

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	Re-imagining Newhaven Board (formerly the Newhaven Town Deal Board)	Zoe Nicholson (apologies given for both meetings) Christine Robinson	<u>Date of meetings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 November 2024 • 24 January 2025 <u>Business discussed:</u> 29 November 2024 (Minutes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Enterprise Incubator update • Look Again Supergraphics Festival outcomes and evaluation • Wayfinding and Public Realm Improvements programme overview. 24 January 2025 (Draft minutes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newhaven Fort progress update • Social Enterprise Incubator update • Creative Newhaven update. <u>Decisions made:</u> 29 November 2024: No decisions were required. 24 January 2025: No decisions were required.
2	Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB)	Zoe Nicholson	<u>Date of meeting:</u> 28 January 2025 <u>Business discussed:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural Business • Minutes of the previous meeting • Chair's Communications • Admission of New Member to the Board • Sussex Energy Update
3	Newhaven Fishing CIC Board	Zoe Nicholson	<u>Date of meeting:</u> 19 th December 2024 <u>Business discussed:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates/progress • Minutes of the previous meeting agreed • Board agreed to meet every two months • Energy supplier for building to be changed • Communications to be agreed when building is fully operational • Signage for building to be agreed • West Beach project update
4	Wave Active	Laurence O'Connor	<u>Date of meetings:</u> 18 November and 10 February Board Meetings. 16 December Health and Safety meeting.

	Outside Body	Councillor	Update
			<p><u>Update:</u> For the 9 months to December 2024 a net profit exceeding the forecasted profit was achieved This was as a result of increased bookings and utility costs significantly under budget. The investment Lewes District Council has made in sites operated by Wave Active is having a positive impact upon energy usage.</p> <p>Peacehaven Leisure Centre opened a refurbished gym area with new equipment, air conditioning and flooring on the 15 February. This has been well received by those looking for a bigger, better and improved gym experience.</p> <p>Wave is involved with the Ringmer Swimming Pool and following investment from Lewes District Council and others the intention is for it to re-open in May, which is seen as great news for leisure facilities in the district.</p> <p>Newhaven Fort reopened its doors to the public on 15 February 2025, following a transformative £7.5m restoration of the historic landmark. After 12 months of closure, the newly restored 19th-century fort now boasts an enhanced visitor experience, featuring a brand-new adventure playground, interactive exhibitions and an exciting 1970s-themed escape room, which will open in April 2025.</p> <p>As can be seen Wave Active is moving forward with the overall aim of improving the health and wellbeing of district residents.</p>
5	Mental Health Champion	Sean Macleod	<p>Event – Mental Health in Schools Conference (special guest – Diane Abbott)</p> <p><u>Date of Meeting:</u> 1 February 2025</p> <p><u>Business discussed / focus of the conference:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools’ exclusion policies and how these disproportionately affect children in socially deprived areas and those with educational needs. • That children excluded from school struggle with mental health and social isolation issues and are 4 times more likely to end up in prison. • Children of BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) heritage are more likely to be excluded than white children. Racial discrimination is still an issue in schools.

	Outside Body	Councillor	Update
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I spoke on issues around poverty and children being excluded from school for having the incorrect uniform and how schools are not taking poverty into account. I spoke about how being only able to buy school uniforms from one shop creates an over inflated market and that schools' insistence on having a logo on everything force families to purchase uniform they cannot afford. We discussed how penalising children for poverty is not the answer and that excluding such children just leads to social isolation and poor mental health. • It was raised that more funding was required to schools to tackle the issue, and there was concern that this would not be tackled effectively by the Government. • In the autumn term there were around 346,279 suspensions in schools in England and over 4,000 exclusions. However, not all suspension and exclusions were recorded as the data is not compulsory. There were also discussions around the number of detentions given. • At the end of the conference, it was suggested that substantial educational reform was needed and that there had to be a greater focus on children's mental health. It was felt that school policies should be made at a local level and that Councillors and others in local government should have more say on how policy was shaped. It was felt that this ability was hindered by the rise in academy schools who set their own policies and were often stricter than those in the local authority.
6	Sussex Police and Crime Panel	Paul Keene	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 27 September 2024</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation Hearings for Chief Constable. • Precept Panel was appointed. • The PCC formally giving notice of Sussex Police withdrawing from the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP). <p><u>Decisions made:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Constable Jo Shiner was <u>recommended</u> to be confirmed for another term. • The Precept Panel will begin a series of meetings to make a recommendation for the Sussex Police Precept to the SPCP in early 2025 • The PCC stated she hoped withdrawal from the SSRP will have a positive effect and that

	Outside Body	Councillor	Update
			<p>Sussex Police will continue to work in partnership with the SSRP.</p> <p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 31 January 2025</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Budget and Precept Working Group was presented, result presented by majority vote from the Working Group. • Proposed Precept was discussed. • Update on the Police and Crime Plan was presented by the Commissioner. • Informal Resolution of non-serious complaints procedure was discussed. • Proposed amendments to the Constitution were presented. <p><u>Decisions made:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Police Precept of a 5.5% raise, the maximum allowable, £14 on a Band D property, an increase of £1.17 per month, £266.91 per Outside Body Councillor Update annum for a Band D property was passed with one no vote. • The Panel agreed that the Chair of the Panel would write to the Commissioner to lobby the police minister to change funding formula and work to lower the amount the Panel was obliged to agree to, and the Panel agreed the Chair would write to the Police Minister to lobby for the same. • The Informal Resolution procedure for non-serious complaints was agreed. The amendments to the Constitution, that gender neutral language would be used in the document, and other minor language changes, was agreed.