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**Testament to Town Councillors**  
*“Working together for Seaford”*

- Entirely unpaid role
- All done in own time
- 37 Council meetings due in 26/27

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# Seaford Town Council

Inside the Top 20 Town Councils\*

- **Income Generation**
- **Asset Responsibility**
- **Operational Activity**

\* Open source data



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# Income 26/27

£1,283,000

- Council tax

£1,079,000

- Income – Golf, Assets, etc

**£2,362,000 total budget**



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# Asset Responsibilities

**Vast expanse of Seaford Head Estate**

**An 18-hole Golf Course**

**18 Buildings**

- **The View, Martello Tower, Hurdis House**

**20 Open Spaces**

- **The Salts, The Crouch, Martello Fields**



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# Late 2024

- Loss of Senior Management
- 7.29 FTE permanent office staff
- Fire-fighting only
- Zero capacity for planned or preventative work
- No 'bandwidth' for Strategic Plan
- Frustration for Councillors
- Stress for Officers
- Dissatisfaction for Residents



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## **Early 2025**

- **New Staff Structure**
  - **To Strengthen Performance**
- **New Committee Structure**
  - **To Strengthen Governance**
- **Creation of new Strategy Programme**
  - **To Drive the Town Forwards**



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## **New Strategy Programme 25-27**

Now includes 79 SMART Targets

Focus on:

- **Economic**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Facilities & Assets**
- **Engagement**
- **Governance**
- **Climate Action**



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# Economic

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## 14 Goals

### Strategies:

- Concession, License & Lease Management
- Improve Accessibility of STC and Golf website
- Improve & Refresh Signage
- Golf Course Improvements



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# Wellbeing

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## 17 Goals

### Strategies:

- Establish Base for New Community Centre
- The Salts Improvement Plan
- Acquisition/Disposal of Assets
- Parking Solutions
- Emergency Plans



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## Facilities/Assets

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### 15 Goals

#### Strategies:

- South Hill Barn Project
- Toilet Provision
- Seafront Bin Provision
- Grounds Maintenance Contract
- Hope Gap Steps



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## Engagement

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### 9 Goals

#### Strategies:

- Communications Strategy & Working Digitally
- Youth Ambassador Board
- Seafront Management Plan



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# Governance

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## 13 Goals

### Strategies:

- Land & Leases
- Financial Management
- Policy & Risk Management
- Back Office Digitalisation



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# Climate

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## 11 Goals

### Strategies:

- Climate Action Plan & Climate Emergency Policy
- Fields in Trust
- Seaford Head Chalk Paths
- Cliff Gardens



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## 2025 Key Achievements

- Recruited Deputy Town Clerk & Head of Place (SMT)
- Recruited to create a full officer team
- Tendered for new Grounds Maintenance contractors
- Commenced the Cliff Gardens scheme
- Renewed Street Market license
- Provided response to LDC Local Plan Initial Stage
- New leases for The Base, Cricket Club & tenant farmer
- Issued Grants worth £20,528 to 13 local organisations
- Appointed and licensed 6 new concessionaire partners
- Introduced a new 25<sup>th</sup> year Seaford Town flag



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## 2026 So Far ...

- Kept Town Council's Council Tax increase restrained to 2.2%
- Became partner in the Seven Sister's National Nature Reserve
- Responded to LDC's Local Plan Phase 2 Consultation
- Approved trial pay and display scheme at South Hill Barn
- Approved new Big Belly bins along seafront to prevent litter
- Approved the erection of bollards along the gravel strip
- Approved a scheme to repair/improve the SSSI over 5 years
- Online booking portals for Beach Huts and Sports Pitches
- Established Youth Ambassador Board
- Approved Martello Fields & The Crouch for Fields in Trust
- Submitted Expression of Interest for Town of Culture 2028



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## 2026 Future Plans ...

- Implement Communications Strategy
- Implement new processes for concessions
- Improve usability/accessibility to the Town Council's website
- Refresh signs across the town
- Make enhancements to the Golf Course
- Consult on the need for a community centre
- Consult on various options for the Salts Improvement Plan
- Review and improve toilet provision across the town
- Bring forward plans for Hope Gap Steps
- Work to improve chalk paths and access across Seaford Head
- Further strengthen internal controls on risk, policies and BCP



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## Local Government Reorganisation

Currently 3 levels of councils operate in Seaford:

- **East Sussex County Council**

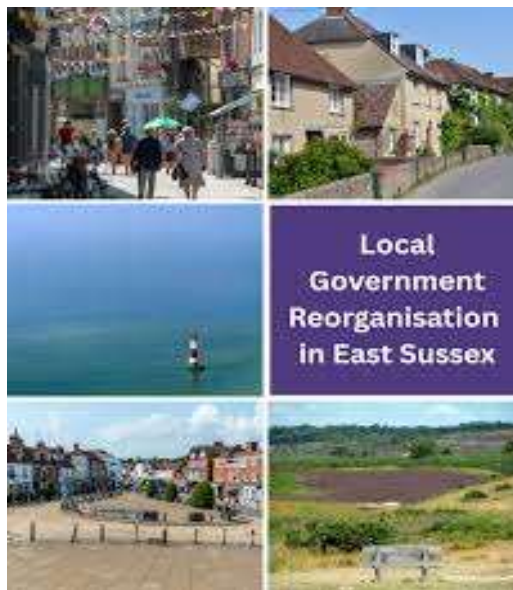
Highways, Education, Libraries, Social Care, Children's Services, Public Health, Transport

- **Lewes District Council**

Waste Collection, Council Tax, Elections, Housing, Licensing, Planning, Enviro. Health

- **Seaford Town Council**

Open Green Spaces, Local Assets, Grants, Seaford Head, Golf Course, War Memorial



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## Fast Moving Agenda

**Proposed UA:**

- A
- B
- C
- D

**Pattern:**

- District Authority
- Unitary Authority

- Officers will continue to update Councillors and residents
- New consultation on the geography of the new Unitary Council
- Town Council will respond again in due course
- Elections for 'shadow' Unitary Council due 6/5/27.
- Legacy councils cease to exist on 1/4/28

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## Assets to Unitary Council on 1/4/28

- Opportunity to secure local assets
- List of 42 assets initially floated
- Council proposed 9 are nominated
- Awaiting initial approval from LDC
- LDC to provide STC with full info
- Due diligence process
- Public consultation process
- Recommendation & Council approval
- Assets 'vested' with STC

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**Welcome any Questions?**



Seaford Town Council



**Representing the Town**