

Rother District Council and Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council
Leader and Mayoral meeting
Friday 17th January 2025 2pm – 3pm
Committee Room, Rother District Council Town Hall.

Sent to: Cllr Paul Wilson; Cllr Doug Oliver; Cllr Christine Bayliss; Cllr Teresa Killeen; Lorna Ford; Anna Evett; Andrew Vallance

Apologies: Cllr Memish Huseyin

NOTES

1. Updates on action points from the last meeting

- a) AE ACTIONS: Speak to Deborah Kennelly about a plan for signage and comms when toilets are out of order, RDC to make sure website is up to date and lease work will continue once repairs are done.
- b) Update on Marina Gardens and war memorial. Last meeting it was agreed that there might be a joint project that the town council and RDC could work together on. Town councillors were considering motions to get these items onto an agenda for discussion.
RDC members are meeting with officers to discuss ideas for Marina Gardens next week.
- c) RDC will provide a letter of intent to the town council to allow the grant applications to be made for Pebsham Play Area – heads of terms received and with solicitor – heads of terms received.

2. ASSET TRANSFERS – TO DISCUSS ANY UPDATES:

- a) Devolution White Paper and the next steps
As information is received this will be cascaded to parish and town councils.
It was discussed that the town council could start to pull together a list of the discretionary services that it would be interested in managing in the future,
- b) WCs - DVSQ refit quotes being considered by the Town Council at next Amenities Committee meeting. CVE lease being progressed by town council's solicitor.
It was noted that RDC are exploring the commercial viability of the WCs before decisions can be made about the town council's interest in the freehold. Commercial offers should be received by the end of January.

LF will chase up the CIL funds for Devonshire Square.

Sidley, Little Common, Cooden and Norman's Bay were noted as the anecdotally the most in demand. A licence could be set up for the town council to open the toilets ahead of the possible freehold transfer or commercial contract being taken on by RDC.

The Museum will be added to the next agenda for discussion. Levelling Up funding might be possible for the new WC in Egerton Park

3. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

- a) Can RDC please supply a full list of discretionary services.
Once the new budget is confirmed the list will be provided.
- b) Can the Town Council participate in the feedback from the consultation of the Local Plan before it is finalised.
Yes. Updated timetable for Local Plan will be published by 6th March 2025. Local Plans need to be submitted by December 2026, Final Draft will be published for comments by parish and town councils.
- c) Devolution – Can parish and town council's take part in the consultation?
RDC will send out information to parish and town councils as its received.

4. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

- a) PW updated the group on the Accessibility Working Group and the work of the town council reviewing the accessibility of town council shops and businesses. Is there a list of businesses in Bexhill that the council can use?
The legal risks of advising on accessibility was discussed and it was recommended that the Town Council engage a qualified advisor.
- b) DO will send the minutes of the Leaky Dams meeting to the Clerk.