

Catsfield PC Thursday 16 April 26 – District Councillor Notes

1. Cabinet decisions 13th April

1.1. Budget Monitoring 2025/26 – Quarter 3 (Period 10)

Cabinet reviewed the Quarter 3 budget monitoring report, setting out the Council's financial position for 2025/26 based on income and expenditure to the end of January 2026. Members noted that underlying service budgets are forecast to be slightly under budget, but higher financing costs mean the Council is expected to draw £1.075 million from reserves, compared to £694,000 originally planned.

1.2 Renters' Rights Act 2025 – Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy 2026 and Civil Penalties Policy 2026

Cabinet considered a report on the introduction of the Renters' Rights Act 2025 and the need to adopt new enforcement arrangements for the private rented sector. The Act represents a major change to tenancy law, increasing security for tenants, improving housing standards and placing a new statutory duty on local authorities to actively enforce housing legislation.

Cabinet reviewed the proposed Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy 2026 and Civil Penalties Policy 2026, which set out how the Council will investigate complaints, take enforcement action and, where necessary, issue civil penalties against landlords who do not comply with the law. Members noted that the policies follow nationally recognised approaches to ensure fairness, consistency, and legal robustness.

Cabinet also noted the financial and operational implications of the Act, and members were advised of potential risks, such as increased demand for homelessness services, especially ahead of the abolition of Section 21 "no fault" evictions from May 2026.

Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council that the new policies be approved and adopted.

1.3 King Offa – Proposed Sale of Land

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed conditional sale of Council-owned land at the King Offa site in Bexhill to a Registered Provider for the delivery of affordable housing.

Cabinet noted that the recommended approach would secure the delivery of an affordable housing scheme, providing more affordable homes than would be required through a private market development.

Members considered the proposed use of a Conditional Purchase Agreement, under which the Registered Provider will be required to obtain planning permission at its own cost before completing the purchase.

Cabinet noted the associated risks, timescales, and the implications for capital receipts, including that completion is unlikely to take place before 2028.

2. Joint statement from One East Sussex councils in response to LGR announcement

"We are frustrated that Government is not ready to make a decision about the future shape of Local Government in East Sussex, but will instead consult on a variation of the One East Sussex proposal after the elections in May.



It is bitterly disappointing that, while the Government has largely accepted the case that East Sussex would flourish best as a unitary county, their variation would see Peacehaven, Telscombe, East Saltdean and Falmer parish transferred to Brighton and Hove to bolster its footprint. Communities in these areas have already vigorously opposed being severed from East Sussex.

We await further detail from government about the implications of this and the specifics of the consultation. We will be asking Ministers to urgently reconsider, and in the meantime, we will continue working closely with our partners to protect local services and secure the best possible outcome for the people and communities of East Sussex".

3. Changes to planning process – proposed national scheme of delegation - [Planning Reform Working Paper: Planning Committees - GOV.UK](#) Consultation open till 26th April.

4. British Horse Society road safety session for residents



We are holding a meeting in partnership with the British Horse Society. We will discuss various issues, including safe pass of horses by motorists.

Ask questions, and share your concerns.

Presentations will be held by Alan Hiscox, CEO of the British Horse Society and Steve O'Connell, from Sussex Police Road Safety Team.

SLOW DOWN

Date: Saturday 16TH May 2026 Time: 14:00

Location: ~~Brighton~~ Brighton Village Hall

Due to a limited capacity, if you would like to attend, please email emmalouise.phillips@sussex.police.uk

Report online at www.sussex.police.uk or call 101.
In an emergency always call 999.

Find us on social media   



5. Help for households using oil heating

If there are residents who rely on heating oil who are struggling with the recent rise in prices, they may be able to get financial support. The Government has announced extra funding for low-income households, and this support will soon be available locally across East Sussex.

Residents may be eligible if they meet all of the following:

- their main heating source is oil
- they are on a low income
- they are at immediate risk of being unable to heat their home or access hot water due to rising oil costs

They can apply for help through Citizen's Advice 1066:

Online: [Energy self referral form – Citizen’s Advice 1066](#). Please tick the ‘heating oil’ checkbox under the reason for seeking help. See also: [Citizen’s Advice 1066 privacy notice](#).

Phone: [0800 464 7307](tel:0800 464 7307)

6. CC election 7 May - The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Monday, April 20 and voters can quickly and easily apply online at gov.uk/register-to-vote
7. Significant progress is being made on the major repair work at Bexhill’s historic Colonnade, with the project now entering its final stages.
8. Pride in Place Program Bexhill Neighbourhood Board has received approval for their first 4-year Regeneration Plan by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The Neighbourhood Board funding comes under the Government Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) which has the three themes of Thriving Places, Stronger Communities and Taking Back Control.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Doug Oliver, said *“The confirmation by Government of the Bexhill Neighbourhood Board first 4-year plan for Regenerations is excellent news. As the Accountable Body for the forthcoming funding, Rother District Council will continue to support the work of the Board to achieve transformative projects in the town, that leave a lasting legacy of increased economic wellbeing and community ownership.”*

The next stage is for the funding agreement to be signed and the money for the first year to be received. Bexhill Neighbourhood Board can now start planning delivery of the projects outlined in the [first 4-year plan](#). This will include specific engagement plans for each project proposal, as well as continued communication with residents, businesses and community organizations.