

If you are unable to respond online you can write to us at Rother District Council, Town Hall, Bexhill, TN39 3JX.

For a copy of this leaflet in large print, Braille, audiotape or CD or in another language, please contact [democraticservices@rother.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@rother.gov.uk)

### **What happens next?**

Rother District Council will take your views into account and determine the outcome of this review. The consultation responses will be published in full on our website when they are considered by the Community Governance Review Steering Group in the spring.

# **A town council for Bexhill?**

Have your say at: [rother.gov.uk/  
CommunityGovernanceReview](https://rother.gov.uk/CommunityGovernanceReview)

The consultation will run from  
**3 February to 13 March 2020**

## A town council for Bexhill?

We are carrying out another review into the system of local government for Bexhill, so we are seeking your views again.

We are asking you whether you want us to create a town council for Bexhill, what services it should provide.

Please take the time to tell us what you think. Your opinion on this important subject really matters.

## What would change if we had a town council for Bexhill?

- A town council can listen to your say on Bexhill matters. It can provide local people with a strong voice. It can make decisions, guided by you, about local services. It can champion residents and local businesses. It can represent Bexhill's interests to other organisations.
- You may have heard of Neighbourhood Plans. A town council could produce its own. The plan would set out how Bexhill wants to evolve over time – for example, it could identify the location of new non-strategic housing sites, in line with targets for Bexhill. The process would start with getting your ideas about Bexhill's future. The plan would be drawn up after input from Rother and other organisations. After asking you whether you are happy with it, the plan would be put to an Inspector. When approved, Neighbourhood Plans are usually respected. After approval of the plan, developers will have to provide to Bexhill Town Council a greater proportion of the money they have to contribute towards local infrastructure. This can be spent on infrastructure such as community facilities and could amount to millions of pounds.
- A town council can encourage pride in Bexhill and build on the town's strong community spirit. By working with local firms, volunteers and community groups, it could deliver innovative services while providing good value for money.

- A town council would bring Bexhill into line with the rest of Rother. There would be the county council, a district council and a town council.
- If everyone agrees, the other two councils could hand over some services to the town council, such as, parks, play areas, toilets, allotments, the museum. On top of that, the town council could take on other functions, also by agreement.
- 18 Councillors would be elected to a Bexhill Town Council. The cost of setting up the council would be up to £100,000, depending on the services provided. The first election would take place in May 2021. The town council would be responsible for electing the Mayor for Bexhill.
- A town council will mean an increase in your Council Tax bill. Other towns like Bexhill have budgets of about a million pounds. If you live in a Band D property, this sort of council would involve paying £59.87 a year in Council Tax to Bexhill Town Council. Because services were transferred away, your contribution to Rother District Council would be cut, leaving you paying £22.11 a year extra - about 42p a week. If you receive the maximum Council Tax reduction, this would be 8p a week. These figures would be less if you lived in a smaller property.

## What if there is no change?

- There would be no additional increase to Bexhill residents' Council Tax to pay for a town council.
- Bexhill households would continue to pay 87p a year to fund the charter trustees, who appoint the mayor.
- Rother District Council would continue to manage Bexhill affairs. You would pay £36.89 (for a property in Council Tax Band D) a year to Rother District Council for doing so, under the heading Bexhill Special Expenses. These pay towards Bexhill parks, bus shelters, Bexhill Museum and Bexhill Town Forum.

**Tell us what you think by 4:30pm on 13 March.**

[rother.gov.uk/CommunityGovernanceReview](https://rother.gov.uk/CommunityGovernanceReview)