NORTHERN ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT July 2026.

These past few weeks have seen the summer sun shining brightly in our skies with exceptional temperatures. whilst it is appreciated by many, we also need to think of our elderly, young and vulnerable residents. Please look out for your neighbours who might be struggling with this intense heat. Fortunately, we have some volunteer groups who do an amazing job in situations like these.

Of interest perhaps to our volunteer and community groups, there is a new grants programme that closes on Friday 5th July. To see if your organisation qualifies , you can find more information at **Intergenerational Grants Programme at Rother District Council**.

It was nice to see our PCSO's engaging with residents at the monthly coffee morning in Northiam.

We will give a verbal report of any crimes or incidents that have taken place in our Parishes in June. We have continued to engage with planning and enforcement officers over the last month in helping with various issues our residents and Parish councils have ask us to investigate. It helps both parties in trying to resolve issues that both parties may not have been aware of.

Camber Sands

Camber Sands Welcome Centre has been recognised with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Award for Best Infrastructure Project – Small (under £5m).The award celebrates the outstanding transformation of a former toilet and staffing block within Camber's Central Car Park into a modern, multi-purpose facility designed for visitors and the local community.

The Welcome Centre – provided by Rother District Council and officially opened in October last year - provides significantly enhanced amenities at one of the region's most popular coastal destinations. The development has increased toilet and shower provision, created an improved base for Operation Radcott—the multi-agency beach safety initiative—and expanded first aid facilities.

It also includes permanent storage for the RNLI, a new cafe, and a flexible community space available for residents and businesses when safety operations are not in place.

Delivered by Baxall Construction, work on the project began in October 2024 following engagement with the local community. The scheme was made possible through funding from Rother District Council, central government, and contributions from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The ICE award recognises the project's excellent design, delivery, and community benefit, highlighting it as an exemplar of smaller-scale infrastructure that delivers meaningful impact.

BUDGET OUTTURN 2025/26, REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING AND FLEXIBLE CAPITAL RECEIPTS POLICY

Members received and considered the report of the Director of Resources which provided the Budget Outturn 2025/26, Revenue and Capital Monitoring and Flexible Capital Receipts Policy, as well as progress against the 2025/26 savings targets. The report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) at its meeting held on 1 June 2026 The proposed Flexible Capital Receipts Policy (FCRP), which was an update to the previously adopted Productivity Plan and facilitated the use of the Government's Directive to extend the ability to use capital receipts flexibly, was contained within Appendix D to the report. The Director of Resources highlighted the following key information: - the RB draft outturn position was an overall deficit of £1,355,000 against the approved budgeted drawdown from Reserves of £694,000, incorporating the previously reported losses on the Hermes investment and the write off for capital schemes; - the key service variances were mainly as previously reported to Members throughout the year. There was a larger than anticipated saving for Neighbourhood Services due to an additional grant of £516,000 for the Government Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging grant funding; - £1.870m worth of interest was due from Rother DC Housing Company (RDCHC) but would not be receivable in cash terms in this financial year; a year-end assessment was still being undertaken in relation to RDCHC and would be reported to Members in due course; - of the anticipated savings totalling £1,084,424, £422,627 (44%) had been achieved and delivered in full in-year, £208,213 were partially achieved and £453,584 were not deliverable in-year. The underachievement of £611,093 was mainly due to ambitious planning fee income targets and the beach hut programme that was not progressed. The OSC had encouraged officers not to include 2 such income targets in future growth and savings proposals, particularly those that were market-led and this would be taken on board for this year's budget challenge process; - the CP remained broadly on track with a small amount of movement between financial periods, which included Local Authority Housing Fund Round 4 discussed at the last Cabinet meeting, recent Community Infrastructure Levy panel awards and removing schemes that were no longer required. There had been a further amendment to CP since the OSC meeting of £20,000 for adjustments to the container units to be used for homeless households' storage; - during 2025/26, the total drawdown from the General Fund was £1.33m and the General Reserve at year end was therefore forecast to be £3.67m; - the ongoing conflict in the Middle East was having a negative impact on inflation, and could affect capital schemes being procured this year, should the conflict not be resolved; and - the proposed FCRP for 2026/27 and 2027/28 enabled the Council to use capital receipts, which would normally be restricted for capital use only, for revenue purposes, where they generated ongoing revenue savings and or transformed service delivery to reduce demand or costs for the public sector. The Council remained in a challenging financial position; however, the outturn position was an improved picture with lower anticipated draws from reserves, through the in-year monitoring. Some of the gains experienced in-year would not recur in future financial periods, so careful financial management would be of importance as the Council progressed through 2026/27, to ensure that it was able to effectively manage the resources available to it.

Kind Regards,

Cllr. Tony Biggs & Cllr. Tony Ganly.

Rother
District Council