

## 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, since the last meeting.

	<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Update</b>
1	Sussex Downs Line Steering Group (formerly Seaford to Brighton Line) AGM	Emily O'Brien	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 17/6/22</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review</li> <li>• Report on community activity &amp; on impending rail strike</li> <li>• Concern over proposed phase out of ticket offices at stations</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions made:</b> N/A</p>
2	LGA People & Places Board	Emily O'Brien	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 16/5/22 &amp; 21/6/22</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended 2 x LGA Levelling Up Locally Enquiry round table in role as Deputy Chair</li> <li>• Also chaired an LGA webinar on community fund on 14/6</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions made:</b> N/A</p>
3	LGA People - Places Board	Emily O'Brien	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 7/6/22</p> <p><b>Business discussed /decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of Living – huge current challenge especially for rural areas - on everything from food, energy (especially heating oil) and petrol prices, to spiralling inflation and even mortgage rate increases. Pushed that the existing LGA ask to Government on taking mass retrofitting seriously must go harder and should be reformed to point out that well-insulated cheap-to-run homes are key to tackling the cost of living crisis.</li> <li>• Levelling Up Bill – flagged concerns about elected mayors as a condition of devolution, along with concerns about the 'big is better' approach e.g. proposed new County Combined Authorities.</li> <li>• Single Prosperity Fund – Board as a cross-party whole agrees there needs to be more money on the table though welcome that this is now more streamlined (LGA had lobbied hard on</li> </ul>

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			<p>this)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I was appointed as Board rep to LGA Cost of Living Group (cross board)</li> </ul>
4	South East Councils	<p>Emily O'Brien</p> <p>Johnny Denis (attended for Emily O'Brien)</p>	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 17/6/22</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting of the executive</li> <li>Update on current economic challenges in Southeast &amp; nationally</li> <li>New SE 100 monitor published</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions made:</b> relating to upcoming AGM.</p> <p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 05/07/22</p> <p><b>Business discussed / decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual General Meeting.</li> <li>Cllr O'Brien re-elected to the Board.</li> <li>Agreed a constitutional review.</li> <li>Considered the data collected by South East 1000 data monitor.</li> <li>Considered the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the South East.</li> </ul>
5	Impact Seaford	Christine Brett	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <p><u>Short term project updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gateway and signage completed.</li> <li>More concessions now on the Seafont. and Beacon event went well.</li> <li>Renaming Martello fields competition will be held in September.</li> <li>There will be many events held over the summer including Pride.</li> <li>Salts improvements were discussed.</li> <li>Cliff Gardens is waiting for CIL bid but needs matched funding. Lottery bid hopeful.</li> <li>Cycling report coming soon.</li> <li>Lots of trees have been planted this year.</li> </ul> <p><u>Medium term project updates:</u> Martello toilets tenders being reviewed – hoping to start building in Autumn.</p>

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			<p><u>Long term project updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crouch signage applied for.</li> <li>• More trees hopefully (Trees for Seaford).</li> <li>• Seaford Town FC now doing some maintenance at the FC.</li> <li>• South Hill Barn - Weatherproofed again. Have summer exhibitions. Concession cafe proving the Barn's worth.</li> <li>• Peter Sharp advised that there is a intention for LDC to put in a bid to the Shared Prosperity Fund by the end of July - this will be for £1m over 3 years, and the Council will be keen to spread funds across the District.</li> </ul> <p><u>AOB -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability of future plans discussed.</li> <li>• There has been slow progress on Dane Valley with a different housing association.</li> <li>• Future long-term new cafe further up the seafront (Neal), will need sewerage.</li> </ul> <p><u>Actions –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any progress update on Talland Parade will be circulated by email.</li> <li>• September meeting to look at evaluating existing future projects for sustainability in person.</li> </ul>
6	Citizens Advice	Imogen Makepeace	<p>I attended a Trustee Meeting at which was present Dame Clare Moriarty, who has a special connection with Lewes through her work with the South Downs Partnership. She spoke about the current cost of living crisis and the help the CAB is giving, and the how information gathered by each CAB towards the Research and Campaigns work is used to advise policymakers. She said Citizens Advice is thinking about core service delivery in the light of the Covid pandemic, and the ways to provide advice, as well as the ways in which Citizens Advice can give support to local offices in the future.</p> <p>In response to questions from Council representatives, she said that local government funding was critical and should be considered as a public health investment as good advice can improve people's</p>

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			<p>wellbeing. She felt that the best way to support people in greatest need was through the benefits system, reinstating the £20 Universal Credit uplift and expanding the Warm Home Discount scheme.</p> <p>Debbie Harris is the acting Chair, and recruitment is underway for a new District Manager. Since the meeting, the new CEO, Sarah Archer has been appointed.</p> <p>I have been having informal conversations with Debbie about the delivery of the Energy Rebate Scheme and how future support and advice can be delivered, particularly for some residents who are not very well connected to the internet.</p> <p>I am happy to report that face to face meetings with CAB advisors are again available, by appointment only (book via <a href="mailto:info@lewesca.onmicrosoft.com">info@lewesca.onmicrosoft.com</a> or calling 01273 007557). Opening times:</p> <p><b>Seaford</b> – Mon (10-15.30) 37 Church Street (Tourist Info Building)  <b>Newhaven</b> - Tues-Thurs (10-15.30) 15-19 Chapel Street,  <b>Peacehaven</b> – Thurs (appt only), Meridian Centre.  <b>Lewes</b> – Fri (10-15.30) Southover House</p>
7	Laurence O'Connor	Wave Leisure	<p><b>Meetings attended</b> - Board 6<sup>th</sup> June, Health and Safety Committee 20<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p>Wave has achieved the Charity Excellence Quality Mark recognising its approach to management effectiveness and governance.</p> <p>In the past year, following the lockdowns Wave has been performing better than anticipated, in particular with both memberships and bookings. As a result income from memberships was in fact better than expected. An improving trend has seen Wave Swim School and Wet Side return strongly, which in the year prior to the pandemic had been in decline.</p> <p>With the pandemic restrictions being lifted</p>

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			<p>and company performance now looking more positive staff were kept informed of progress at a meeting on 14 June.</p> <p>Emphasis upon staff wellbeing has been a key part of Wave's approach during the pandemic and from April a new Employee Assistance Programme has been made available to all staff. This offers services including access support from mental health counsellors and physiotherapists.</p> <p>Moving forward it is well known that Wave had been looking at its portfolio. Wave trustees have therefore welcomed the opportunity to explore how new leisure services can be provided in Newhaven alongside GP's and support staff at a new health and wellbeing hub in the town. Wave Chief Executive, Duncan Kerr has said that "It's great news and is exciting times for Newhaven, Wave and Seahaven Swim and Fitness Centre."</p>
8	Wave Leisure Trust	Johnny Denis	<p><b>Meeting date:</b> Attended Management boards and various committees.</p> <p><b>Business Discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actual income better than predicted in recovery plan.</li> <li>• New opportunities are presenting themselves for working at new sites.</li> <li>• Staff engagement is working well.</li> </ul>
9	Sussex Police and Crime Panel (PCP) (NB. this body scrutinises the role and work of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC))	Johnny Denis	<p><b>Meeting date:</b> 24<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p><b>Business Discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considered recommendation of task and finish group that PCC bid for part of Shared Prosperity allocation to each District and borough to fund a business crime group.</li> <li>• Considered and questioned the annual report of the PCC.</li> </ul>
10	Community Infrastructure Levy Executive Board	Johnny Denis	<p>The CIL Executive Board met in June.</p> <p><b>Decisions</b> - Agreed recommendations of CIL Management board for presentation to Cabinet.</p>

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11	Community Safety Partnership	Johnny Denis	<p><b>Meeting date:</b> 13<sup>th</sup> April</p> <p><b>Business Discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considered updates form partners</li> <li>• Grant applications</li> <li>• Letter from Police and crime Commissioner re communicating the work of the CSPs</li> </ul> <p>Next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July.</p>
12	Armed Forces Champion	Sharon Davy	<p><u>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May</u> - I attended the South East Armed Forces Networks – “Together We CAN Make A Difference” at the Amex Football Stadium, Falmer. This was an opportunity to hear inspirational speakers and meet other Armed Forces Champions who proudly say their local authorities have achieved silver or gold Employers Recognition status. It took some time for the Council to achieve the current Bronze Recognition. I would like to aim for silver and gold. The Network of Support/Armed Forces Team is: prevention – inclusion – training – single point of contact.</p> <p><u>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May</u> - I had the honour of attending a Queen’ Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and in my role of Lewes District’s Council Armed Forces Champion, spoke with many who are currently serving in the Armed Forces and their extended families, as well as those retired but very much part of the Armed Forces Family.</p> <p><u>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June</u> - I attended the Reserve Forces’ and Cadets’ Association (SERFCA) Briefing in Crawley and listened to skilled and knowledgeable speakers from all of the Armed Forces. The SERFCA Master Messages are: Championing the Value of Reserve Service – Promoting the Cadet Experience – Encouraging Support from Employers and the Community for the Reserves and Cadets – Providing the Best Place to Work and Train – Supporting Reserve and Cadet Recruiting – Raising Awareness of the needs of ex-Service Personnel and their Families – Generating income for the Benefit of Reserves and Cadets. I spoke of the many opportunities</p>

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			<p>for our Cadets and how the experience can be life changing for young people.</p> <p><u>On-going communication</u> - The (updated) Armed Forces Bill has received Royal Assent and is enshrined in law. It covers: Education provision – Housing provision – Healthcare provision. To help those who risked their lives defending this country.</p> <p>I have met with Cllr Bob Bowdler, the Armed Forces Champion for East Sussex County Council and he knows that I am extremely keen to arrange an in-person meeting to embrace all of the Armed Forces Champions in East Sussex.</p>
13	Greater Brighton Economic Board	Zoe Nicholson	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 26 April 2022</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Hothouse (presentation from University of Chichester)</li> <li>• Greater Brighton Operational Arrangements 2022/23 and Annual Report 2021/22</li> <li>• Greater Brighton Creative Industries Strategy 2022-25</li> <li>• Greater Brighton Investment Programme Update.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <p>A. <u>Greater Brighton Operational Arrangements 2022/23 And Annual Report 2021/22</u> - That the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Agrees and secures the budgetary contributions sought to fund the cost of running the Board and delivering its workplan in 2022/23.</li> <li>2) Notes that Brighton &amp; Hove City Council shall continue to act as Lead Authority for the Board in 2022/23 and 2023/24.</li> <li>3) Agrees the process set out at sections 3.14 to 3.18 by which the Chair of the Board shall be nominated for 2022/23.</li> <li>4) Approves the 2021/22 Annual Report and Board members submit the report</li> </ol>

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			<p>to their respective organisations.</p> <p>5) Notes the date by which the Lead Authority must be notified of all named substitutes and instruct any necessary actions within their respective organisations.</p> <p>6) Notes the content of the One Public Estate Programme's 2021/22 Annual Report.</p> <p>7) Notes 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.</p> <p>8) Agrees the new Heads of Terms, which reflect changes to the Board's membership in light of recent suspended memberships.</p> <p>9) Agrees to extend the contracts of the Greater Brighton Support Team (0.8 FTE Business Manager, 0.75 FTE Business Manager and 0.5 FTE Programme Support Officer) by 3 years, as they are due to expire in May 2023, to deliver the Greater Brighton workplan.</p> <p><b><u>B. Greater Brighton Creative Industries Strategy 2022-25 – That the Board</u></b></p> <p>1) 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.</p> <p>2) Agrees to a working group being established made up of Greater Brighton Economic Board members, a representation of regional businesses and invited experts to agree the scope of the strategy and to the selection of a consultant to undertake this work.</p> <p>3) Agrees to allocate £25,000 to the appointment of a consultant to prepare the strategy in response to the brief</p>

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			<p>prepared by the working group.</p> <p>4) Agrees that the completed strategy and an implementation plan come back to the Board for approval on 18 October 2022.</p> <p><u>C. Greater Brighton Investment Programme Update:</u> That the Board notes the report and the Investment Programme Update at Appendix 1.</p>
14	Team East Sussex (SELEP)	Zoe Nicholson	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 3 May 2022</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolution of LEP's (following Levelling Up White Paper)</li> <li>• Working Well from Home project (presentation from University of Sussex)</li> <li>• Borough &amp; District Funding Programmes</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions made:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed paper on future of LEP's to be taken to SELEP Strategic Board on 24 June</li> <li>• Continue support for Working Well from Home project as a research-driven, user friendly resource to support longer-term homeworking in East Sussex.</li> <li>• TES Board Members to share / promote Working Well from Home (<a href="http://www.workingwellfromhome.co.uk">www.workingwellfromhome.co.uk</a>) through existing networks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 20 June 2022</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Update from Districts &amp; Boroughs</li> <li>• Levelling Up Fund Round 2 – Update from Districts &amp; Boroughs</li> <li>• Growth Hub Transition</li> <li>• SELEP Strategic Board</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions made:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed to sign off UKSPF Investment Plans at 18 July meeting.</li> <li>• Note reduction of core Government Funding for SELEP Growth Hub (locally known as Business East Sussex), but</li> </ul>

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			<p>core principles of Growth Hub will remain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note Strategic Board papers and to support East Sussex in being allocated additional capital funding for pipeline projects.</li> </ul>
15	<p>South Downs National Park Authority Board</p> <p>Annual General Meeting 2022</p>	William Meyer	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> 5 July 2022</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board meetings of the National Park are all streamed live recorded and available for public view at all times.</li> <li>At the AGM, the Chair and Deputy Chair were elected and appointments made, largely at the discretion of the newly appointed Chair, to Committees and Outside Bodies and subsequently ratified by the Board. For the first time in the history of the Authority (since 2010) a contested election took place for the role of both Chair and that of Deputy Chair.</li> <li>Vanessa Rowlands, a Secretary of State / East Sussex Parish Member and former Deputy Chair since 2020, won against Ian Phillips, a Secretary of State appointed Member and Chair since 2020 by secret ballot. 23 of 26 Members were present and able to vote. This represented the best attended meeting of the Authority that I have witnessed.</li> <li>The new Chair, Vanessa Rowlands, lives just on the eastern boundary of LDC, has been a member of the Board of the South Downs Commercial Operations (7 Sisters) together with myself since 2021 and was first elected to Membership in 2019. Her success was warmly received by Members.</li> <li>Ian Phillips, who has served unopposed for the previous two years as Chair, secured election to the position of Deputy Chair. Ian was warmly thanked by Members for his two years as Chair and welcomed as the new Deputy Chair for his final year at the SDNPA.</li> <li>A Member Workshop meeting, held prior to the AGM, facilitated final decisions on CIL allocations for 2022. From some 450 bids, some 30 projects are to be</li> </ul>

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			<p>funded – the final list and decisions on this list will be made by the Planning Committee later this summer. This meeting will be held in public. The full allocation this year is a little under £2m for projects from across the 100 miles of the Park. I am hopeful that when announced, projects from within LDC will feature prominently as beneficiaries of CIL funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For all business and decisions made at the AGM see public website including the detailed conduct of the election process for Chair and Deputy Chair and their individual statements.</li> </ul>
16	<p>South Downs National Park Authority</p> <p>Seven Sisters Country Park “South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd”</p>	William Meyer	<p><b>Date of Meetings</b> – various and frequent at 7 Sisters County Park</p> <p>Meetings of the Board of Directors and other informal meetings held with the Commercial Manager and staff members of South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd. Meetings are weekly or bi-weekly and are key to ensuring Board oversight of ongoing operations.</p> <p><b>Business discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The early set up, current operations and emerging governance of the Seven Sisters Country Park on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority.</li> <li>• As part of this, building works are still ongoing at the main Exceat visitor site. These works are due to be completed by end July.</li> <li>• The Grab and Go café, located in what was previously the old visitor toilet block (the latter now relocated and greatly expanded to the northern end of the building complex just off the car park) finally opened at the end of May. It has got off to a great start.</li> <li>• This represents another new addition to the refurbished Visitor Centre, opened at Easter. This now incorporates new and fully accessible retail space, refocused educational displays, food / drink outlets operated on two sites. This will soon be complemented by the opening of 3 refurbished tourist cottages and the</li> </ul>

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			<p>camping barn accommodation and toilets located at Foxholes. Public path improvements and new signage continue to be a focus for the Estate as anyone who has visited the site recently will discover. It is anticipated that all these facilities will be completed by the close of 2022 / or early 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I continue to support the Commercial Manager and serve on the Board of Directors following my reappointment to this position at the 5 July AGM. I remain confident that this iconic site will continue to receive the investment and management attention it deserves and needs after years of neglect to both the listed physical facilities and poor land stewardship across the whole Estate under the previous owners.</li> <li>• New sustainable land management schemes are already ensuring the Country Park's land is improving for wildlife and rare flora. Recently, as part of the land management scheme, a small number of Hereford and Sussex cattle have been selectively introduced by Plumpton College. The College is a key partner organisation for the Seven Sisters Country Park, working in partnership with South Downs Commercial Operation to ensure appropriate levels of grazing in line with the agreed land management plan. This follows years of over grazing by the previous tenant of the Estate who only finally left in early 2021.</li> </ul>
17	<p>South Downs National Park Authority</p> <p>Equity and Diversity Training for Elected Members</p>	William Meyer	<p>Training to cover the detailed and wider issues of Equity and Diversity as outlined in the 2010 Equality Act.</p> <p>This represents a recognition by the SDNPA of the need to ensure a wider understanding amongst Members of the Public Sector Equality Duty. It also recognises the challenges the Authority faces to ensure both its employees AND its Board Members are drawn from diverse background – this however is very much seen as a work in progress.</p>

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18	Decarbonising Our Housing Stock (DOHS)	Matthew Bird	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> No meeting has taken place</p> <p><b>Update:</b> A Barcombe Ground Source Heat Pump working group has begun work looking at the potential for implementing this technology in a rural context. The group includes reps from Communiheat, Community Energy South, OVESCO and consultants.</p> <p><b>Decisions made:</b> Project kick off</p>
19	South East Coastal Group	Matthew Bird	No meeting has taken place since the last report submitted.
20	Upper Ouse Flood Protection and Water Retention Works Working Group	Matthew Bird	No meeting has taken place since the last report submitted.