

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.

	Outside Body	Councillor	Update
1	Lewes Citizen's Advice Bureau	Imogen Makepeace	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 15 January 2024</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> CAB asked for arrangements similar to those set up with the income optimisation team and benefits team to be set up with the housing and homelessness prevention teams.</p> <p>These regular video calls help CAB to support residents with the increasingly complex needs they present.</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> Officers have responded enthusiastically to the suggestion of relationship building with the housing and homelessness prevention. A date has been set for the first one.</p>
2	Aspiration Homes (AHLLP)	Zoe Nicholson	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 11 January 2024</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> Q2 Financial Performance Rental Increase Rent Arrears Q2 Tenancy Management and Compliance</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> AHLLP - Delegated Authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning and Chief Finance Officer to set rents, in consultation with Councillors Zoe Nicholson and Stephen Holt.</p>
3	Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB)	Zoe Nicholson	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> September 2023</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> Since September, there has only been one Board meeting, but that was a closed (non-public) session so no official decisions were made.</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 6th February 2024</p> <p><u>Business Discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP dissolution update • Sussex Energy Self Reliance • Economic Outlook Paper (2023) • Economic Dashboard

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4	Team East Sussex (TES)	Zoe Nicholson	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> TES Board meetings 4 December 2023 and 29 January 2024 (next meeting 18 March 2024).</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> The main discussion items at TES have been the ongoing <i>LEP Transition</i> process and work to develop a new <i>Economic Growth Strategy</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP Transition: following the Government’s announcement that LEP funding will be discontinued from April 2024, the South East LEP is continuing to work through transition plans in order to integrate LEP functions into its upper tier local authorities (namely East Sussex, Essex and Kent County Councils). SELEP has produced an overall Integration Plan, and ESCC officers have also developed a more local East Sussex Integration Plan, covering any specific actions for TES and the County, Borough and District Councils. While SELEP is still awaiting ‘formal’ confirmation from Government on its proposed functional economic areas (i.e. confirming the three upper tier authorities as local accountable bodies), the LEP Transition process remains on track. • Economic Growth Strategy: work continues on developing a new Economic Growth Strategy for East Sussex. The initial call for evidence has been completed, and recent activity has included a series of consultation workshops through November and December, including a place-based workshop hosted by LDC colleagues at the Marine Workshops in Newhaven. The consultants developing the strategy have now produced an overall framework in the form of a storyboard. The strategy’s eventual sign-off and launch is still on track for Spring 2024. • Reimagining Newhaven Board: TES Board member Alison Turner has been appointed to the Reimagining Newhaven Board (formerly the Newhaven Town Deal Board) as the TES representative. <p><u>Decisions made:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TES Board endorsed the East Sussex Integration Plan. • The TES Board appointed Alison Turner as TES Deputy Chair (effective 2 January 2024).

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5	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Christine Brett	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 14 December 2023</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Paediatric service model development at Eastbourne:</u> The Committee had received communications from a senior member of staff raising concerns about the impending changes, and now heard from officers about the rationale behind these changes. <u>Agreed-</u> A panel would be set up to look into this and report back to the next meeting in March. • <u>NHS Sussex winter plan 2023-24:</u> The Committee heard about the plans put in place to deal with the winter, additional staffing and capacity secured. This included more overseas staff including carers from the independent sector. • <u>Hospital handovers at the Royal Sussex County Hospital -</u> There was a long discussion about waiting times, and some of the improvements made; this is a work in progress.
6	Wave Active	Laurence O'Connor	<p><u>General Update:</u> Major works have now been completed on all of LDC's Wave sites on Air Handling Units and Control Panels as well as Roof Repairs. Seahaven was the last one to be completed just before Christmas after lengthy works during which staff managed to continue working.</p> <p>In addition, the Newhaven Swimming Pool has been awarded nearly £150,000 after Lewes District Council successfully secured funding from the Swimming Pool Support Fund. The money is part of a £20 million national fund being delivered by Sport England for energy efficiency savings at swimming pools in response to increased operating costs. The centre has been awarded £109,650 towards Photo Voltaic (PV) panels for heating the water and £40,000 for pool covers. This demonstrates the continuing close relationship between Wave Active and Lewes District Council and shows the joint commitment to helping residents of all ages to keep healthy in body and mind. Of course, this new investment in energy saving will reduce CO2 emissions as well</p>

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			<p>as helping to bring down operating costs which have risen sharply due to increases in energy bills.</p> <p>Overall Wave Active has done well in the 9 months to December 2023. A net profit was achieved against a forecasted loss. It is anticipated that the charity will be in profit at the end of the financial year. Almost all sites are working towards an operating profit. It is good to see that performance remains strong and continues the trend seen in the previous year. Of Inflation and the impact on the consumer purse remain the key financial risks.</p> <p>Looking to the future the charity continues to look proactively at opportunities to increase its offer to our communities working closely with Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Councils.</p>
7	South Downs National Park Authority	Daniel Stewart-Roberts	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 9 November 2023 <u>Business discussed:</u> Planning Committee <u>Decisions made:</u> Various planning applications and related matters, none relating to Lewes District.</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 5 December 2023 <u>Business discussed:</u> All staff and members meeting. <u>Decisions made:</u> Presentations on achievements and developments during 2023.</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 12 December 2023 <u>Business discussed:</u> Workshop considering the Authority's 24/25 Budget 1 of 2. <u>Decisions made:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 14 December 2023 <u>Business discussed:</u> Planning Committee <u>Decisions made:</u> Consideration and approval of Infrastructure Business Plan 2023 and spending of 22/23 CIL receipts.</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 18 January 2024 <u>Business discussed:</u> Planning Committee Awayday/Training day. <u>Decisions made:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 25 January 2024</p>

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			<p><u>Business discussed:</u> Workshop considering the Authority's 24/25 Budget 2 of 2</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> Recommendation for budget to be put to full SDNPA.</p>
8	Armed Forces Champion	Daniel Stewart-Roberts	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 12 November 2023</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> Remembrance Day wreath laying at Lewes War Memorial</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 11 December 2023</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> East Sussex Civil Military Partnership Board</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> General updates</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 16 January 2024</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> District and Borough Armed Forces Champions Meeting</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> General updates.</p>
9	Sussex Police and Crime Panel	Paul Keene	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 26 January 2024</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> Review of Membership and Proportionality; Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner; Final Report of the Budget and Precept Working Group; Proposed 2024/2025 Precept; Report by the Commissioner; Role of the Commissioner on Ensuring Stop and Search Powers are used Effectively and Appropriately; Quarterly Report of Complaints.</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> WSCC appointed an invited Conservative Councillor and ESCC appointed an invited Green Councillor according to proportionality rules after a debate and vote.</p> <p>After the Budget and Precept Working Group could not agree on a recommended Precept, the full Panel agreed, after a presentation by the Commissioner and a full debate, that the Precept for 24/25 will be a £13 or 5.4% increase at Council Tax Band D which will be £1.08 per month.</p>
10	Lewes District Food Partnership	Emily O'Brien	<p>Meeting postponed until later in February but useful to report that Emergency Food Network Joint Crowdfunder smashes £5,000 target and unlocks matchfunding to raise over £11,000 this year. – The Enjoolata Foundation has pledged to match fund up to £5,000, and we also received</p>

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			£2,500 from the East Sussex Community Wellbeing Fund. The total will be distributed between the eight participating projects of the Emergency Food Network.
10	Water Champion Update	Emily O'Brien	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> various</p> <p><u>Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panellist at the rights of Rivers Conference organised by Love our Ouse in Lewes on 24 November. • Attended LDC Scrutiny panel visit to Newhaven Wastewater treatment works 27 November. • Southern Water PR24 Stakeholder Webinar – Sussex on 8 December • 22 December 2023 - Convened a meeting with ESCC director of public health and LDC officers, and my Eastbourne counterpart re water quality and impact on health. Public Health is now going to seek local evidence on this as not clearly understood and shared desire to understand better. • Southern Water LPA stakeholder group 19 January 2024 – useful interrogation of Ofwat alongside Southern Water. Had a follow up 1:1 with Ofwat regarding interaction between South East Water/Southern Water. • 27 January - Love Our Ouse River Tour at Barcombe Village Hall. •
11	LGA Coastal Special interest Group Plus other LGA activity Update	Emily O'Brien	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 11 December</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> Useful presentation re SMP explorer, which is a new online platform sharing the Shoreline management plans from across the UK in a more accessible format (now launched at https://www.gov.uk/government/news/smp-explorer-digital-shoreline-management-tool-launched). Also attended the launch event in January 2024</p> <p>After the meeting I raised public health responsibilities regarding water quality in the follow up discussion.</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> Agreed to have a future focus on caravan and mobile home licencing which is not fit for purpose.</p>

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			<p>OTHER LGA activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended People and Places Board, and Lead Members Meetings. Requested items for inclusion on workplan including research on rural homelessness and housing issues, especially costs of temporary and emergency accommodation. • Chaired LGA Cost of Living Webinar: Integrated approaches to fuel poverty energy.
12	Ouse Valley Climate Action	Emily O'Brien	<u>Date of meeting:</u> Most recent board meeting was cancelled. I have requested a 1:1 – waiting to hear.