



Council Action Plan 2025-2028

Our Council Action Plan 2025-2028 has been produced to direct delivery of the Council Plan. It is a live document and subject to change. Action planning is presented annually as part of progress reports on the Council Plan.

A Thriving Local Economy

Outcome 1: The right conditions for businesses to invest, innovate and grow in Rother.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Build and develop an effective business database for targeted business alerts.	March 2026	Economic Development and Regeneration Team	To start
Work with the chambers of commerce to develop and support existing business networks and identify opportunities for new networks.	Ongoing	Economic Development and Regeneration Team	On track We continue to meet chambers of commerce regularly.
Identify, develop and promote a portfolio of strategic employment sites to promote investment opportunities.	Ongoing	Asset Management Team	To start
Deliver the Levelling Up funded project for improvements to the De La Warr Pavilion.	March 2028	Capital Development Team, partner organisations	On track In October 2025 planning permission and listed building consent was approved. Phase 1 of works will commence in 2026.
Progress the Local Plan.	2027	Planning Policy Team	On track In December 2025 consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan was approved. This will take place in January 2026. The plan is due to be adopted in 2027.
Hold an Economic Growth Forum to enable the Council to engage with the business community on economic development matters.	2026	Economic Development and Regeneration Team	To start



Outcome 2: People of all ages have the opportunity to reach their potential.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Support annual jobs and apprenticeship fair based in Bexhill.	Ongoing; annually	Economic Development and Regeneration Team, partner organisations	On track The 2025 edition of the annual fair took place on 21 March 2025. Plans for the next fair on 6 March 2026 are already in progress.
Develop a plan to facilitate work experience, job placement and volunteering opportunities for young people and those on the fringes of the labour market.	2026	Economic Development and Regeneration Team, HR Team	To start in 2026
Develop the Rother Skills Forum to maximise reach and impact.	2026	Economic Development and Regeneration Team	To start in early 2026

Outcome 3: Sustainable places and communities that attract people, visitors and businesses.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Develop and deliver tourism projects to support the local visitor economy.	Ongoing	Economic Development and Regeneration Team, partner organisations	On track In 2025, we delivered the Rother Winelands project which improves signage and mapping of local vineyards. For the year ahead, we will continue to support local tourism events in Rother including Rye Harvest Festival, Bexhill After Dark, and Rye Jazz Festival.
Develop and implement a Regeneration Plan for Bexhill-on-Sea.	2030	Bexhill Neighbourhood Board	On track The plan for the first four years of investment was submitted to government in November 2025.
Monitor performance and impact of 1066 Country marketing.	Ongoing	Economic Development and Regeneration Team	On track



Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
			Regular meetings take place between officers and 1066 Country.
Complete phase one – options appraisal for High Street Rental Auctions in Bexhill-on-Sea.	September 2026	Economic Development and Regeneration Team	To start in 2026 There are plans for an audit of vacant units in Bexhill and an options appraisal will follow this work.
Support the development of a Town of Culture bid for Bexhill-on-Sea.	Submission of Expression of Interest: 31 March 2026	Economic Development and Regeneration Team	On track This work is being led by Bexhill Cultural Network, with support from council officers.
Support 1066 Country Marketing to enable the promotion of the Year of the Norman.	2026	Economic Development and Regeneration Team	To start in 2026

Outcome 4: Improved infrastructure with reliable digital and transport connectivity across the district.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Progress the Local Plan.	2027	Planning Policy Team	On track In December 2025 consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan was approved. This will take place in January 2026. The plan is due to be adopted in 2027.
Develop a Rother Strategic Needs Assessment for Mayoral Strategic Authority that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working in collaboration with East Sussex County Council to promote rural bus networks connecting the district's rural communities. Working with regional partners to identify principal infrastructure barriers to growth in Rother 	December 2026	Economic Development and Regeneration Team, Planning Policy Team, Asset Management Team	To start The first meeting will take place in January 2026.



Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development of the business case for highway improvements to the A259 specifically around Bexhill-on-Sea • Working with businesses to understand which areas face significant issues with broadband speeds and identify suitable solutions • Maximising local business impacts of the digital transformation, by providing support and signposting to relevant projects and funding. • Advocating for public transport connectivity improvements between the district's key towns, villages and settlements and key employment sites • Ensuring all parts of the district have the optimum level of digital connectivity, including 5G/fibre • Improving coordination around an inward investment plan for business growth • Developing a Rother Rural Economy Action Plan to promote viable and vibrant sustainable rural communities • Assessing the feasibility of developing an abattoir in the district. 			

Live Well Locally

Outcome 1: Sustainable, inclusive housing growth that meets local needs and supports homelessness prevention.



Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Complete the construction of 200 new homes at Blackfriars, Battle.	Summer 2027	Rother District Council Housing Company	On track Onsite construction started in April 2025.
Work with the Council Housebuilding Support Service (CHoSS) to complete a review of Council land suitable for housing and present options for delivery and increasing housing supply.	March 2026	Housing Development Team	On track The council was announced as part of the CHoSS vanguard in summer 2025. The programme funding must be spent by March 2026 however some workstreams may continue beyond this date.
Progress the Local Plan.	2027	Planning Policy Team	On track In December 2025 consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan was approved. This will take place in January 2026. The plan is due to be adopted in 2027.
Increase our portfolio of temporary and supported accommodation.	Ongoing, reported annually	Housing Delivery Team	On track In 2025, we acquired four new temporary accommodation units and plans to increase our portfolio are already underway for 2026, with one additional unit already secured.
Organise Landlord Forums within East Sussex.	Ongoing, annually	Housing Solutions Team	On track The first East Sussex Landlords Forum was held in November 2025 in partnership with neighbouring authorities and the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA). More than 150 private landlords were present.
Host annual Housing Development	Ongoing	Housing Delivery Team	On track



Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Conferences.			The latest Housing Development Conference was held in November 2025 and involved partners from across the housing sector.
Support the delivery of the East Sussex Housing Partnership Strategy.	Ongoing	Housing Team	On track The strategy was adopted in December 2025, and progress will be reported annually.
Deliver the Housing Development Strategy.	Ongoing	Housing Team	On track The strategy was adopted in July 2025, and progress will be reported annually.
Deliver the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.	Ongoing	Housing Team	On track The strategy was adopted in August 2025, and progress will be reported annually.

Outcome 2: Foundations for fairer access to good health.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Enable the development of three new GP surgeries on council land at Barnhorn Green, Beeching Road, Bexhill and Watch Oak, Battle.	December 2027	Capital Development Team	Barnhorn Green- on track: Agreements are progressing well and targeted for approval in early 2026. Construction procurement is also underway. Beeching Road- initial conversations are continuing with the NHS. Watch Oak- on track:



			In the last year, pre-planning discussions have started.
Adopt a plan for Age Friendly Rother.	April 2026	Policy and Partnerships Team	On track The first draft will be finalised by next April and the first stakeholder meeting has already taken place.
Utilise Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) to support eligible residents with home adaptations.	Ongoing	Environmental Health Team	On track A policy for 2026 was adopted in November 2025. Over £1 million in DFGs was delivered in 2024/25.

Outcome 3: More people have active lifestyles.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Deliver projects through our Active Rother programme, including a workforce grants programme.	Ongoing	Policy and Partnerships Team	On track In 2024/25, Active Rother delivered several projects, including 'move and improve' sessions and a health and wellbeing programme for older residents.
Refurbish facilities at Bexhill Leisure Centre and Ravenside swimming pool.	April 2027	Capital Development Team	On track In April 2025, the budget for repairs, replacements and maintenance was approved. Surveys and recommendations are currently under review.
Agree a new Freedom Leisure contract.	Early 2026	Neighbourhood Services Team	On track The contract is due to be finalised in early 2026.
Deliver a new community hub for Sidley, Bexhill.	May 2026	Capital Development Team	On track



			Onsite construction commenced in August 2025.
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Outcome 4: Reduced levels of deprivation where help is most needed.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Review the Anti-Poverty Strategy and integrate with the emerging Rother Integrated Community Team Action Plan.	2026	Policy and Partnerships Team	To start
Engage with local community groups as part of the Rother Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (REEDI) group.	Ongoing	Policy and Partnerships Team	On track The REEDI group meets quarterly. At the last meeting on 13 October 2025, the group discussed Local Government Reorganisation. The next meeting will be on 9 February 2026, and two further meeting dates are planned.
Embed our equalities objectives.	2026	Policy and Partnerships Team	To start in early 2026

Outcome 5: Communities that are safe and attractive places to live, work and visit.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Support the Safer Rother Partnership and report on its activity.	Ongoing	Community Safety Team	On track Annual reports are made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The latest report , dated 17 March 2025, updated on progress across 2024/25. The next report is due on 16 March 2026.
Provide regular vandalism reports to Sussex Police to identify hotspots.	Ongoing	Community Safety Team	On track



			Monthly reports are made to Sussex Police to identify hotspots.
Monitor the effectiveness of our waste service.	Ongoing	Joint Waste Team	On track Regular meetings with our waste service provider take place and our quarterly Key Performance Indicators monitor the quality of the service.
Progress our Asset Devolution Framework to give greater local control and influence and to protect what is most important to local communities.	Ongoing	Asset Management Team	On track Our Expression of Interest window closed in September 2025, and groups were invited to submit business cases. In 2026, the Property and Service Investment and Disposal Panel will meet to review applications.

Outcome 6: Strong collaboration and engagement with residents and local partners.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Host an annual Resident Survey to understand the needs of our residents.	Ongoing; annually	Digital and Customer Services Team	To start in early 2026
Engage with the Civil Society Covenant through a council and voluntary, charity and social enterprise (VCSE) partnership agreement.	2026	Policy and Partnerships Team	On track In 2025, initial discussions with Rother Voluntary Action have taken place.
Review our Service Level Agreements and other funding agreements.	Ongoing	Cross-council	On track We continue to review our funding agreements as and when possible.
Co-produce an engagement framework for our town and parish councils to use with residents.	2026	Policy and Partnerships Team	To start in early 2026



Green to the Core

Outcome 1: A built environment that is low carbon and climate resilient.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Monitor and report the progress of the Climate Strategy.	Ongoing	Climate Team	On track Progress on the Climate Strategy is reported to the Climate Change Steering Group , which meets twice per year. The latest meeting was held on 25 September 2025, and the next meeting will take place on 26 March 2026.
Progress the Local Plan.	2027	Planning Policy Team	On track In December 2025 consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan was approved. This will take place in January 2026. The plan is due to be adopted in 2027.
Participate in the design of the East Sussex Housing Retrofit Strategy.	2026	Climate Team, Environmental Health Team	On track In 2025, officers attended a workshop on the development of the strategy. Subgroups to steer its delivery have been established and our Climate Team is represented on the Communication and Engagement group.
Review the Local Employment and Skills Plan (LESP) requirements to encourage the development of retrofit skills (e.g. installing insulation, heat pumps, solar, electric vehicle charge points).	2026	Climate Team, Economic Development Team	To start January 2026



<p>Deliver funding for community projects through the Climate Emergency Bonus Fund.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Planning Team</p>	<p>On track In 2024/2025, over £50,000 of Climate Emergency Bonus Funding was distributed to projects. These included the installation of four electric vehicle charging points and solar panels at the Sidley Community Hub. The Council continues to place 20% of strategic community infrastructure levy (CIL) into this fund and further allocations will be made in the coming year to support projects that address the climate emergency.</p>
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Outcome 2: Less waste and a thriving circular economy.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
<p>Implement a food waste collection service.</p>	<p>Spring 2026 for household collections December 2026 for Sidley Depot</p>	<p>Joint Waste Team</p>	<p>On track This year we have worked on promotional material for the household food waste collections and commenced work on the Sidley Depot site which will be used as a depot for vehicles. The depot will be completed by December 2026.</p>
<p>Promote the Rother Reduce, Re-use, Recycle (RRR) grant scheme and applications towards the Green to the Core priority.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Economic Development and Regeneration Team</p>	<p>On track This year the RRR grants were incorporated into the Community Grants Fund scheme.</p>
<p>Access free audits from our water service providers to review public toilets operated by</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Operations Team</p>	<p>On track</p>



the Council for leaks and potential water efficiency measures.			Audits will be accessed as and when they become available.
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Outcome 3: A council that is climate conscious.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Report on the progress of our green team.	Ongoing; twice per year	Climate Team	On track The green team reports to the Senior Leadership Team twice per year. The green team meets every six weeks and this year it has prompted improved recycling methods in the council and digitisation of back-office processes.
Complete commuter surveys of our colleagues.	Ongoing; annually	Climate Team	On track The commuter survey took place in July 2025. The results are due to be reported in full and the headlines showed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More days were worked from home (+2,080 / 9%) • Fewer miles were travelled for commuting (-96,281 / -18%) • More commutes were completed by cycling (+692 / 266%), equating to almost 8,000 extra miles travelled by bike. • The number of journeys made as a driver increased (+1,247 / 6.2%), but the number of



			<p>miles driven reduced (-49,089 / -12%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of journeys made as a passenger was stable, although miles travelled as a passenger increased (+5,395 / 28%). Journeys and miles travelled by public transport were reduced by around half.
Explore electric vehicle charging point and solar carport installation projects for our car parks.	Ongoing	Climate Team	On track We continue to explore opportunities for electric vehicle charge points. We are reviewing a proposal for a solar carport.
Implement a Sustainable Procurement policy.	2026/27	Climate Team	On track The policy has been shared with East Sussex Procurement for a review.
Actively monitor our carbon and co-benefits tool reports.	2026/27	Climate Team	To start in 2026

Outcome 4: Protected and resilient natural and historical environments.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Progress the Local Plan.	2027	Planning Policy Team	On track In December 2025 consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan was approved. This will take place in January 2026. The plan is due to be adopted in 2027.



Meet with Southern Water to progress actions for the improvement of bathing water quality.	Ongoing; monthly	Neighbourhood Services Team	On track Monthly meetings continue to take place.
Progress the Pevensey to Eastbourne coastal defence scheme.	Phase 1 delivered 2027 to 2037	Neighbourhood Services Team, Planning Team, partner organisations	On track The scheme is progressing well, with plans to replenish shingles and put in additional groynes.

Outcome 5: Strengthened support for the recovery of nature.

Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Deliver new micro-woods and community orchards.	Ongoing	Climate Team	On track In 2025, we planted two micro woods in Battle (February) and Rye (March). We also gave grants to seven organisations to plant ten community orchards. In 2026, there are plans to plant a micro wood in Bexhill and another community orchard.
Engage with Sussex Bay and their seascape recovery project.	2026	Climate Team, partner organisations	To start in 2026
Review our open spaces.	2026/27	Asset Management Team	On track We are reviewing our open spaces and completing biodiversity audits.
Support the development and delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Ongoing	Climate Team, partner organisations	On track In October 2025, we promoted the public consultation on the strategy. It is due to be published in spring 2026.

Outcome 6: Renewable energy produced locally.



Action	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Progress the Local Plan.	2027	Planning Policy Team	On track In December 2025 consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan was approved. This will take place in January 2026. The plan is due to be adopted in 2027.
Support local community energy opportunities.	Ongoing up to 2030	Climate Team	On track In August 2025, planning permission for Crowhurst community solar farm was approved. The farm is expected to create enough energy to power over 2,500 homes per year.