

Northern Rother District Councillors' Report February 2021.

The establishment of a **Rother Community Lottery** will be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 8 February. This would enable voluntary and community groups to access funding by contributing to the success of the Lottery. Funds raised could support the Community Grants Scheme instead of using "earmarked reserves" for that purpose.

Cabinet will also consider installing the necessary technology in the Council Chamber to enable a **highbred meeting system** so that all Council meetings can continue to be webcast and hybrid meeting be enabled should legislation permit. A three-year contract with an external provider is proposed in the first instance and will require a budget of £70,000 to meet equipment and licensing costs for this period. This cost would be met through earmarked reserves. This would ensure residents of Rother could continue to access Council meetings without having to travel to the Town Hall once meetings in the Council Chamber resume.

We have become aware that a **review of the Planning Department and Service** is being undertaken by an external provider. We do not know how much this review will cost nor under whose authority it is being undertaken. Invitations will shortly be issued to Town and Parish Councils to nominate/send Councillors to a focus group to express their views on the current service and to advise their views on changes they would like to see.

Cabinet will also consider proposals to **redevelop the Town Hall** site in Bexhill. It is proposed to include this scheme in the Council's Capital Programme and to agree a budget of £460,000 to progress detailed designs for the future of the site. The main aim is to support the Council's carbon neutral pledge, among others.