

ROTHER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (RALC) Meeting & AGM

9 October 2024, 2.30pm at Staplecross Village Hall TN32 5QG

(Refreshments from 2pm)

AGENDA

Item Number	Agenda Item	Lead
1	Welcome	
2	Apologies for absence	
3	Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July *attached	
4	Matters arising or reports from Members from previous meetings (items on agenda only) a) Survey of Members (I can chase responses/send link when sending out agenda)	
5	Election of Executive Officers, Committee and Secretary/Treasurer	
6	Appointment/confirmation of representatives to outside bodies: a) Rother Standards Committee b) ESALC Directors (x3)	
7	Finance accounts to March 2024 Budget & Fees for 2025-26	Keith Robertson
END OF AGM		
8	Update from RDC (see briefing notes on page 2): a) Financial stability b) Local Plan update	Lorna Ford
9	To note the RDC Council Plan 2024-2028 consultation date To note that Planning Enforcement will be an agenda item at the Parish Conference in November	
10	To confirm dates of next meetings	

Item 8 Briefing notes.

8a Financial Stability

The financial challenges and risks facing RDC have been a subject we have returned to over the past year. RDC have worked very hard to understand and manage these risks and have been transparent about the process.

We know that balancing the budget for this and next year will be very difficult and that savings are still to be made. This agenda item invites RDC to update RALC members on the financial challenges for the year ahead and how it may tackle these. This could include corporate risks, capital programs, savings targets and trends in expenditure such as the cost of homelessness.

It is not our role to challenge RDC. If appropriate this can be done via our relevant district Councillors, but we do need to understand the challenges they face, the implications for all of us in the year ahead and what we can do to help.

8b Local Plan update

The draft Local Plan and HEELA sites were sent out for consultation which closed in July. The results are being analysed now by RDC. This agenda item invites RDC to share any key themes arising from the consultation and to invite RALC members to share any comments they feel important relevant to the consultation.

The Local Plan will play a vital part in the development of the district. There are limited future opportunities to comment and influence this plan. By sharing any emerging thoughts on the plan now we may be able to assist in its development.

An example of comments that have been heard since the consultation closed concern one of the principles that underpin the vision of the Local Plan, which is that the plan will support communities to walk, cycle or use public transport to access services. Rural communities rely and will continue to rely on the car. Urban communities may well be able to rely less on the car. If this principle also directs decisions on development of both scale and location there may be a fundamental flaw in the Local Plan for rural communities. We would like to hear the from both RDC and RALC members on this and any other comments made within the consultation.