

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	24 May 2023
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 Chamber of Commerce and Tourism be removed from the list of outside bodies, as an appointment is no longer required;
 - 3) Connecting Hastings and Rother Together be removed from the list from 1 July 2023 due to cessation of the project on 30 June 2023; and
 - 4) Members be reminded of the need to report annually via the Members' Bulletin on the outside bodies to which they are appointed.
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Introduction

1. Full Council has retained the responsibility for approving the list of outside bodies to which formal appointments are made 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 2023/24 civic year. It also shows the name(s) of the current representatives that were appointed for the last municipal year; Members are shown in bold if they have been re-elected to the Council.
3. The Safer Rother Partnership have invited the Council to appoint a substitute representative from this year.

Reserved Appointments / Appointments not required

4. 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.
5. Those that are reserved in this way are listed at Appendix 2; these appointments are therefore not open for 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.

Considerations

6. Following the District Council elections held on 4 May, the Council will need to appoint Councillors at this meeting to the outside bodies listed.
7. 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.
8. 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. Seven 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.
9. 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.
10. 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

11. Bexhill Chamber of Commerce and Tourism no longer require the Council to appoint a representative and it is therefore recommended that this outside body is removed from the list.
12. The Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART) project is due to be concluded on 30 June 2023 and therefore an appointment is required only until that date. It is recommended that this outside body is removed from the list from 1 July 2023.

Additions to the List

13. Since appointments to outside bodies were made in May 2022, there have been no additions to the Council's list of approved outside bodies.

Reports on Outside Bodies

14. 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. Appendix 5 lists the reports that have been received from the Council's representatives over the last municipal year. While it is noted only a few reports have been received from the appointed

representatives during the last year, 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.

15. 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

16. 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	External Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	Yes	Exempt from publication	No

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Appendices:	1 Appointments Required 2023/24 2 Reserved Appointments 2023/24 3 No Appointments Required 4 Members' Comments 5 Members' Reports
Relevant Previous Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	N/A.

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

OUTSIDE BODY	DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2022/23	APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2023/24 (PROPOSED NOMINEE/S IN BOLD)
Battle Abbey Liaison Group (formerly the Battle Abbey Advisory Group)	Councillor Cook	One appointment required Cook
Battle Area Sports Centre Management Committee (4-year appointment)	Councillors Cook and Dixon (Substitutes: Curtis and Prochak)	Two appointments and two substitute appointments required Cook / Pearce Subs: Burton / Prochak
Bexhill Museum Limited (formerly Society of Bexhill Museums) (SLA) (4-year appointment)	Councillor Thomas (Substitute: Councillor Langlands)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required Thomas Sub: Gray
Combe Valley Community Interest Company	Councillor Timpe	One appointment required Pearce
Connecting Hastings and Rother Together, Local Action Group	Councillor Coleman Substitute: Councillor Courtel	One appointment and one substitute appointment required until 30 June 2023. TO BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST FROM 1 JULY 2023 Coleman Sub: Cook
Dungeness Power Station Site Stakeholders Group	Mr Hoggart (Substitute: Councillor Osborne)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required McGurk Sub: Osborne
East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor J Barnes	One appointment required Killeen
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) Killeen Sub: Coupar
Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee (3-year appointment)	Councillors Norton & Stevens	Two appointments required McGurk / Osborne

OUTSIDE BODY	DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2022/23	APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2023/24 (PROPOSED NOMINEE/S IN BOLD)
Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC) (SLA) (4-year appointment)	Councillor Coleman (Substitute: Councillor Mier)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required Coleman Sub: Mier
Hastings and Bexhill Renaissance Ltd (SeaSpace)	Councillor Dixon	One appointment required Jeeawon
Hastings and Rother Furniture Service (SLA)	Councillor Courtel	One appointment required Coupar
Hastings and Rother Mediation Service (SLA) (4-year appointment)	Councillor Thomas (Substitute: Councillor Vine-Hall)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required Thomas Sub: Coupar
Local Government Association – Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	Councillor Mier (Substitute: Mr Hoggart)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required Mier Sub: Osborne or Hacking
Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board	Councillor Thomas	One appointment required Thomas
Police & Crime Commissioner Panel (4-year appointment)	Councillor Drayson (Substitute: Councillors Jeeawon & Mier)	One appointment and two substitute appointments required Drayson Subs: Jeeawon / Bayliss
Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board	Councillors Mier , Norton, Osborne , Prochak , Mr Hoggart, Mr Lovejoy and Mr Oliver	Seven appointments required Mier, McGurk OR Creaser, Osborne, Prochak, Mr Hoggart, Mr Lovejoy and Mr Oliver
Romney Marsh Partnership	Mr Hoggart	One appointment required Mr Guy Harris
Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau (SLA) (4-year appointment)	Councillor Gray (Substitute: Councillor Timpe)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required Gray Sub: Timpe

OUTSIDE BODY	DETAILS OF APPOINTMENTS IN 2022/23	APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR 2023/24 (PROPOSED NOMINEE/S IN BOLD)
Rother Voluntary Action (4-year appointment)	Councillor Cook (Substitute: Councillor Errington)	One appointment and one substitute appointment required Cook Sub: Delany
Rural Rother Trust	Chair of Council – Councillor Harmer (R), Vice-Chair of Council – Councillor Mier (R) , and Councillors Browne, Ganly , Mrs Kirby-Green and Prochak .	Five appointments required Chair of Council (R), Vice-Chair of Council (R), and Councillors Mrs Cook , Ganly , Mrs Kirby-Green , Mier and Prochak .
Rye Chamber of Commerce	Councillor Stevens	One appointment required Bayliss
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Committee (SLA)	Councillor Norton and Mr Lloyd (Substitute: Mr Hoggart)	Two appointments and one substitute appointment required Mr Guy Harris, Mr Lloyd Sub: Mr Hoggart
Rye Partnership	Mr Hoggart	One appointment required Bayliss
Rye Sports Centre Advisory Committee (4-year appointment)	Councillors Osborne and Stevens	Two appointments required McGurk & Creaser
Safer Rother Partnership (4-year appointment)	Councillor Drayson	One appointment and the addition of one substitute appointment required Stanger Sub:
Team East Sussex (TES)	Councillor Bayliss	One appointment required Bayliss

(SLA) = Voluntary Sector Service Levels Agreements

RESERVED APPOINTMENTS (R)

OUTSIDE BODY	REPRESENTATIVE(S) APPOINTED IN 2022/23	APPOINTMENTS 2023/24
1066 Country Member Liaison Group (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture & Tourism – Councillor Timpe	
A21 Reference Group (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environmental Management and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Field and Osborne	
Action in Rural Sussex (SLA) (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environmental Management – Councillor Field (Substitute: Councillor Prochak)	
De La Warr Pavilion (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities Culture and Tourism and Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillors Timpe and Prochak	
District Councils' Network (DCN) (R)	Leader of the Council – Councillor Oliver	
East Sussex Strategic Partnership (R)	Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillor Prochak (Substitute: Councillor Oliver)	
Hastings and Rother Task Force (R)	Leader of the Council - Councillor Oliver (Substitute: Councillor Prochak)	
High Weald AONB Forum / Joint Advisory Committee (R)	Chair of the Planning Committee – Councillor Vine-Hall	Chair of Planning Committee
Local Government Association (R)	Leader of the Council – Councillor Oliver	
Rother Local Strategic Partnership (R)	Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillor Prochak	

South East Employers (R)	Chair of Licensing & General Purposes Committee – Councillor Mier (Substitute: Councillor Coleman)	Chair of HR Committee (Sub: Vice-Chair of HR Committee)
The Sussex Local General Panel (formerly known as the AmicusHorizon Area Panel) (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing & Homes – Councillor Byrne	
Tourism South East (R)	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities Culture & Tourism – Councillor Timpe (Substitute: Councillor Dixon)	Sub: Creaser

(SLA) = Voluntary Sector Service Levels Agreements

*subject to appointment as Committee Chair / Vice-Chair.

NO APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

OUTSIDE BODY	REPRESENTATIVE(S) APPOINTED IN 2022/23	CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS 2023/24
East Sussex Energy, Infrastructure & Development Ltd	None	Council agreed not to appoint at meeting held on 7 March 2022.
Bexhill Chamber of Commerce and Tourism	Councillor Langlands	Appointment no longer required.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Action in Rural Sussex: Councillor Field

Where the appointment is not tied to a Cabinet post it should be completely apolitical and the rationale behind the appointment should be community involvement etc

Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART): Councillor Coleman

The CHART project has been valuable to Rother, however it has now concluded and as such it should no longer be an outside body.

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

Meetings are held four times a year at County Hall Lewes. They cannot be held remotely. Rother is one of four participating district councils who all send one Member and in addition there are county representatives and other health providers. Meetings are an opportunity to ask questions and challenge senior medical and administrative staff from the health authority.

The purpose of the Committee is to act as a critical friend when major changes in policy are being considered by East Sussex Health Authority.

Over the last four years for example, we have considered the formation of integrated healthcare partnerships, closing the walk-in centre at Eastbourne station, agreeing dedicated centres for stroke care, cardiology and optical services, the building of a new mental health treatment unit and a new elective surgery unit at Eastbourne general hospital. A feature of such changes involve working parties and consultation with the public.

Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC): Councillor Coleman

The work done by HARC is necessary, important and valuable to us as a Council. We should continue to support HARC as an outside body as the service provided is of great use to Rother residents and they are the primary benefits advice and representation organisation in the area.

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

It is a very worthwhile organisation and worth supporting.

Hastings and Rother Mediation Service: Councillor Vine-Hall

Fully support this excellent service.

Hastings Furniture Service: Councillor Courtel

This is a well-run charity with a sound governance structure. By selling second hand furniture, at preferential rates to people on low incomes, it is alleviating poverty, encouraging recycling, reducing waste and creating employment opportunities. Its main income is derived from sales. Rother District Council has been one of its clients. It is also supported by several grants, ably sourced by a senior manager within the organisation.

The new Chief Executive, Kate Davidson, has involved all Directors, staff and volunteers in a strategy day to develop a feeling of involvement by all staff in the decision-making process. There appears to be a general feeling of contentment by

the hands on workforce and a willingness to contribute to the team. A new reporting structure has been created which appears to have gained general approval.

The Chief Executive has been invited to join the coordinating committee addressing poverty in Rother is now a member. It is the view of the Board that they would like to continue having a representative from Rother District Council at their meetings and I endorse that view.

LGA Coastal Issues Special Interest Group: Councillor Mier

As an authority with a coastline and as Coastal Protection Authority we should participate.

Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board: Councillor Mier

Essential for any Councillor with a Ward on the Marsh or catchment area.

Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau: Councillor Gray

The Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau (RDCAB) has recently amalgamated with the Hastings branch, CA1066, and RDC have been supporting the Chief Executive Officer of CA1066 as she gets to grips with delivering money, welfare benefits, debt and related advice and support to residents throughout Hastings and Rother. We have received quarterly performance reports from CA1066 and it is positive to observe the improved performance and outcomes they are achieving.

At the Cabinet meeting on 27 February 2023, it was agreed to extend the existing contract by a further 12 months in order for the future commissioning timetable to align with the wider partnership. The revised proposals will be brought forward later in 2023 and will detail the commissioning approach it wishes to adopt, including a value for money appraisal as well as revised service specification, following the findings of the East Sussex Welfare Benefits and Debt Advice Independent Review Steering Group.

The RDCAB provide a valuable service in the provision of welfare benefits, debt recovery and money advice, supporting vulnerable people facing poverty and homelessness within Rother. At this time of transition, amalgamating the two services in Hastings and Rother, it is in my view, essential that we maintain an RDC representative for the service.

Rural Rother Trust: Councillor Mier

Very worthwhile.

South East Employers: Councillor Mier

I don't know what we get out of this. Officers might be involved, but I doubt the point so far as Councillors are concerned.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

OUTSIDE BODY / MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE	Members' Bulletin Edition
Battle Abbey Liaison Group / Councillor Mrs Cook	June 2022
Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau / Councillor Gray	July 2022
Rural Rother Trust / Councillor Prochak	November 2022
Local Government Association / Councillor Oliver	January 2023
Rother Local Strategic Partnership / Councillor Prochak	January 2023
Battle Abbey Liaison Group / Councillor Mrs Cook	January 2023