet our obligations
- Reimbursing bank charges for an error in direct debit collection.

We will consider paying compensation for all or part of the loss, but you must provide evidence of the costs, which must have been reasonably incurred. We may offer discretionary compensation on top of compensation to cover your loss, if appropriate.

5. **Discretionary Compensation**

We may make discretionary compensation payments to recognise the inconvenience or loss caused by the service failure. We assess discretionary compensation on a case-by-case basis. Examples of situations where we may make a discretionary compensation payment include:

- Failure or delay providing a service, for example completing a repair
- Failure to provide a service we have charged you for
- Failure to meet target response times
- Failure to meet our standard of service
- Not following our policies or procedures
- If you lose the use of accommodation or facilities, such as being unable to use a room or having no heating or hot water
- Poor complaint handling

6. **When we will not pay compensation**

We will not pay compensation:

- For personal injury or other public liability insurance claims
- For claims of damage caused by circumstances beyond our control (e.g. through storm or flooding)
- For claims that should be covered by a home contents insurance policy, which you are responsible to obtain. This includes damage to your belongings (including floor coverings) through leaks, flood, or fire
- Where the loss is due to lack of action, neglect, wilful damage, or misuse by you, your household, or a guest
- For issues subject to legal proceedings or disrepair claims
- For loss or damage caused by a third party unrelated to Rother District Council (RDC), for example, a utility company, or another resident or visitor
- When we have fulfilled our statutory and contractual obligations
- For loss of earnings or annual leave

7. **Managing compensation claims**

You can request compensation in a variety of ways, including:

- Telephone
- Letter/email
- In person

You must make your compensation claim within six months of the failure, fault, or event unless exceptional circumstances prevented this. You must keep paying your rent and/or service charge while we consider your claim.

We will consider each case individually and calculate compensation according to what we consider is fair in the circumstances. As part of our investigation, we may request supporting information from you. Failing to provide the necessary information could affect the outcome of the investigation. When calculating an award of compensation, we will consider the extent, severity, and impact of the failure. We will account for any vulnerabilities or individual circumstances when assessing the impact of the failure.

We will make any compensation offers within 10 working days of the date we receive your claim. We will include an apology and explanation for the service failure. We will make compensation payments within 20 working days of the date you accept our offer. We can make payments by:

- Crediting your rent account or other sub-account
- BACS (electronic payment direct to your bank account)
- Retail voucher

8. Appealing compensation decision

If you are not satisfied with the compensation offered, you can ask us to review the offer. You must let us know within 20 working days of when we make the offer. We will manage this in line with our RDC owned accommodation complaints policy.

9. Review

We will carry out a review of this policy every three years or sooner, subject to any legal, regulatory or internal changes. We will consult and involve our tenants at these reviews through satisfaction surveys and feedback groups.

10. Data Protection

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Rother Owned/Leased Accommodation

Domestic Abuse Policy for RDC Tenants

1. **Aims**

This policy provides a framework on how the housing team will assist and support Rother District Council (RDC) tenants, in all our accommodation types, experiencing domestic abuse

2. **Scope**

This policy relates to all tenants of RDC owned/leased accommodation
Domestic Abuse is defined as:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are personally connected to each other regardless of gender or sexual orientation. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, economic and emotional forms of abuse.”

3. **Objectives**

- To ensure our tenants can live in a safe and secure environment
- To Offer Housing Options advice
- To help sign post our tenants to appropriate support services

4. **Identifying Domestic Abuse**

There are a number of ways in which tenants experiencing domestic abuse may come to the attention of the housing team: These may include:

- Reports of antisocial behaviour from another tenant or neighbouring resident. This is the most common way in which domestic abuse is detected
- A concern being raised by someone else to the Housing Management Officer including from neighbours
- By a routine visit by Council staff
- The victim raising their own concerns that they are/have experience domestic abuse
- Through a referral from an external partner i.e. police, social services, IDVA service
- Contractors raising a concern to us
- Through persistent repair recharges
- Through a referral to MARAC

5. **Dealing with Reports of Domestic Abuse**

Dealing with domestic abuse requires the Housing Management Officer to be sensitive and take the lead from the victim over what course of action they want to take. In all cases victims would be encouraged to report any incident to the police.

Following a report of domestic abuse (however, the report was received) the Housing Management Officer would meet or call the victim within 24 hours. At this initial meeting:

- Interviews will be carried out in a sensitive and supportive manner

- Immediate housing options and tenancy rights will be discussed
- Contact with the police and medical services will be discussed
- A Risk Assessment will be completed to ensure the safety of the victim
- A referral to MARAC will be made if the threshold is met by using the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification checklist, or based on the Officer's professional opinion.
- Advice of support available both locally and nationally will be discussed
- The Housing Management Officer will agree with the victim what action will be taken and an action plan produced and agreed
- Any action required such as sanctuary/target hardening measures including new/extra locks, CCTV etc. would be discussed

Following the initial meeting the Housing Management Officer will:

- Action any sanctuary/target hardening measures including new/extra locks, CCTV etc.
- Make any referrals - Where there are any safeguarding concerns involving the victim or any children of the victim or the perpetrator the Housing Officer would notify either East Sussex County Council's Children Services or Adult Social Care departments using the appropriate referral forms
- Meet the Housing Solutions Manager (who is informed of all cases of domestic abuse by the Housing Management Officer) to review the action plan

The Housing Management Officer will ensure that contact is maintained with the victim until the victim feels that support is no longer necessary, or they have moved into accommodation that is not RDC owned/managed.

The Housing Solutions Manager, once satisfied with the action plan and proposed actions, will review the case weekly after the initial review. This process will continue until the service has done everything that they are able to do to resolve the domestic abuse and consequences of such actions.

If the victim does not want to take any action taken, does not want any other agencies involved or refuses to acknowledge that there is any domestic abuse we would:

- Respect their wishes
- Monitor their situation and complete a risk assessment form
- Notify third parties as applicable including the police and Adult Social Care or Children's Services if there were any safeguarding issues
- Ensure the victim knows of the support services available locally
- Advise the victim of housing options such as refuge
- Ensure the victim knew they could contact us if they changed their mind or the police in emergencies
- Advise the victim of what we can do as their landlord

6. Meeting our Objectives

To ensure tenants are:

- Housed in a safe and secure environment
 - The Housing Department run a Sanctuary Scheme which is a victim centred initiative that aims to make it possible for victims of domestic

abuse, other physical violence or hate crimes to remain in their homes and feel safe, if a risk assessment deems it appropriate to do so and/or the victim so wishes. It provides an alternative to relocation away from family and friends, vital support networks and key services. It seeks to prevent homelessness through the installation of enhanced security measures in a victim's property these can range from additional locks for doors and windows, to window grills and in extreme cases, a safe room (sometimes known as target hardening). The scheme is available to women and men, with or without children

- Where a tenant is in temporary accommodation, and it is not safe for the victim to stay where they are, we will complete a move to alternative temporary accommodation
- We can explore options of Refuge. As well as accommodation, the staff at the refuges are trained to provide help with practical issues as well as providing emotional support. Additionally, there are refuges located in the neighbouring Authorities, as well as nationwide, which Rother District Council also has access to if it would be safer for the victim to move out of area or if there are no vacancies locally. Unfortunately, there is no provision within the district or neighbouring areas for men.
- Offered Housing Options advice
- Anyone experiencing domestic abuse can get free housing advice from the Council's Housing Needs Team
- All non-secure tenancies, with RDC, will be in the name of the main homeless applicant (even if there is more than one adult in the household). If the victim of the domestic abuse is not the main applicant, then we will complete a separate individual homeless application, if the victim wants to, and move them to alternate temporary accommodation. If the victim of domestic abuse is the named tenant, then the perpetrator may be asked to leave the property, and if the victim requests, they will be removed from the homeless application. The perpetrator may make a new homeless application, but this will be assessed in its own rights and temporary accommodation may not be provided
- Legal remedies such as injunctions against the perpetrator might be appropriate (In cases of domestic abuse, an injunction would normally involve the perpetrator being not allowed to come into the locality of the victim's home). Therefore, the victim would be referred to Brighton Housing Trust for advice on these legal remedies
- Signposted to appropriate support services
 - The Housing Officer will sign-post the victim to support services that exist both locally and nationally to help victims of domestic abuse. The perpetrator will also be signposted to appropriate support agencies for help particularly if they are themselves vulnerable due to mental health, drugs or alcohol etc.

7. Multi-Agency Approach

We acknowledge that dealing with issues of domestic abuse requires a multi-agency approach and will work with local agencies in individual cases to ensure cases are dealt with in the most effective and efficient way. There are a number of local partnerships in place which aim to tackle domestic abuse in a more holistic way, including:

- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) - Meets weekly to bring together representatives from a number of agencies in East Sussex to

discuss the safety, health and well-being of people experiencing domestic abuse (and their children). The Safer East Sussex Team are part of the group and offers training to statutory, voluntary and community sector partners to help ensure that frontline professionals are able to undertake risk identification and refer to the MARAC. Housing actively engages with the service and will make referrals as appropriate.

- Change Grow Live (CGL) Domestic Abuse Service is a service that can support people who have been affected by domestic abuse and violence in East Sussex. To access their service victims need to be referred by one of their partners including Sussex Police or housing provider, or they can self-refer.

8. **Review**

We will carry out a review of this policy every three years or sooner, subject to any legal, regulatory or internal changes. We will consult and involve our tenants at these reviews through satisfaction surveys and feedback groups.

9. **Data Protection**

We recognise that incidents of domestic abuse are extremely sensitive, private incidents for victims to report and will ensure total confidentiality on any cases that are reported. We may, however, share relevant information with local agencies such as the police, adult social care and children's service to deal with cases more effectively. This may either be by gathering extra evidence to carry out enforcement measures against the perpetrator, or by sharing information in the safeguarding interests of the victim and/or their children and the perpetrator. Rother District Council is fully committed to protecting your personal data. You can find a copy of our Privacy Policy at www.rother.gov.uk/data-protection-and-foi/privacy-policy/

Appendix A – Support Services

Organisation	Description	Contact
Change, Grow, Live (CGL – East Sussex	CGL offer support to anyone aged 16+ who has been affected by domestic abuse and violence.	Domestic Abuse Service – East Sussex Change Grow Live 0300 323 9985 ESDomesticAbuse.Info@cgl.org.uk
Refuge	Clarion Housing Association provides safe refuge accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence across East Sussex	Domestic abuse or violence Personal wellbeing Clarion (myclarionhousing.com) 0808 2000 247 Referrals.eastsussex@clarionhq.com
Safe Space Sussex	Provides an online directory of local victim and witness specialist support services. It also has information about what happens at each stage of the criminal justice system	Safe:Space Sussex (safespacesussex.org.uk)
Men’s Aid Charity	Help to provide practical advice and support to men who have been abused	Home (mensaid.co.uk) 0333 567 0556
Rape Crisis	Provides specialist information and support to all those affected by rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and all other forms of sexual violence and abuse in England and Wales	Rape Crisis England & Wales 0808 500 2222 rcewinfo@rapecrisis.org.uk
Shelter	Advice and support services offer one-to-one, personalised help with housing issues and homelessness	Home - Shelter England 0808 800 4444 info@survivorsnetwork.org.uk
Survivors Network	The Survivors Network provide the specialist rape and sexual violence abuse service for Sussex	Home – Survivors Network 01273 203 380

Rother Owned/Leased Accommodation

Window Restrictor Policy

1. **Aims**

This Policy outlines our approach to managing window restrictors as a way of preventing falls from height.

The Policy outlines:

- When we will install window restrictors in our homes and communal areas
- How we will inspect and maintain window restrictors
- Resident responsibilities.

2. **Scope**

This policy applies to anyone living in a property owned or managed by Rother District Council (RDC).

This policy applies to all homes and communal areas owned and/or managed by RDC, including:

- Temporary accommodation
- Leased accommodation
- Accommodation on the Rough Sleeper or Next Steps schemes

3. **Legal Requirement**

There is no specific legal requirement to fit restrictors to windows in our existing homes.

Building Regulations require windows in new homes to be at least 800mm high to prevent falls. The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) considers windows with an opening lower than 1100mm above the floor an increased risk to children.

Window restrictors should:

- Restrict the window opening to 100mm or less
- Be suitably robust to withstand foreseeable forces applied by an individual determined to open the window further
- Be sufficiently robust to withstand damage

4. **What we will do**

In all residential properties owned or managed by RDC, we will include window restrictors to all windows on or above the first floor, or on the ground floor if there is a significant drop outside.

We will repair or replace any defective window restrictor when reported. We will consider recharging the cost of repair/replacement where the restrictor has been deliberately damaged.

We will consider requests to fit window restrictors to existing windows on or above the ground floor on a case-by-case basis. Where the window sill or banister height is low, guarding may be more appropriate.

Where we fit window restrictors, we will make sure residents are still able to open windows.

Any staff member may request the installation of a window restrictor where they feel it would improve safety.

During inspection of empty homes, we will:

- Inspect all windows restrictors (irrespective of who fitted them)
- Repair any defective window restrictors
- Install window restrictors on or above the first floor, where they are missing

5. **Resident Responsibility**

Residents are responsible for:

- Safety within their home
- Not removing or tampering with a window restrictor we install
- Reporting defective window restrictors in their home, including communal areas, to us promptly

6. **Review**

We will carry out a review of this policy every three years or sooner, subject to any legal, regulatory or internal changes. We will consult and involve our tenants at these reviews through satisfaction surveys and feedback groups.

7. **Data Protection**

RDC collects, holds and uses a considerable amount of information, including personal data, so that it can provide its services to you. RDC is fully committed to protecting your personal data. You can find a copy of our Privacy Policy at www.rother.gov.uk/data-protection-and-foi/privacy-policy/

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Rother District Council

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 September 2023
Title:	Housing Development Strategy Task and Finish Group
Report of:	Joe Powell, Head of Housing and Regeneration
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of Report:	To recommend a new Housing Development Strategy Task and Finish Group be formed to inform the shape and direction of the Council's Housing Development Strategy and action plan.

Officer

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

- 1) a Housing Development Strategy Task and Finish Group be established; and
- 2) the Terms of Reference at Appendix A be approved.

Introduction

1. The Council presently has a Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy that expires at the end of 2024. One of the three main aims of the strategy is to increase the supply of all forms of housing within the district. In addition, maximising opportunities for new housing in Rother is identified as a key issue in the Local Plan 2039: Early Engagement Document. Proposals to achieve this will be a key part of the draft Local Plan consultation in Spring 2024; finally, it remains a priority objective of the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-27 to increase the supply of affordable homes throughout the district and to bring Rother above a 5-year land supply by the end of 2023.
2. It has been agreed between the Senior Leadership Team and the portfolio holder for housing that, in order for the Council to continue to achieve its ambition to increase the supply of housing effectively, it requires a stand-alone Housing Development Strategy, separate from its homelessness strategy.
3. The current Strategy and its action plan were developed in 2019 following an extensive research and consultation exercise, with key stakeholders and the public. Recommendations from a Member 'Task and Finish Group' were also used to shape three key priorities of the final Strategy, including the need to increase housing supply while improving measures to address homelessness and the quality of accommodation.

Terms of Reference

4. The draft Terms of Reference for the Housing Development Strategy Task and Finish Group can be found at Appendix A.

5. The main objectives of the Terms of Reference are:
 - a. Review and acknowledge the impact of low levels of housing and affordable housing delivery in Rother
 - b. Consider relevant data and information relating to the range of housing needs in the district, with the support of officers and commissioned specialist consultants
 - c. Collaborate with group members and wider stakeholders to gather evidence and testimony of the main housing development related challenges and constraints facing the district
 - d. Consider a range of strategic opportunities informed by officers, specialist consultants and best practice from elsewhere
 - e. Make recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for onward recommendation to Cabinet that support the development of a Housing Development Strategy and Action Plan for Rother
 - f. Recommend the final draft of the Strategy to the OSC for approval by Cabinet and full Council
 - g. Ensure effective communication with internal and external stakeholders through information sharing, consultation and collaboration.

Conclusion

6. The Council has ambitious aims in regard to increasing the supply of all forms of housing in Rother. The impact of the current housing crisis on the wellbeing of many residents is significant and the Council continues to see an increase in the cost of increased homelessness. It is therefore recommended that the Council set-up a Member-led Task and Finish Group in order to hear from community stakeholders and statutory partners to lead in the development of a stand-alone strategy and action plan to achieve its housing development ambitions and better meet the needs of its residents.

Financial Implications

7. There is a budget allocated for the development of housing strategy which will be allocated to the commissioning of a consultant to support with the development of a Housing Development Strategy with the proposed Task and Finish Group.

Human Resources Implications

8. The Task and Finish Group will be resourced from within the Housing team with support from specialist external consultants where required.

Equalities and Diversity

9. Equalities impact will form part of the development of the Strategy and an Equalities Impact Assessment will accompany any final Strategy.

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

Chief Executive:	Lorna Ford
Report Contact Officer:	Joe Powell
e-mail address:	joe.powell@rother.gov.uk
Appendices:	A - TASK AND FINISH GROUP: Draft Terms of Reference
Relevant previous Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None

**Rother District Council
Housing Development Strategy Task and Finish Group
Terms of Reference**

1. Introduction

Rother District Council (RDC) is an ambitious local authority that is seeking to increase the levels of housing development that takes place in its area. In order that the housing developed best fits the aims and aspirations of the residents of Rother it is proposed that a Housing Development Strategy and action plan is developed to monitor and demonstrate that the aims of the strategy have been met over the lifetime of the strategy.

2. Purpose of the Housing Development Strategy Task and Finish Group

The purpose of the Housing Development Strategy Task and Finish Group (HDS T&FG) is to gather evidence from a range of stakeholders and make recommendations that will inform the shape and direction of the Strategy.

3. Aims and Origin

a. The Council plays a key role in enabling housing development and specifically the development of Affordable Housing. Increasing housing supply, affordable housing and community led housing are all key elements of the current Corporate Plan 2020 – 2027:

- i. Increase the supply of Affordable Homes throughout the district
- ii. Bring Rother above a 5-year land supply by the end of 2023

b. The aims of the HDS T&FG are to:

- i. Inform the shape and direction of the Council's approach to increasing rates of housing development in Rother
- ii. Build upon and improve the Council's response to the deficit in suitable and affordable housing available to residents of the district
- iii. Ensure the strategic objectives of the Housing Development Strategy compliment the Council's wider Corporate Plan objectives and, in particular, its carbon reduction and bio-diversity commitments.

4. Objectives

- a. Review and acknowledge the impact of low levels of housing and affordable housing delivery in Rother
- b. Consider relevant data and information relating to the range of housing needs in the district, with the support of officers and commissioned specialist consultants
- c. Collaborate with group members and wider stakeholders to gather evidence and testimony of the main housing development related challenges and constraints facing the district
- d. Consider a range of strategic opportunities informed by officers, specialist consultants and best practice from elsewhere

- e. Make recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for onward recommendation to Cabinet that support the development of a Housing Development Strategy and Action Plan for Rother.
- f. Recommend the final draft of the Strategy to the OSC for approval by Cabinet and full Council
- g. Ensure effective communication with internal and external stakeholders through information sharing, consultation and collaboration.

5. Background

- a. There is a Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy in place to the end of 2024. The strategy has an associated action plan that includes housing development related objectives.
- b. It is felt that housing development requires greater prominence as a work area to secure greater levels of delivery. As such a separate and distinct Housing Development Strategy is envisaged.

6. Resources

- a. The external members of the HDS T&FG will be invited by RDC officers
- b. Six Non-Executive RDC Councillors
- c. RDC officers from Housing, Planning, Corporate Policy & Projects teams and others as required
- d. The OSC will be invited to input into the review and will be kept informed of the HDS T&FG's progress.
- e. The appointed housing development consultancy

7. Timetable

Terms of Reference approved by OSC	September 2023
HDS T&FG Members invited to join	September 2023
HDS T&FG initial meeting	October 2023
Meet with HDS T&FG and set out strategy development programme	February 2024
Stakeholder Consultation as part of HDS T&FG process	May 2024
Public Consultation event(s)	June 2024
Final draft complete and agreed by HDS T&FG	November 2024
Strategy approved by OSC and Cabinet	January 2025
Strategy adopted by full council	February 2025

8. **Membership** – Six Non-Executive Councillors as nominated by the Committee (not necessarily Members of the OSC).

9. **Officer Lead** – Joe Powell, Head of Housing and Regeneration

10. **Quorum** - 2

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Rother District Council

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 September 2023
Title:	Rail Ticket Office Consultation
Report of:	Chief Executive
Ward(s):	N/A
Purpose of Report:	To update Members on proposed changes to ticket office services at train stations within the Rother District.
Officer	
Recommendation(s):	It be RESOLVED : That the report be noted.

Introduction

1. On 3 October 2022, Cabinet considered a report regarding possible changes to the rail ticket office arrangements in the district (Minute CB22/36 refers). It was agreed that the Chief Executive write to the train operating companies asking that the Council is kept informed of any proposed changes to ticketing arrangements within the district. On 31 October 2022, the Chief Executive wrote to Southeastern Railway requesting that, at the appropriate time, a representative be sent to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to explain the changes and hear the concerns of Councillors.
2. It was also agreed that should information be received that changes are planned, the matter be referred to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a recommendation that representatives from the rail operators are invited to attend a Scrutiny Meeting at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss future plans for staffing at railways stations across Rother.
3. On 11 July 2023, the Chief Executive invited the Managing Director of Southeastern Railway to discuss the proposed changes at a Member's Briefing. The Managing Director advised that, as of 29 August 2023, no date had been set for the consultations that will affect train stations in Rother.
4. This report updates Members on the proposed changes to the ticket office service provision at train stations within the Rother District. It also sets out Rother District Council's response to Southern Rail's proposed changes and the next stages of the consultation process.

Background

5. The rail industry has proposed changes to many rail station ticket offices in England. Rail operators are seeking views on proposals to improve and modernise the experience for passengers by moving staff out from behind the

ticket office screens and onto station concourses and platforms. By making staff more visible, rail operators hope to provide support to passengers where they most need it and help to those who cannot or do not want to use contactless or digital tickets. No final decisions have been made, as the industry is currently at local public consultation stage. Each train company has produced its own proposals, so there are 13 separate consultations running.

6. There are two train operators within Rother that will be affected by these changes; they are Southern and Southeastern.
7. Southern Rail has set out how proposed changes will affect Bexhill, Cooden Beach, and Pevensey and Westham stations. A public consultation on the proposal ran from 5 July 2023, with an initial deadline of 26 July 2023 that was extended to 1 September 2023. Passengers were invited to contact transport watchdog Transport Focus with any comments. Southern advised that no stations that currently have staff will become unstaffed and station opening hours will remain the same. Full details of the proposed changes are set out below:

Station name	Current ticket office hours			Proposed ticket assistance hours		
	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Bexhill	06:10 - 19:35	06:10 - 19:35	08:10 - 15:45	06:00 - 20:00	06:30 - 20:30	09:00 - 16:00
Cooden Beach	06:15 - 18:30	06:15 - 18:30	08:00 - 16:00	06:30 - 13:30	09:00 - 16:00	09:00 - 16:00
Hurst Green	05:40 - 19:20	06: 45 - 13:35	07: 55 - 16:10	05:40 - 19:20	06:35 - 13:35	07:45 - 16:25
Pevensey & Westham	06:30 - 10:40	Closed	Closed	06:30 - 10:40	Closed	Closed
Rye	05:40 - 19:05	08:10 - 15:45	08:10 - 15:45	0600 - 1300	0600 - 1300	Closed

8. Southeastern rail has provided an overview of proposed changes:
 - At 14 of the busiest stations on the network, Travel Centres will be provided, offering a combination of information and ticketing solutions.
 - At medium and larger sized stations, where it is agreed that ticket offices are no longer required, they will be closed. Overall, these stations will have fewer staff, but they will receive enhanced training.
 - At smaller stations, where the only staff currently on the station is the person in the ticket office, if agreed that the ticket office will be closed, staff there will be available to provide a wider range of customer support.
 - At 18 of these smaller stations, where vacancies have resulted in a temporarily unstaffed station, these stations will be restaffed as staff are deployed where they are most needed.
 - At 27 stations which are unstaffed stations, customers will continue to have a mobile assistance team (to provide accessibility support).
 - Every station currently staffed will continue to be staffed.

9. Southeastern started the first phase of public consultations on 40 ticket offices in the Metro area; this period ended on 1 September 2023. Proposals for changes at a further 90 stations including Stonegate, Etchingam, Robertsbridge, Battle, and Crowhurst will be updated in detail and consulted on in a future phase, likely the end of 2023.

Response to Southern Rail’s consultation

10. On 26 July 2023, the Chief Executive wrote to Southern Rail following engagement with Bexhill Rail Action Group (BRAG) and the Equality and Diversity Steering Group. The letter noted the following:
- The original timing of the consultation, which allowed only 21 days to respond, did not provide adequate time for organisations, including Parish Councils, to meet and formulate a response. *The consultation period was subsequently extended to 1 September 2023.*
 - The impact of proposed changes on disabled customers and older people who are digitally excluded.
 - Ticket offices help travellers to develop journey plans and get the best price. Without these, complex fare structures and ticket machines may detrimentally impact customers.
 - If ticket offices are closed and due to be repurposed, engagement with local councils and community groups on their future use should take place.

Conclusion

11. The Council will continue to monitor and feedback updates on the ticket office consultations.
12. Depending on the timing of the next phase of consultation, it is proposed that the Managing Director of Southeastern Railway be invited to attend the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Member’s Briefing.

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

Chief Executive:	Lorna Ford
Report Contact Officer:	Lorna Ford
e-mail address:	lorna.ford@rother.gov.uk
Appendices:	None
Relevant previous Minutes:	CB22/36
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2023 – 2024

DATE OF MEETING	SUBJECT – MAIN ITEM IN BOLD	Cabinet Portfolio Holder
11.09.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 1 2023/24 • Rother District Council Owned / Managed Accommodation Policies • Housing Development Strategy Task & Finish Group • Rail Ticket Office Consultation 	Jeeawon McCourt
16.10.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29 • Digital and Customer Services Strategy • Discharge of Homeless Duty into Suitable Private Sector Policy • Allocations Policy • Council Tax Reduction Scheme 	Jeeawon Byrne McCourt
20.11.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Report: Second Quarter 2023/24 • Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 2 2023/24 • Climate Strategy 	Jeeawon Field
22.01.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Revenue Budget Proposals 2024/25 • Key Performance Targets 2024/25 • Local Plan Consultation Draft (Reg 18) 	Jeeawon Prochak
18.03.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and Disorder Committee: to receive a report from the Community Safety Partnership • Performance Report: Third Quarter 2023/24 • Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 3 2024/24 	Field Jeeawon
22.04.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call-in and Urgency Procedures • Draft Annual Report to Council • Review of progress against the recommendations of the Health and Well-Being Task and Finish Group 	Coleman

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Regeneration inc. Leisure Centre, Fountains, Skate Park and Accessibility of Green Spaces across the district
- Review of the Economic Regeneration Strategy
- Litter Strategy
- Review of the Tourism Strategy and the impact of Airbnbs
- Impact of Airbnb and second homes in Rye/Winchelsea/Camber
- Review of the Financial Stability Programme
- Update report from the Local Strategic Partnership
- Update report from the Health and Well-Being Board
- Review of progress against the recommendations of the Health and Well-Being Task and Finish Group (Year 3)
- Development of new Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy
- Development of new Corporate Plan
- Update report from the Climate Change Steering Group

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