

Outside Bodies – Reports from Councillors

The following updates have been received from Councillors in relation to the outside bodies to which they have been appointed by Full Council:

	Outside Body	Councillor	Update
1	Team East Sussex (TES)	Zoe Nicholson	<p><u>Dates of Meetings:</u> Various</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most items at recent meetings have been for discussion, with only the odd decision being made. • TES endorsed the project change request submitted to SELEP from the ‘SECEN Creative Workspace Masterplan and Prospectus’ Sector Support Fund (SSF) project, seeking a six month extension. • The ‘Working Well From Home’ project is complete and the website is live; TES has asked for an update to the website to include a good practice sharing platform and business feedback form. • D&B officers are currently working through UKSPF governance arrangements prior to completing investment plans; TES has offered to help as a forum for county-wide collaboration, and stands ready to help however it can. • Other discussions at recent TES meetings have covered the LEP Review, Levelling Up White Paper, Local Skills Improvement Plan and climate change infrastructure (Hydrogen Sussex and UK Power Networks). See the minutes on the SELEP website.
2	Newhaven Town Deal Board	Zoe Nicholson	<p><u>Dates of Meetings:</u> 28 January, 25 March and 22 April 2022</p> <p><u>Business discussed -</u></p> <p><u>28 January 2022:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board approved the £5.8m ‘Destination Newhaven’ business case which over the next five years will enhance Newhaven Fort, unlocking its full potential as an asset for the community and visitors for learning, employment, economic regeneration,

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			<p>and enjoyment and wellbeing.</p> <p><u>25 March 2022:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board approved the £1.06m 'Reconnecting our Town' business case which will deliver town-wide wayfinding and visitor trails and a new pedestrian crossing linking Newhaven station to Railway Quay, the Ferry Terminal, and the UTC building. The Board also approved the £1.3m 'Re-imagining our Town Centre' business case, which will deliver a community hub at the first floor of Newhaven library. <p><u>22 April 2022:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board considered a proposal to redesign the £5.4m 'Better Journeys for All' programme to commit £2.5m of the programme budget to match fund the procurement of a small fleet of hydrogen fuel cell buses to complement the hydrogen fuelling hub which will also be delivered by the programme. The Board asked for more information on the state subsidy implications of the proposal before taking a decision. The subsidy advice will be presented to the Board's next meeting on 20 May, and a decision on how to proceed taken at that stage.
3	Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB)	Zoe Nicholson	<p><u>Date of meetings:</u> 1 February and 8 April.</p> <p><u>Business discussed -</u></p> <p><u>1 February 2022:</u></p> <p>Blue/Green Governance and Investment Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Board agree new governance arrangements are needed for a refreshed and revised Infrastructure Panel, reporting into the Board, with an independently appointed Chair (see appendix 1 for draft Terms of Reference). That the Board agree to a selection

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			<p>process to nominate a local authority Member and a Business Partner to sit on the revised Infrastructure Panel. The University Business Partners will also nominate a representative to sit on the panel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board agree to the establishment of a Scientific, Technical and Advisory Panel (STAP) led by the Universities of Sussex and Brighton to secure research funding and create a roadmap to net zero targets. • That the Board agree to commission work to prepare a Blue/Green Investment Plan to shape our regional narrative, package up our environmental project pipeline and showcase opportunities for investment. • That the Board agree to commit existing budget (£40,000) for the commission of the Investment Plan, along with potential seed funding from private sector Infrastructure Panel members, and BHCC funding already identified (£30,000). • That the Board seek to secure an additional £180,000 from stakeholders so that the total funding for year 1 of the work amounts to £250,000. • That the Board agree a progress report will be brought to the July 2022 Board meeting. <p>Hydrogen Sussex Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board notes the work of Hydrogen Sussex over 2021-22, especially supporting funding bids, stimulating local authorities and commercial stakeholders to work together, and helping to develop skills training. • That the Board notes and supports the proposal to develop a hydrogen investment proposition and strategy for Greater Brighton and the wider Sussex region. • That the Board provides funding of £25,000 for Hydrogen Sussex to develop

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			<p>a hydrogen investment case for the region, from existing Board core funding.</p> <p><u>8 April 2022:</u></p> <p>Greater Brighton Economic Board Operational Arrangements 2022/23 And Annual Report 2021/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that Brighton & Hove City Council shall continue to act as Lead Authority for the Board in 2022/23 and 2023/24. • Agree the process set out at sections 3.13 to 3.17 by which the Chair of the Board shall be nominated for 2022/23. • Approves the 2021/22 Annual Report and Board members submit the report to their respective organisations. • Note the date by which the Lead Authority must be notified of all named substitutes and instruct any necessary actions within their respective organisations. • That the Board notes the content of the One Public Estate Programme's 2021/22 Annual Report. • Note the date by which the Lead Authority must be notified of all nominations to the Greater Brighton Call-In Panel and instruct any necessary actions within their respective organisations. • Agree the new Heads of Terms, which reflect changes to the Board's membership <p>Greater Brighton Creative Industries Strategy 2022-25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board notes government policies on Levelling Up and the potential impact of this on the distribution of funding from bodies relevant to the Creative Industries in the Greater Brighton area. • That the Board agrees to a working group being established made up of GBEB members and invited experts representing the diverse range of micro, small and medium regional businesses

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			<p>to agree the scope of the strategy and to the selection of a consultant to undertake this work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board agrees to allocate £25,000 to the appointment of a consultant to prepare the strategy in response to the brief prepared by the working group. • That the completed strategy and an implementation plan come back to this board for approval in early Autumn 2022.
4	Seaford to Brighton Steering Group AGM	Emily O'Brien	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 18 February 2022</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Chair - Norman Baker. • Updates from the different station groups – great community activity including Bishopstone's refurb & Crowdfunding; linking between Tree wardens & Newhaven Harbour. • New safety lights being installed at Tide Mills crossing (as network rail lack funds to build the proposed new footbridge) also safety improvements at crossing at Southease. <p><u>Decisions made:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New name for the line's community partnership – 'Sussex Downs Line'.
5	South East Councils	Emily O'Brien	<p>Date of meeting: n/a</p> <p>Business discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting to report on but have participated in evidence giving sessions on Levelling UP to the new South East APPG (all party parliamentary group) and also taken part in research being conducted by Localis into the effect of Levelling Up agenda on the South East • The resulting report 'Resetting the South East - Levelling up after Brexit, Climate Change and COVID', has now been published recommended including not seeing funding diverted from southeast to north as suggested by levelling up agenda- "In advancing the Levelling Up

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			White Paper, government must re-think the assumption that directing investment away from an 'overheated' South East will 'cool' the region and 'heat' the rest of the country."
6	LGA People and Places Board (Deputy Chair) (NB this is not a role allocated by LDC council but by LGA but thought this is general interest)	Emily O'Brien	<u>Date of meeting:</u> 15 March 2022 <u>Business discussed:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on Levelling Up (which sits with this board of representatives of non-metropolitan Authorities) including with NFU president- also on devolution offers in white paper • Retrofit Skills and Employment – now a key LGA ask on the back of Green Skills and Economy work which has come through this board.
7	The East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board	Adrian Ross	<u>Date of Meeting:</u> 1 March 2022 <u>Business Discussed:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update report on the East Sussex Health and Social Care Programme. • Integrated Care System (ICS) Pressures. • The East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan (mainly in relation to Covid). • Health and Wellbeing inequalities of residents at Kendal Court, Newhaven and homeless people accommodated by Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) in temporary accommodation in East Sussex. <p>The last item was the one of most immediate interest since it is in Lewes District. It was reported that there has been significant communication between East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and BHCC at both officer and elected Member level on this and that progress has been made, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of people accommodated in East Sussex continues to fall and is now around 122 (around half of the peak of 250 last summer) • New placements to Kendal Court have

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			<p>been paused since December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BHCC have made clear its intention to invest in more welfare provision to support people in emergency accommodation when services are put out to tender in quarter 1 of the new financial year (2022/23). <p>The Chair (Councillor Keith Glazier) concluded that significant improvement has been made, that the re-commissioning of services may resolve this issue and that ESCC will continue to work with BHCC to try and achieve a resolution.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 19 July.</p>
8	Citizens Advice Bureau.	Imogen Makepeace	<p><u>Date of meetings:</u> Various – AGM and trust board meetings.</p> <p><u>Update:</u> The CAB continues to offer valuable support and advice, and in some cases, actual hard cash to our most needy residents. This is a lifeline that is increasingly becoming relevant to many more families and individuals as the cost of living crisis pushes groups that have never previously needed benefit support closer to a cliff edge.</p> <p>During COVID the operations were quickly transformed into a virtual service requiring rapid retraining, recruitment, and new telephony equipment. The new way of working has proved effective and continues, although face to face appointments are returning.</p> <p>LDC changed its procurement policy which left the Bureau with anxiety about its future, but these concerns have been allayed because the grant has been reinstated.</p> <p>The District Manager, Jackie Wilkes is stepping down. I cannot pass by the opportunity to relay enormous gratitude on behalf of residents and officers for her steadfastness and professionalism. Jackie</p>

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			has been a stalwart advocate for the Bureau and its work. She will be missed.
9	South Downs National Park Authority Meeting and Budget Workshops	William Meyer	<p><u>Date of meetings:</u> 25 March and 19 May 2022</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> The meeting is broadcast and recorded and available for public view. At the time of writing this report I have yet to attend the second of the two meetings held in public above and was unable to attend the first.</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> See public website for full details and conduct of meeting.</p>
10	South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd	William Meyer	<p><u>Dates of meetings:</u> Meetings of the Board of Directors and various informal meetings held with the Manager and staff of the South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd company at Seven Sisters County Park.</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning, set up and running of Seven Sisters Country Park on behalf of the South Downs National park Authority. • Building works have been ongoing including a new and extensive toilet block. This was opened as planned in time for the Easter weekend and together with the refurbished Visitor Centre. Although this work was and is still in progress it is reaching completion at the time of writing. The final result will incorporate a variety of facilities: a new retail opportunity, new and refocused educational displays, food / coffee outlets operated on two sites on a grab and go basis, new and refurbished tourist accommodation, new public toilet block, a newly refurbished camping site and toilet block, sustainable land management of the whole estate, and new and better signage for safe public access.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I remain confident that this iconic site is being put a secure and sustainable long term footing by the SDNPA under the direct control of the Directors of South Downs Commercial Operations. • Members fortunate enough to now visit the site will be able to experience for themselves the huge progress the Board of Directors has made in achieving the vision of the SDNPA for the whole site. The Board of Directors aim to ensure this historic community asset is restored in a sensitive way and remains open and available to the public all year round. New sustainable land management schemes will also ensure the County Park's land is improved for wildlife and rare flora.
11	South Downs National Park Authority – Task and Finish Group in response to the Glover landscape review	William Meyer	<p><u>Business discussed:</u> A series of meeting attended since the winter to look at some of the more complex governance issues the Park faces to answer some of the criticisms of the Glover Landscape report about accountability and board size of National Parks in general.</p> <p>This is purely an advisory group, established by the Park's elected Chairman, Ian Phillips, which in turn reports its findings / advice to the National Park Authority meeting.</p>
12	Decarbonising Our Housing Stock (DOHS)	Matthew Bird	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 11th May 2022</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update. • Assessment approaches for different building archetypes agreed. • A blend of measures and pathways have been identified for reaching Net Zero by 2030 subject to funding and supply chain capacity. • PV identified as key measure, thinking about which ways in. • Some conclusions reached on Procurement, Skills, Grants and Consortiums and early indications of provisional budgeting.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work beginning on addressing supply chain gaps. <p><u>Decisions made:</u> Budget for some specific measures agreed.</p>
13	Upper Ouse Flood Protection and Water Retention Works Working Group	Matthew Bird	<p>Date of meeting: 12th May 2022.</p> <p>Business discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on projects with partners Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust • Sussex Flow Initiative projects at Wivesfield, Ringmer, Meeching Valley and Hoath Woods. • 19, 650 native trees/shrubs planted • 1,023,650 litres of flood water held • Creation of 13.28 hectares of priority habitat • Natural flood management measures support the protection of 17 properties considered to be at very significant risk of flooding • More than 120 volunteers engaged • Visited 55 landowners • Storing the Storm project with Wivelsfield Primary School captures runoff and improving flooding problems at bottom of school field • Engagement with kids a key priority in project • Discussion of future projects and strategic approach to river catchment issues. • Discussion of links with Ouse Valley Climate Action.
14	South East Coastal Group	Matthew Bird	No Meeting has taken place since the last report submitted.