

Northern Rother District Councillors' Report November 2025.

Dear Councillors,

Reserves held by Rother District Council.

The Council has £5.00m in General Reserves not earmarked for any specific purpose (plus a further £5.54m in Earmarked Reserves). If the expected revenue outturn is realised, the General Reserve would reduce by £944,000 to £4.056m.

It should also be noted that it is likely, following the Cabinet decisions on the Town Hall Renaissance and King Offa capital projects, that we will be required to write off the abortive costs in the region of £900,000. Additionally, we await the final valuation for the Hermes Property Fund investment, but this is also likely to give rise to a loss being written off in year in the region of £400,000.

These factors would bring the forecast General Reserve level to around £2.8m.

It should be noted that the recommended minimum level of reserves is £5 million.

De La Warr Pavillion.

Rother District Council's planning committee approved plans for repair and refurbishment works at the Grade I Listed venue which stands proudly on Bexhill's seafront.

The De La Warr Pavilion was built in 1935 and re-opened 20 years ago after a major restoration project. These latest plans will enhance the building and its historic features whilst updating it and making it more accessible.

The plans include remodelling the auditorium and main hall, making the balcony accessible, creating a new bar, and improving the café

and restaurants. Not only will it enhance the experience for visitors, but it will also make the historic building more sustainable and safeguard it for the future.

Camber Sands Welcome Centre.

Another building that will benefit the community is the Camber Sands Welcome Centre opened earlier this month.

The new centre will improve safety, support and information for visitors to Camber Sands and provide improved toilet and shower facilities.

It also provides an improved headquarters for Operation Radcott, the extremely important multi-agency safety operation, and offers community space for residents to use when Operation Radcott is not live.

With tens of thousands of people visiting the beach on busy days over the summer, it's important that there are high quality facilities that can be used by agencies looking after visitors and for those using the beach.

Southern Waters' Rivers and Seas Watch.

Residents and visitors to Rother may notice signs dotted along coast giving information about surface water outfalls. It is part of a project with Southern Water to raise awareness of what they do.

As well as letting people know why these outfalls are there and exactly what is coming out of them, it also serves as a reminder to people of the importance of not contaminating surface water as it directly affects the quality of seawater.

The pilot scheme involves four outfalls from Glyne Gap to Beulah Beach in Bexhill and complements Southern Water's Rivers and Seas Watch which provides real time information around the country and can be found at Rivers and Seas Watch.

Best regards,

Councillors Tony Ganly & Tony Biggs.