

Chairmans Report (For RALC Meeting 8 July 20206)

LGR continues to take up a lot of time. The changes to the One East Sussex proposal by Secretary of State Steve Reed were unhelpful. RALC and ESALC have both replied to the consultation and we await a decision by 15th July.

LGR if it does go ahead may seem distant but May 2027 will come around fast, at which point the transitional unitary council will form. The unitary from May 2028 will have a duty to engage with Parish & Town Councils but the form of that is yet to be defined by UK Gov. It is however being worked on now by UKGov and so it is important that we spend time setting out how we would expect that to work as soon as possible.

RALC has produced a draft proposal. That is on the agenda today for RALC members to review. The draft will also go to WDALC and LDALC in the next few weeks for review. The board of ESALC has already approved the draft. A draft has been sent to the CEO of Hastings and Eastbourne Boroughs for comment, who may in the future decide to become Parishes and so potentially within the scope of ESALC but that looks a long way off at the moment. The next step, if agreed, will be to get input on the draft from ESCC and then present to the unitary implementation team and the UK Gov policy makers. (We need to do that before UK Gov decides how engagement is going to work).

Ref the Mayor, ESALC & WSALC are asking for a joint seat on the Mayoral board. Too early to assess if that may be achieved. If so it would be a national first. Probability in my view is low.

On other matters we need all members to let us know what their priorities are for agenda items. The survey asking what venue choices were preferred resulted in only a few responses, not enough to decide on best options. We will look for venues with Hybrid tech capacity and good parking for future meetings. Looking ahead Hybrid is likely to be the standard for meetings with attendees from other authorities.

My meetings since the last report are set out below. These are not all RALC meetings but the subject matter is always linked to RALC.

Meetings 14th April to 17th July

14-Apr RALC Meeting Bexhill

20-Apr LGR working group meeting

01-May Meet RDC CEO & Leader Bexhill

02-Jun Tom Warder AiRS ref LGR

09-Jun ESALC response to Gov LGR boundaries meeting

16-Jun RALC Exec Meeting

19-Jun Meet CEO Hasting & Eastbourne Boroughs ref LGR

23-Jun ESALC Board meeting

30-Jun NALC Natonal Assembly meeting London

01-Jul Wealden District Association meeting Uckfield ref LGR

03-Jul Sussex Rural Affordable Housing Partnership meeting

08-Jul RALC Qtr meeting Bexhill

Planned meetings

10-Jul Lewes District Association Meeting Lewes ref LGR

17-Jul The new leader of ESCC ref future ESALC/Districts, post LGR