

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	16 May 2022
Report of the	-	Chief Executive
Subject	-	Appointments of Representatives to Outside Bodies

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

- 1) appointments be made to the outside bodies attached at Appendices 1 and 2 for a term of one year except where stated otherwise, and attendance be designated as an approved duty;
 - 2) the Bexhill Town Forum and Hastings and Rother Task Force be removed from the list of outside bodies, as appointments are no longer required; and
 - 3) Members be reminded of the need to report annually via the Members' Bulletin on the outside bodies to which they are appointed.
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Introduction

1. Full Council has retained the responsibility for approving the list of outside bodies to which formal appointments are made and making such appointments at the Annual Council Meeting (ACM) or as otherwise required.

Appointments Required

2. Attached at Appendix 1 is a list of Outside Bodies to which the Council is required to make an appointment for the 2022/23 civic year. It also shows the name(s) of the current representatives that were appointed for the last municipal year.
3. Only one appointment is required from this year for the Combe Valley Community Interest Company due to a reduction in Local Authority (LA) representation on the board. The overall LA voting rights will not be affected.
4. The Local Government Association – Coastal Issues Special Interest Group have invited the Council to appoint a substitute representative from this year.

Reserved Appointments / Appointments not required

5. There are a number of appointments which are reserved for Members holding a certain position within the Council, for example the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homes will be the Council's representative on the Sussex Local General Panel.
6. Those that are reserved in this way are listed at Appendix 2; these appointments are therefore not open for re-appointment and/or nomination but are shown for information and completeness following the appointment of Cabinet Members and allocation of portfolios confirmed by the Leader at the ACM. Substitutes, where appropriate, have also been confirmed by the Leader

of the Council. Where an appointment is reserved for the Leader of the Council, in practice, this will mean the Leader of the Council or a named replacement in his place.

7. Attached at Appendix 3 is a list of the Outside Bodies that do not require an appointment to be made this year as these appointments are of a longer duration – this is therefore for information only.

Considerations

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

Removals from the List

12. Since appointments to outside bodies were made in June 2021, there have been no removals from the Council's list of approved outside bodies.
13. In light of the establishment of the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council, the Bexhill Town Forum has now ceased to exist, therefore it will be removed from the list.
14. Hastings and Rother Task Force has not met for some time and it is therefore recommended that no appointment is made and this outside body is removed from the list. Should the Group be resurrected, it can then be reconsidered by the Council.
15. At the extraordinary meeting of Council held on 7 March it was agreed that whilst the Council retained membership SeaChange Sussex (East Sussex Energy, Infrastructure and Development Ltd) no Director would be appointed to the Board until such time as that person is able to represent the best interests of the company without compromising the values of this Council. This appointment is therefore shown as a pending appointment at Appendix 3.

Additions to the List

16. **Rye Chamber of Commerce:** In September 2021, full Council agreed to reappoint a representative to the Rye Chamber of Commerce, which had been removed from the list of outside bodies to which the Council appointed in 2017 due to its semi-dormancy. The Rye Chamber of Commerce has been re-energised and, following contact with Councillor Stevens, one of the local District Ward Members for Rye and Winchelsea, the Chamber welcomed the reappointment of a Rother District Council representative.

Reports on Outside Bodies

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

Risk Management

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

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

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Appendices:	1 Appointments Required 2022/23 2 Reserved Appointments 2022/23 3 No Appointments Required 4 Members' Comments
Relevant Previous Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	N/A.

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

OUTSIDE BODY	DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2021/22	APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2022/23
Battle Abbey Liaison Group (formerly the Battle Abbey Advisory Group)	Councillor Cook	One appointment required Propose Cook
Bexhill Chamber of Commerce and Tourism	Councillor Timpe	One appointment required Propose Langlands
Bexhill Town Forum Executive Committee	Councillor Langlands (Substitute: Councillor Drayson)	TO BE REMOVED FROM LIST – COMMITTEE NO LONGER EXISTS
Combe Valley Community Interest Company	Councillors Byrne & Timpe	One appointment only Required from 2022 Propose Timpe
Connecting Hastings and Rother Together, Local Action Group	Councillor Coleman Substitute: Councillor Courtel	One appointment and one substitute appointment required Propose Coleman / Courtel (S)
Dungeness Power Station Site Stakeholders Group	Mr Hoggart (Substitute: Councillor Osborne)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required Propose Mr Hoggart / Osborne (S)
East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor J Barnes	One appointment required Propose Barnes
East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Mrs Barnes (Substitute Councillor Osborne)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required (Member of Overview and Scrutiny Committee) Propose Mrs Barnes / Osborne (S)
Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee	Councillors Norton & Stevens	Two appointments required Propose Norton & Stevens
Hastings and Bexhill Renaissance Ltd (SeaSpace)	Councillor Dixon	One appointment required Propose Dixon

OUTSIDE BODY	DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2021/22	APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2022/23
Hastings Furniture Service (SLA)	Councillor Courtel	One appointment required Propose Courtel
Local Government Association – Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	Councillor Mier	One appointment required and the addition of one substitute from 2022 Propose Mier / Mr Hoggart (S)
Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board (formerly - Pevensey Levels Internal Drainage Board (Shadow Board))	Councillor Thomas	One appointment required Propose Thomas
Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board	Councillors Mier, Norton, Osborne, Prochak, Mr Hoggart, Mr Lovejoy and Mr Nickerson (until end March 2022, Mr Oliver from April 2022 – May 2023).	Six appointments required Propose Mier, Norton, Osborne, Prochak, Mr Hoggart, Mr Lovejoy
Romney Marsh Partnership	Mr Hoggart	One appointment required Propose Mr Hoggart
Rural Rother Trust	Chairman of Council – Councillor Drayson (R) , Vice-Chairman of Council – Councillor Harmer (R) , and Councillors Browne, Ganly, Mrs Kirby-Green, Mier and Prochak.	Five appointments required Propose Browne, Ganly, Mrs Kirby-Green, Mier and Prochak
Rye Chamber of Commerce	Councillor Stevens	One appointment required Propose Stevens
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Committee (SLA)	Mr A.H. Lloyd and Councillor Norton (Substitute: Mr Hoggart)	Two appointments and one substitute appointment required Propose Mr Lloyd & Norton / Mr Hoggart (S)
Rye Partnership	Mr Hoggart	One appointment required Propose Mr Hoggart
Team East Sussex (TES)	Councillor Bayliss	One appointment required Propose Bayliss

(SLA) = Voluntary Sector Service Levels Agreements

RESERVED APPOINTMENTS (R)

OUTSIDE BODY	REPRESENTATIVE(S) APPOINTED IN 2021/22	CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS 2022/23
Action in Rural Sussex (SLA) (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environmental Management – Councillor Field (Substitute: Councillor Prochak)	Field Substitute: Prochak
1066 Country Member Liaison Group (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture & Tourism – Councillor Timpe	Timpe
A21 Reference Group (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environmental Management and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Field and Osborne	Field Osborne*
De La Warr Pavilion (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities Culture and Tourism and Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillors Timpe and Prochak	Timpe Prochak
District Councils' Network (DCN) (R)	Leader of the Council – Councillor Oliver	Oliver
East Sussex Strategic Partnership (R)	Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillor Prochak (Substitute: Councillor Oliver)	Prochak Substitute: Oliver
Hastings and Rother Task Force (R)	Leader of the Council - Councillor Oliver (Substitute: Councillor Prochak)	TO BE REMOVED FROM LIST – NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED
High Weald AONB Forum / Joint Advisory Committee (R)	Chairman of the Planning Committee – Councillor Vine-Hall	Vine-Hall*
Local Government Association (R)	Leader of the Council – Councillor Oliver	Oliver
Rother Local Strategic Partnership (R)	Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillor Prochak	Prochak
South East Employers (R)	Chairman of Licensing & General Purposes Committee – Councillor Mier (Substitute: Councillor Coleman)	Mier* Substitute: Coleman*

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

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

NO APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

OUTSIDE BODY	DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2021/22	APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2022/23
Battle Area Sports Centre Management Committee (4-year appointment)	Councillors Cook and Dixon (Substitutes: Curtis and Prochak)	None required
Bexhill Museum Limited (formerly Society of Bexhill Museums) (SLA) (4-year appointment)	Councillor Thomas (Substitute: Councillor Langlands)	None required
Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC) (SLA) (4-year appointment)	Councillor Coleman (Substitute: Councillor Mier)	None required
Hastings and Rother Mediation Service (SLA) (4-year appointment)	Councillor Thomas (Substitute: Councillor Vine-Hall)	None required
Police & Crime Commissioner Panel (4-year appointment)	Councillor Drayson (Substitute: Councillors Jeeawon & Mier)	None required
Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau (SLA) (4-year appointment)	Councillor Gray (Substitute: Councillor Timpe)	None required
Rother Voluntary Action (4-year appointment)	Councillor Cook (Substitute: Councillor Errington)	None required
Rye Sports Centre Advisory Committee (4-year appointment)	Councillors Osborne and Stevens	None required
Safer Rother Partnership (4-year appointment)	Councillor Drayson	None required

PENDING APPOINTMENT

East Sussex Energy, Infrastructure & Development Ltd	Councillor Dixon	Council agreed not to appoint at meeting held on 7 March 2022.
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Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART): Councillor Coleman

CHART projects bring large amounts of EU money into the community and so long as CHART still operates, it is important the Rother have a representative in the Local Action Group.

East Sussex Health and Well Being Board: Councillor Barnes

I represent the District Council on the East Sussex Health and Well Being Board, a statutory body with limited executive functions to which the county-wide health and care services are accountable. Rother is technically an observer with speaking rights, but since most votes are to take note of reports, this does not preclude us from exercising an appropriate degree of influence on the Board's discussions. The Board meets quarterly and its minutes are published. It does not, however, publish an annual report, although it does receive annual reports from other bodies, notably that concerned with the safeguarding of children.

The three main areas that have been under scrutiny which are germane to the District Council are the continued integration of Health and Social Care Services (now at a very advanced state), reports from the Director of Health, including his annual report, and resilience planning. The Pandemic has until recently been a major subject of report and discussion. In terms of public health, Rother is a member of the Local Strategic Partnership, but this body does not appear to report to Members, and I have suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee gives some consideration to looking at the part we play in furthering public health and well-being and in diminishing health inequalities. In addition to wards with high levels of social deprivation, the use of Super Output Areas to assess these levels tends to obscure the fact that most of our rural communities have about a fifth of their population below the poverty line and that social isolation is also to be found there. The problems of central Bexhill and Sidley are more visible.

Although it is more of a strategic partnership forum than an executive board, the Health and Well Being Board is of considerable value to the people of Rother and we should clearly continue to take up our place on the Board.

East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC): Councillor Mrs Barnes

The membership of the Health, Overview and Scrutiny Committee is made up of local authority Councillors and charity representatives. I represent Rother District Council. The purpose is to act as critical friends of East Sussex Health Authority and to take soundings of some of its decisions. It meets formally four times a year at County Hall, Lewes when we question the senior staff of the authority on all aspects of its work.

During the last two years, we have also held working groups to consider important changes such as closing the walk-in centre at Eastbourne station, consulting on setting up emergency cardiac response teams on one specialist site at Maidstone hospital with a secondary site at Tunbridge Wells, and ophthalmology services to be centred at Eastbourne and Bexhill.

Bexhill was chosen as the site for a new mental health facility for adults after much deliberation and consultation. This is to replace the one currently in operation at Eastbourne hospital and will become a centre of excellence in treating those with mental conditions.

I act as a conduit for important messages from East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to the general public and the messages came frequently during the worst part of the Covid epidemic. The latest is on knowing how to use the NHS to best advantage.

I consider our membership of HOSC to be of great value to Rother.

Hastings Advice and Representation Centre: Councillor Coleman

HARC provide an essential service to residents in the district at a value far beyond what we contribute. With an astonishing record of success in appealing incorrect assessments and getting residents the benefits they are entitled to, HARC play a fundamental role in reducing poverty across Rother. HARC also put admirable effort into outreach, attending food banks and community spaces in Rye, Battle and Bexhill in order to provide help and advice to those who might be unaware of their service. An asset to the area and an important outside body to be represented on.

Hastings Furniture Service: Councillor Courtel

The Chair of Hastings and Rother Furniture Service (HFS), Claire Davies, tells me that she would welcome the continued relationship with both Rother and Hastings Councils. She tells me that both the Council representatives, Cllr Nigel Sinden (Hastings) and Cllr Paul Courtel (Rother), make a useful contribution at the bi-monthly Board Meetings.

On my suggestion, Cllr Kathy Harmer, who has extensive retail management experience, has been invited to attend Board meetings when she is able to, to provide HFS with her expert retail advice. HFS is delighted that she has accepted the invitation.

While the principal aim of this charity is to provide second-hand goods at discounted prices to low-income families, it has also been furnishing the units of temporary accommodation that Rother District Council has been purchasing. HFS reuses 300 tons of furniture per year, contributing towards Rother's net zero carbon footprint objective as well as creating opportunities for people who are out of work to gain skills, confidence and qualifications through employment-based training. A woodwork training centre at the back of the Bexhill shop is a recent addition to the HFS offering.

The charity has a solid financial base and proactive Trustees. It has successfully navigated the problems caused by Covid.

South East Employers: Councillor Mier

The only contact I have had is notice of AGM.