

ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT JULY 2026

In relation to Assets Transfer, discussions and meetings have continued, and a lot of work is going on behind the scenes.

Here is an update of the key points:

1 Galley Hill Car Parks

RDC have agreed to re-consider whether the Upper Car Park could still be brought into devolution scope as well as the lower car park.

2 Green List Update

2.1 The following items will be added to the Green List if RDC's Cabinet reviews and approves them. We understand that the RDC project team currently plans to take a report to Cabinet in September on the proposed inclusion of these:

A Manor Barn public conveniences

B Galley Hill Lower Car Park. [as noted above, they are also having another look at the upper car park].

1.2 The site entitled "*Land at Bexhill Down*" is being removed from the Green List by RDC. This is following due diligence undertaken by the RDC project team and approval by RDC's *Property and Service Investment and Disposal Panel*. RDC explained that they only own an "island" of land on the Down which is surrounded by other land owned by ESCC and therefore likely to go to unitary. RDC say that the cost, time and effort to transfer it do not appear to be justified.

3 First Wave of Transfers

The project is beginning with a small number of simpler assets.

In this small first wave, the Bexhill assets are the Cooden Beach former PCs and the bus stop opposite.

RDC have prepared Heads of Terms for our review and this has been passed to our solicitors for feedback ahead of a Full Council decision.

4 Subsequent Transfers

We will discuss with the RDC project team which Bexhill assets should be brought online for the next transfers after the First Wave. “High impact” assets i.e. those with greater public impact, could be suitable for prioritisation.

So, we can expect the volume of assets being transferred to increase in future ‘waves.’

5 Fields in Trust

RDC wanted to flag up that eight of the assets currently in scope for transfer to the Town Council are subject to the “Fields in Trust” consent process, which comes with fees. RDC have confirmed they will pay the initial application fees of £250 plus VAT.

Following on from this, it’s expected that the Town Council will pay the main fee for each individual transfer, which RDC understand from Fields in Trust is estimated at £1,500 - £3,000 + VAT per transfer, and so we can expect to bear these costs as part of the budgeted expenditure.

6 Contract Arrangements

RDC are looking into arrangements (e.g. recharge) for any contracts in place relating to land or assets the Town Council would take over when assets are transferred.

In other words, where there is an existing arrangement with a third party, it may be appropriate for that to continue to start with, and RDC pass on a re-charge to us, but this is to be finalised with RDC.

We will be discussing that topic, and asset maintenance after transfer, with the RDC project team on an ongoing basis so that the arrangements can be confirmed before relevant assets transfer.

I hope that helps give Cllrs a good idea of how things are moving forward at the moment – please feel free to message me about any queries.