APPENDIX I

Budget 2027/28

Budget 2027/28

Welcome to our consultation on Rother District Council's proposed budget and Council Tax for 2027/28. To ensure you can provide informed feedback, please read the information on the proposals before completing the survey: [insert link].

Savings

The following savings proposals are those most likely to have a direct impact on residents, businesses, voluntary and community groups, and other local organisations. Please tell us whether you support or oppose each proposal and use the comment boxes to explain your views.

In addition to these proposals, a further £1 million of savings is proposed across staffing and back-office services. Full details of all proposed savings are available on the consultation webpage.

Savings (events)

1. Do you support or oppose the proposed savings for events?

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Removal of budget to support local events in Battle, Bexhill, Rye and surrounding areas. The proposed saving is £27,000 (£9,000 per area).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Removal of Battle and Rye Christmas lights grants. The proposed saving is £4,000 (£2,000 per area).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2. Do you have any further comments on the proposed savings for events? (optional)

Savings (tourism)

3. Do you support or oppose the proposed savings for tourism?

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Reduction in 1066 Country (promoting tourism) grant by 10%. The proposed saving is £5,000, leaving a remaining grant of £45,000.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Removal of additional promotional funding for 1066 Country. The proposed saving is £5,000.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Removal of budget for application fees	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
for Seaside Awards for Bexhill and Camber. The proposed saving is £1,296.					

4. Do you have any further comments on the proposed savings for tourism? (optional)

5. Do you support or oppose the proposed savings for arts and culture?

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Reduction in funding for small community arts projects by 70%. The proposed saving is £3,500, leaving a remaining budget of £1,500.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Reduction in operating grant for the De La Warr Pavilion by 10%. The proposed saving is £47,700, leaving a remaining revenue grant of £429,300, plus a capital grant of £59,000.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. Do you have any further comments on the proposed savings for arts and culture? (optional)

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Savings (support to the voluntary sector)

7. Do you support or oppose the proposed savings for support to the voluntary sector?

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Removal of grant to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. The proposed saving is £1,000.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reduction in Citizens Advice Bureau funding by 10%. The proposed saving is £8,500, leaving a remaining grant of £76,500.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reduction in Hastings Advice and Representation Centre funding by 10%. The proposed saving is £2,000, leaving a remaining grant of £18,000.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. Do you have any further comments on the proposed savings for support to the voluntary sector? (optional)

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Your ideas about savings

This is your opportunity to comment on other proposed savings or to propose new savings that are not already covered. You can find out about all our proposed savings in the Cabinet report on our website Cabinet 26 October - Draft Budget Challenge Proposals.

Please note, this section is for savings only. There are further opportunities to propose raising income and changes to fees and charges.

9. Please use this space to provide any alternative suggestions for savings. (optional)

Fees and charges

The Council gets money from Council Tax and other sources. Fees and charges provide more than 20% of the money used to run services.

We plan to change some fees to help cover rising costs. Some fees, such as planning fees, are set by the government and cannot be changed by the Council.

Fees rising with inflation

Most of these fees will rise by 3.5%, based on September's inflation rate:

- Sports facilities
- Parks and seafront
- Cemeteries
- Beach huts and foreshore licences

- Car park fees (with some exceptions)

Other fee increases

- Bulky waste collections: 10% - raising around £13,000
- Taxi and private hire licences: 5%—raising about £5,000
- Pest control: 5%—raising about £1,000
- Street naming and numbering: 6% raising around £3,600
- Planning land searches: 5%—raising about £10,000

New and extra charges

- Events and fairs: An extra 25% charge if paperwork is not sent in correctly or on time. This will cover the extra work needed.
- Reserved parking bays at Wainwright Road car park, Bexhill: expected to raise £20,000.

No increase

These charges will stay the same:

- Green waste collections (brown bins)
- Planning advice before an application
- Annual permits at Western Road car park, Bexhill
- Summer parking charges at Camber

Fees and charges (proposed increases)

The following proposals relate to changes in fees and charges and are intended to help generate income to support Council services. Please tell us whether you support or oppose each proposal and use the comments box to explain your views.

Further information about the proposed changes is available on the consultation webpage.

10. Do you support or oppose the proposed exceptional increases in fees and charges?

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Taxi and private hire licensing fees raised by 5%, which would raise income by £5,000.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Bulky waste collection charge- proposed increase of 10%.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pest control fees raised by 5%, which would raise income by £1,000.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Street naming and numbering services- proposed increase by 6%.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning land charges fees- proposed increase of 5%, which would raise income by £10,000.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

11. Do you support or oppose the proposal to increase all other discretionary fees and charges generally in line with inflation (expected to be around 3.5%)?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neither support or oppose
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

12. Do you have any further comments on the proposed increases to fees and charges? (optional)

Fees and charges (introduction of new fees and charges)

The following proposals relate to the introduction of new fees and charges to help generate additional income and support the delivery of Council services. Please tell us whether you support or oppose each proposal and use the comments box to explain your views.

Further information about the proposed new fees and charges is available on the consultation webpage.

13. Do you support or oppose the proposed introduction of these fees and charges?

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
25% additional charge for events that do not follow the event procedure.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dedicated use (hire) of parking bays at Wainwright Road car park, Bexhill.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

14. Do you have any further comments on the proposed introduction of new fees and charges? (optional)

Fees and charges (unchanged fees and charges)

The following proposals relate to fees and charges that are proposed to remain at their current level, with no increase for 2027/28. Please tell us whether you support or oppose each proposal and use the comments box to explain your views.

Further information about the fees and charges proposed to remain unchanged is available on the consultation webpage.

15. Do you support or oppose keeping the listed service fees and charges unchanged?

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support or oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Collection of green waste (brown bins)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning pre-application advice fees	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Annual permit at the Western Road car park in Bexhill	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Camber summer tariff car parking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

16. Do you have any comments on the fees and charges that are proposed to remain unchanged for 2027/28? (optional)

Your ideas about earning more income

This is your opportunity to tell us about your ideas or proposals for new ways the council could earn more income that have not already been covered.

17. Please use this space to suggest any alternative ways the Council could generate income or review fees and charges. (optional)

Council Tax

The Government funding to the council assumes that we will raise council tax by the maximum permitted amount (before we would have to hold a local referendum).

Council Tax makes up 28% of the council's income and is used to pay for service delivery day to day. It is not used for capital projects.

18. Do you agree or disagree with the Council increasing council tax by the maximum permitted sum to protect our core services.

- [ ] Agree strongly
- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Neither agree or disagree
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Disagree strongly

About You

Please tell us a bit about yourself. This will help us check who is hearing about the consultation and answering the survey.

It is important to say if you are answering as an individual or you are officially representing the views of an organisation. We need to ask organisations and residents different questions from this point onwards.

19. Are you answering this consultation on behalf of yourself (or your household) or on behalf of a local business or organisation?

- [ ] Myself as a Rother resident (go to Q25)
- [ ] Myself as a visitor to Rother (don't live in Rother but work or visit) (go to Q25)
- [ ] Business or business organisation (such as Chamber of Commerce) representative giving official views of my business (go to Q20)
- [ ] Charity or voluntary sector representative, official views (go to Q20)
- [ ] Public service - such as Police, NHS, other local authorities, giving my team or department's views (go to Q20)
- [ ] Town or parish council in Rother, official responses (go to Q20)
- [ ] Club, association, related to leisure or sports as representative giving club, association, branch or team's response (go to Q20)
- [ ] Other (please specify):

Organisations

Please give us information about your role in your organisation. We will need this information for public reporting.

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We will name your organisation in any published report. We may name your role in the organisation. If more than one person answers from an organisation we will name a team, department or job title to differentiate between the responses.

We will not share or publish individual names or contact information outside the council and your own organisation.

20. Your name

21. Your job, position, role or official title in your organisation

22. Your team or department (as relevant)

23. Name of your organisation

24. Contact email address in case of further questions for your organisation:

Organisations should skip ahead to Q31.

Note: By answering this section the council assumes you are supplying the official response from your team, department or organisation. If you are not representing your organisation you are still welcome to comment as an individual.

About You

We ask some questions about your personal characteristics.

We need to ask these questions for two reasons. Firstly, we can check to see if all sorts of people are hearing about and taking part in the consultation.

Secondly, we can analyse answers to see if different groups give different reactions or are affected more than other groups.

You do not have to answer these questions but it will help us if you do so.

25. I am

- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Other Gender (please specify):

26. What is your age group?

- [ ] Under 18
- [ ] 18 to 29
- [ ] 30 to 49
- [ ] 50 to 66
- [ ] 67 to 79
- [ ] 80 and older
- [ ] Prefer not to say

27. I would describe my ethnic origin as

- [ ] White British (English, Scottish, Welsh, N. Irish)
- [ ] White Irish
- [ ] Gypsy or Romany
- [ ] Traveller of Irish orgin
- [ ] Other Traveller background
- [ ] Any other White background
- [ ] White & Black African
- [ ] White & Black Caribbean
- [ ] White & Asian

- [ ] Any other multiple heritage background
- [ ] Pakistani or Pakistani British
- [ ] Indian or Indian British
- [ ] Bangladeshi or Bangladeshi British
- [ ] Chinese
- [ ] Any other Asian background
- [ ] African or African British
- [ ] Caribbean or Caribbean British
- [ ] Any other Black background
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Other (please specify):

28. Do you consider yourself to be disabled or have a long-term illness or condition that can affect day to day living?

- [ ] Yes (go to Q29)
- [ ] No (go to Q30)
- [ ] Prefer not to say (go to Q30)

The Disability Discrimination Act defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

29. If you said 'Yes' to Q28, please select the categories of disability or impairment that apply to you.

We do not need details; this is for analysis purposes only.

- [ ] Physical impairment
- [ ] Visual impairment (not corrected by glasses)
- [ ] Communication and speech impairment
- [ ] Long standing illness or health condition
- [ ] Hearing impairment
- [ ] Mental health
- [ ] Learning difficulties
- [ ] Other (please specify):

Geography

30. Where do you live? (Please select closest answer.)

- [ ] Bexhill-on-Sea
- [ ] Battle
- [ ] Rye
- [ ] Camber
- [ ] Rural village or countryside in Rother
- [ ] Live outside Rother but in East Sussex
- [ ] Live outside Rother and outside East Sussex
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to complete this online questionnaire about the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27.

31. How easy or difficult was it to complete this questionnaire?

- [ ] Very easy
- [ ] Easy
- [ ] A bit easy
- [ ] A bit difficult
- [ ] Difficult
- [ ] Very difficult

This consultation closes on **16 December** 2026. Late responses are at risk of not being included. Please post this survey before the closing date to –

Budget 2027 Consultation,
Rother District Council
Town Hall
Bexhill-on-Sea
TN39 3JX
Or drop in your copy to our Customer Services team at the Town Hall in Bexhill.