

Agenda Item: 10 (E) Partnership Funding **Appendix E**

Report to: Finance and General Purposes Committee

Date: Wednesday 19th October 2022

Subject: Rother District Council Partnership Funding Agreements

Summary: To consider continuing the community funding currently provided by Rother District Council.

Recommendation:

The committee is asked to consider continuing the community funding arrangements previously paid for by Rother District Council, as of 1st April 2023.

1. Current Funding Agreements

Rother District Council (RDC) have the following Partnership Funding Agreements in place:-

- Bexhill 100
- Bexhill Horse show (held in the Polegrove)
- Bexhill Carnival
- Bexhill Bowls
- Highwoods Preservation Society

RDC also do not charge them for the land use, as they do other events.

The above Partnership Agreements were due to expire on 31st March 2022 and as the town council were not in a position to consider the future assets at that time, RDC extended the agreements for one year, until 31st March 2023, on the same terms.

RDC suggested that the town council will wish to decide going forwards from 2023 if they would like to continue supporting these organisations with funding. Obviously, the land on which the events take place may still be RDC land and so they would need to apply to RDC for use of the land.

These charges vary dependent on the costs of maintaining services within each area.

2. Rother District Council Correspondence

In January 2022, Rother District Council wrote to the groups with the following

As you are aware, your current partnership funding agreement (SLA) with Rother District Council, a copy of which is attached to this email, ends on 31st March 2022. Rother District Council proposes to renew this agreement for the period 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2023

under the same terms and conditions, as per your current agreement. Should you wish to seek future support from 1st April 2023 onwards you will need to contact Bexhill Town Council prior to this date to discuss potential funding options with them.

Please note that any events you plan to hold on Rother District Council land from 2023 onwards, will still need to be booked in the usual way with Rother District Council whether you agree with Bexhill Town Council a partnership funding agreement or not, and we will still require an Event Management Plan and risk assessment to be submitted prior to permission being considered.

3. Terms of agreements

a) Bexhill 100 concession

The value of this concession is £1,675 per year (5 days hire of the open space @£225 per day, cost of a closed gate notice and additional grounds maintenance services), subject to fees and charges rises annually.

b) Bexhill Bowls

RDC will carry out additional grounds maintenance works to support the competition including daily mowing of the greens, daily moving the rink markers, increased litter collection and bin emptying.

The concession is valued at £950 per annum, subject to annual review of fees and charges.

c) Bexhill carnival

The concession is valued at £2,725 per annum (7 days hire of the open space @ £325 per day, cost of a closed gate notice and additional grounds maintenance services), subject to fees and charges rises annually.

d) Bexhill horse show

The concession is valued at in excess of £1,743 per annum, (1 day hire @ £590, cost of a closed gate notice and additional grounds maintenance services) subject to annual review of fees and charges and less the balance of income for the event following the payment of all expenses.

e) Highwoods Preservation Society

On receipt of the signed Service Level Agreement, the District Council will pay an annual fee of £1,000 towards the cost directly associated with insurance and maintenance of the Highwood for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022.

4. Decision Required.

This funding will cease as of 1st April 2023, and the committee is to decide if it will continue to fund these organisations from the town council budget.

5. Points to Note

None of the above groups have approached the town council for funding from 2023 as yet.