

**RALC Executive Group Meeting**  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 13:30, Bexhill Town Hall**

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**Present:** Keith Robertson, Martin Griffiths, David Todd, Geoff Thomas and Vicki Rutt [notes]

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
	Apologies were received and accepted from John Barnes.
<b>2</b>	<b>To agree our aims for the next 6-12 months</b>
	<p>It was agreed that RALC's constitution has its primary aims feed information from RALC to ESALC and NALC. We also have a good working relationship with RDC.</p> <p>With the Mayoral and Unitary changes coming we also need to strengthen our connection with ESCC and the emerging unitary council when it is formed. To enable RALC to be effective and ready to do this as the changes emerge we agreed that in addition to our on going actions at RALC we will also set out The two new aims for the next 12-18 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To become more effective as an Exec, improve our reach and engagement with RALC members, with better focus on delivery of outcomes and information flows.</li><li>• Deliver a proposal, working with RDC to the new Unitary that establishes how Rother Parishes can best engage with the Unitary and/or any established structure that emerges.</li></ul> <p>It is noted that as of the time of this meeting the Mayoral elections have been delayed. This does not change our aims.</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>To agree strategies to deliver our aims</b>
	<p>The following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue our collaboration with RDC in both district matters and Local Government Review.</li><li>• Clarify outcomes and feedback from any issues we raise with ESALC and communications with NALC. Monitor and follow up on responses and outcomes.</li><li>• Link more closely and collaborate with Wealden and Lewes district associations to establish where joint working or sharing can benefit all.</li><li>• Establish links with East Sussex County Council &amp; the new Unitary Council to ensure we have our needs heard and recognised.</li><li>• Improved communication &amp; engagement with all RALC members by;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Better use of our website, surveys, emails to improve communications.</li><li>b. Establish key contact for RALC members to a named Exec member with one to one telephone calls if needed to improve engagement.</li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. A Chairmans report for each Quarterly meeting plus updates as needed on the website of any key headlines.</li> <li>d. Make meetings more accessible.</li> <li>e. Survey RALC members on priorities, on the content and function of our website, and best timing of meetings.</li> </ul> <p>We will put timescales on these after all members have reviewed these aims at the January RALC meeting.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>To agree resources needed to enable delivery of our aims</b>
	<p>The following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move RALC meetings to Hybrid meetings based in the RDC town hall in Bexhill with video attendance if members choose not to attend in person. This has been supported in principle by RDC, we await formal conformation that this is possible.</li> <li>• Resources needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Procure any software needed for hybrid meetings. ( Cant use RDC licences).</li> <li>b. Continue with our current website. RALC Secretary to update with new information and remove old data. Keep website current. Consider a secure login area in 2026 if deemed necessary.</li> <li>c. Provide if needed, additional funds if extra time is needed to maintain and update the website by the RALC secretary.</li> <li>d. Finances needed. Budget plus possibly some additional staff costs ref (10c) and Software (10a). Some of the current reserves of circa £2K may be needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>To appoint Exec members and/or task forces to lead on delivery areas</b>
	<p>The following responsibilities were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geoff Thomas. leading on IT to make our work more effective and link to RDC for Hybrid meetings.</li> <li>• Keith Robertson leading on engagement with ESALC and other Associations</li> <li>• Martin Griffiths leading on LGR</li> <li>• John Barnes leading on governance including connections with new primary</li> <li>• David Todd on key contact for Highways</li> <li>• All will take a small group of members to be primary contact. ( detail TBA)</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>To consider if our constitution requires amending to enable our aims</b>
	<p>The constitution is to be considered for review in 6 months' time. <b>Action at April RALC meeting.</b></p>

7	To set a draft agenda for the next RALC quarterly meeting and topics for the future
	<p>The following agenda items were agreed for the RALC meeting being held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 14:30 in the Staplecross Village Hall.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Actions from previous meetings (KR)</li> <li>2. To present and review items discussed at the RALC executive meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 (KR)</li> <li>3. Update on RDC key topics and on LGR from District &amp; Govt viewpoint, including impact on the delay of the Mayor elections. (Lorna Ford)</li> <li>4. Update on LGR from RALC and RDC view. ** (Martin Griffiths, Lorna Ford and Sue Prochak)</li> <li>5. Standards Committee <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Appoint a new RALC member to the Standards Committee (KR)</li> <li>b. Update on Government review of CoC breaches &amp; Sanctions (MG)</li> <li>c. Update on potential to reduce complaints through mediation or Triage (MG)</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. To agree the RALC budget for 2026-27 (Attached)</li> <li>7. Future business. Members to suggest specific items for the April 2025 RALC meeting.</li> </ol> <p>**Any questions referring to Asset Transfer in LGR to be raised after the meeting</p>