

Chairmans Report RALC Meeting 14th January 2026

Meetings attended since the Oct RALC meeting.

- 24-Oct RALC LGR Meeting
- 28-Oct Work with LDALC re finances
- 04-Nov ESALC Conference Brighton
- 02-Nov Update call with Martin ref LGR/Exec
- 14-Nov Quarterly Meeting with CEO RDC
- 02-Dec RDC Stds Committee meeting
- 04-Dec RALC Exec meeting
- 08-Dec ESALC Board Meeting
- 10-Dec RALC LGR Meeting
- 22-Dec Meet David Todd ref RALC finance audit
- 05-Jan Meeting CEO's of ESCC, District Councils and Chairs of District Associations
- 06-Jan Update Call CEO RDC
- 08-Jan Meeting Sussex Rural Affordable Housing Partnership (SRAHP)

Key messages.

This quarter seems to have flown past in a moment, perhaps with Christmas making it a shorter working period.

The main theme for me in this quarter has been reorganisation, and anticipating the change needed at RALC to make us ready for the future, including change driven by Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

My overarching aim when elected as Chair of RALC in October was to Collaborate to improve communications and to work toward common goals with others. There has been good progress with the RALC exec agreeing to some changes to enable better communications and engagement with members.

The changes flowing from Devolution and LGR are still very unclear but the work being led by Martin Griffiths on our own LGR group will shape our proposals for our engagement in that. I have reached out to Wealden and Lewes district associations to join us in this work. Responses so far are positive, as have been conversations with ESCC.

I was elected Chair of ESALC on 8th Dec. That will help with the clarity of communications between RALC and ESALC as well as building relationships with other Sussex Associations and WSALC. This also brings a link to NALC which I have yet to explore.

I was proposed (to be accepted next meeting) as Vice Chair of the Sussex Rural Affordable Housing Partnership on 8th Jan. This may prove to be a useful partner for RALC members wanting to explore an affordable housing agenda and to receive feedback from stakeholders.

The next quarter will continue to focus on reorganisation as well as priorities for review identified by members.

Keith Robertson

Chair RALC