



## Seaford Town Council

### Agenda

### Extraordinary Full Council Meeting

Thursday 11 June 2026

To the Members of the Full Council, you are summoned to attend a meeting as follows:

Meeting Date	Thursday 11 June 2026
Meeting Time	7.00pm
Meeting Venue	Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG
Members	Councillors S Adeniji, S Ali, L Boorman, C Bristow, R Buchanan, S Dubas, S Dunn, F Hoareau, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, J Lord, S Markwell, O Matthews, J Meek, G Rutland, L Stirton, R Stirton, I Taylor, L Wallraven and M Wearmouth

Steve Quayle, Town Clerk

3 June 2026

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- For members of the public that have registered to attend the meeting, please see the end of the agenda for further details of public access and participation
- Please note that if you don't register and just attempt to turn up at the meeting, this could result in you not being able to attend if there is no space
- Public arrival time is between 6.45pm – 6.55pm, after which the front door will be locked and public will not be able to gain access to the meeting
- The meeting will be recorded and uploaded to the Town Council's YouTube channel shortly after the meeting

**For further information about items on this Agenda please contact:**

Email: [meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01323 894 870

Postal Address: Seaford Town Council, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG

# AGENDA

## 1. Election of a Chair

Due to the absence of both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, a Chair is to be elected for this Full Council meeting in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (Schedule 12 para 11(3)).

The Proper Officer will open the meeting and seek nominations for Chair. Upon being seconded, a nomination shall be voted upon – the first councillor to receive a majority vote shall be appointed as Chair for this meeting and preside over the meeting with immediate effect.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

To receive details of any apologies for absence.

To approve or not the reasons for absence.

*Please see the Information for Councillors at the end of this agenda for supporting information on this.*

## 3. Disclosure of Interests

To receive any disclosure by councillors of interests that they are aware of in relation to matters on the agenda, whether registered or not, and confirmation of any procedural steps they will take because of this.

Councillors arriving late in the meeting will be asked to confirm if they have any interests to disclose at the point that they arrive.

*Please see the Information for Councillors at the end of this agenda for supporting information on this.*

## 4. Public Participation

To deal with any questions, or brief representations, from members of the public physically in the meeting room, in accordance with relevant legislation and Town Council Policy.

## 5. Petitions

In accordance with the Town Council Petitions Policy, this is a standard agenda item to facilitate any public petitions being presented to, and noted by, Full Council. Please note, that this would not prompt a discussion on the petition at this meeting.

## 6. [Local Government Reorganisation - Consultation Response June 2026](#)

To consider report 21/26 seeking agreement of Seaford Town Council's response to the modified Local Government Reorganisation proposals (pages 5 to 10).

- Agenda End -

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## INFORMATION – MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

### Public Access:

Members of the public looking to access this meeting will be able to do so by:

1. Attending the meeting in person.

Due to health and safety restrictions, the number of public in attendance will be limited. The Town Council therefore asks that you contact [meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk) or 01323 894 870 to register your interest in attending at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Spaces will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Please note that if you don't register and just attempt to turn up at the meeting, this could result in you not being able to attend if there is no space.

OR

2. Watching the recording of the meeting on the [Town Council's YouTube channel](#) , which will be uploaded after the meeting has taken place.

### Public Access to the Venue:

If you are attending the meeting in person, please arrive between 6.45 – 6.55pm where you will be shown into the meeting for a 7.00pm start. Please note that the front door of the building will be locked at 6.55pm and remain locked during the meeting for security reasons. As such, if you arrive after this time, you will not be able to access the meeting.

When members of the public are looking to leave, they must be escorted out of the building by a Town Council officer. There is also a signposted back door which can be exited through if required. Entrance through the rear fire escape of the building will not be allowed.

There is a lift for those requiring it to access the first floor. Please note that motorised scooters cannot be brought into the lift. Electric and other wheelchairs can be accommodated but there is a maximum weight limit of 400kg.

### Public Participation:

Public participation must take place in person during the designated agenda item. Members of the public may make a verbal statement relevant to an agenda item, for up to four minutes, when invited by the Chair. Speakers do not have to give their name and will be guided by the Chair on when to speak. Statements are recorded in summary form in the minutes of the meeting (without personal details) and public participation will normally last no more than 20 minutes, with the Chair having overall discretion.

The full version of the Town Council's Public Participation Policy can be viewed on the [Town Council's website](#).

**Public Comments:**

Members of the public looking to submit comments on any item of business on the agenda can do so in writing ahead of the meeting and this will be circulated to all councillors. Comments can be submitted by email to [meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk) or by post to the Town Council offices.

## INFORMATION – COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Questions:**

Councillor should normally raise queries at the meeting so responses are shared with everyone. If a question needs advance preparation, it should be sent to the report's contact officer beforehand so it can be answered verbally at the meeting.

**Councillor Apologies for Absence:**

Section 85 of the Local Government Act requires that councillors must attend meetings regularly and that failure to attend any meetings for six consecutive months without an approved reason may lead to disqualification. Apologies must be submitted directly to an officer in advance, include a reason, and be formally approved by the meeting to be recorded. Apologies received late can be considered at the next appropriate meeting, but absences without a reason cannot be approved.

**Councillor Interests:**

Please see the [Town Councillor Interests Guide](#) for information about what interests councillors must declare, when those interests become a problem for decision-making, and what councillors must do if they have them.



## Seaford Town Council

<b>Report Number:</b>	<b>21/26</b>
<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Extraordinary Full Council</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 June 2026</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Local Government Reorganisation – Consultation Response June 2026</b>
<b>Strategy Programme Ref:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	<b>To agree Seaford Town Council’s response to the modified Local Government Reorganisation proposals</b>
<b>Supporting Documents:</b>	<b>Appendix A – Consultation Questions and Officer-recommended Responses</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Quayle, Town Clerk</b>

### **Guidance on Agenda Item Format**

1. Full Council is asked to consider the draft version of the officer-recommended responses to the modified Local Government Reorganisation proposals, and suggest changes or alterations as required before delegating power to the Town Clerk to submit the response.

### **Recommendations from Officers**

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To delegate power to the Town Clerk to submit the response, as agreed in the meeting, as the formal response on behalf of Seaford Town Council.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 On 8 January 2026, the Town Council formally agreed its response to the Local Government Reorganisation proposals covering Sussex. This is detailed in [Report 143/25](#) (page 63 to 71), with the Town Council’s final response available to view [online here](#).

- 1.2 At that time, the Town Council resolved to broadly support the ‘One East Sussex’ proposal, put forward jointly by East Sussex County Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council and Hastings Borough Council, which saw one unitary authority being created within the coterminous boundaries of East Sussex.
- 1.3 At that time, the Town Council resolved to strongly oppose the Brighton & Hove City Council proposal to split East and West Sussex into five Unitary Authorities which would have seen Seaford become part of provisionally entitled ‘Unitary B’, encompassing Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother plus five wards from Lewes District and nine wards from Wealden District.
- 1.4 At that time, the Town Council agreed not to comment on other proposals which entirely related to West Sussex.

## **2. Developments**

- 2.1 On 25 March 2026, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government wrote to the leaders of all councils in Sussex advising them he did not currently support any of the proposals put forwards, but instead proposed a modification of the proposals received and advised another consultation would take place on the modified proposals.
- 2.2 This consultation could not take place immediately due to the Pre-Election Period moratorium leading up to local elections on 7 May 2026.
- 2.3 Subsequently, on 12 May 2026 the Government launched its [consultation](#) providing only 34 days within which to respond. This is an unfeasibly short turnaround timeframe to pass a response through the democratic process, especially given that May is the busiest month of year for all councils due to elections, new member appointments and statutory Annual Meetings.
- 2.4 The very short turnaround time afforded here is the reason for this hastily assembled Extraordinary Full Council meeting.

## **3. The Modified Proposals**

- 3.1 The Ministry’s website states that Brighton & Hove City Council formally requested to seek to move four wards and one parish from the proposed East Sussex Unitary into an expanded Brighton & Hove Unitary. It goes onto say *“the Secretary of State wishes to explore whether this potential modification would deliver the positive strengths of the East Sussex proposal in relation to service delivery while facilitating the growth of Brighton & Hove.”*

- 3.2** The effect of this modification would result in East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven, and Falmer being absorbed into the Brighton & Hove Unitary, whilst the remainder of East Sussex remained as a separate Unitary.

#### **4. Consultation Process**

- 4.1** The consultation process for this modification is a short and simple one which asks just four substantive questions.
- 4.2** Officers have prepared recommended responses to each of these questions, detailed in **Appendix A**, and Full Council is requested to discuss and amend the responses as appropriate.
- 4.3** Once an agreed form of words has been found, Full Council is recommended to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to respond to the consultation with the form of words agreed within the meeting.

#### **5. Financial Appraisal**

- 5.1** There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

**Consultation Questions with Officer-recommended Responses Below:**

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Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the potential modification to the two unitary proposals will deliver better unitary local government in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove than the original proposal received as judged against the criteria?

Answer: Strongly Agree – Agree – Neither Agree nor Disagree – Disagree - **Strongly Disagree** – Don't Know

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Question 2: If you would like to, please use the free text box to tell us about whether the potential modification will deliver new councils that:

- are based on sensible geographies and economic areas;
- will be able to deliver the outcomes described in the original proposal;
- are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks;
- will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing;
- will deliver high quality, sustainable public services;
- will meet local needs;
- will support devolution arrangements;
- enable stronger community engagement and give the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment;

You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this potential modification or any other matters.

Answer: **This modification is a rehashed version of Brighton & Hove City Council's proposals from summer 2025, just with the exclusion of Newhaven from the area being annexed. Those proposals were comprehensively rebuffed when this matter was consulted**

on by Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council in autumn 2025. Over 86% of 7,472 responses received gave their preference as “making no changes to the current Lewes district boundaries”. In addition, an online petition against these proposals attracted 6,783 signatures.

The modification is not supported by any of the legacy councils at County, District or Borough level within East Sussex, nor by the MP for Lewes.

Whilst this modification would not directly affect Seaford, Seaford Town Council stands in solidarity with its neighbouring local councils - Newhaven Town, Kingston Parish, Piddinghoe Parish, Telscombe Town, Rodmell Parish, Parishes of the Lower Ouse, and Iford Parish – all of whom submitted thorough and detailed rejections of this annexation last autumn.

To echo the comments of the MP for Lewes “I am fully supportive of Lewes District in its entirety being included within an East Sussex-wide unitary authority. This is the option that makes sense geographically, socially and politically. It respects existing county boundaries, maintains community identity, and ensures that our district is not carved up to suit the needs of Brighton and Hove.

“These are distinct communities, separated [from Brighton] by open countryside ... Residents do not see themselves as part of Brighton & Hove, and there is widespread concern about any suggestions to the contrary.”

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Question 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the potential modification to the East Sussex proposal for two unitary authorities from the East Sussex councils would have a strong public services and financial sustainability justification?

Answer: Strongly Agree – Agree – Neither Agree nor Disagree – Disagree -  
**Strongly Disagree** – Don't Know

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Question 4: If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question 3.

Answer: **Whilst Seaford is not directly affected by the proposal, the disaggregation of services currently provided by East Sussex County Council to the areas proposed to be annexed by Brighton & Hove would have to undergo a disruptive and costly transfer to the new authority for no apparent reason. At no point has Brighton & Hove sought to provide a convincing rationale for its proposals, whether in terms of benefits to a Brighton & Hove Unitary Authority, to an East Sussex Unitary Authority, or to the residents of the current Lewes District.**

DRAFT