

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Agenda item no. |                        |
| Report to       | Burwash Parish Council |
| Subject         | ESALC AGM & Conference |
| Date            | 11 October 2018        |
| From            | Cllr Lesley Elmslie    |

## 1. ESALC AGM & Conference Summary

- 1.1 Lord Amphill was re-elected, as was Cllr Keith Stevens of Wartling as Chairman and Cllr Susan Murray of Lewes was elected as Vice Chairman. The minutes of the AGM held in October 2017 was also approved and signed. Lord Amphill reported on the Annual Report for 2017/18 details which can be found on the SSALC website with the appropriate username and password.
- 1.2 The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 were adopted. The appointment of Directors was discussed and it was agreed that the current Directors be re-elected, there is a vacancy and RDC will be asked to put forward a proposed representative. This was followed by the re-election of the current Vice-Presidents, and re-election of the representatives to the National Association for 2018/19.
- 1.3 Under AOB Lord Amphill brought up the subject of War Memorials, especially in light of the special events going on this year and said there were funds available for the cleaning/maintenance of same. Should any parish or town council want to find out more they should talk to SALC.
- 1.4 It would appear that East Sussex (ES) has the highest rate of over 65s (25% compared with 18% average in England) and this figure is up by 21.6% since 2010/11. Similarly ES have the highest rate of 85+ population and this figure is up by 11.7% since 2010/11. This puts increasing pressure on social care. ES also has some of the most deprived communities in the country, in fact council tax is cheaper for Band D in Tower Hamlets than ES. Earnings are also below the national average and significantly lower than the rest of the South East. Business Rate growth is flat and revenue from Government is reducing. Rupert Clubb (RC) said that although ESCC had done a lot to manage their funds they still needed to save £129m and this involved closing and re-provisioned care services, reducing various learning disability services, community-based social care support, eliminating various home to school transport, reduced services for children and young people with special educational needs, closed waste sites, closed libraries, reduced grass cutting, and cut subsidised buses. But due to the loss of £16.9m government grant plus inflation demographic growth of £65.3m the real loss in spending power amounted to £82.2m. With council tax receipts at £35.8m ESCC still have to find savings of a further £46.4m. To fill the gap ESCC have considered the possibility of a growth in business rates but reality is that projected growth is likely to be less than 1% for 2018/19, or increasing council tax by 15%, but the reality is that council tax increase is capped at 2.99% and is likely to be the same for 2019/20. Alternatively if 'we' built 33,300 new homes income from this source would help, but again the reality is that approx. 1,400 properties were built in East Sussex in 2016/17.
- 1.5 In light of the above RC said that they have launched work on a Core Offer for East Sussex which is shaping the national debate about councils' funding. The Core Offer is ambitious, based on statutory duties but not limited to them, aimed to create the economic conditions that mean people are less reliant on public services. For example the SLR meetings can be used to raise areas of concerns, not just roads, such as pressure on PCs to deliver for the community, i.e. grass cutting. RC said there had

been a number of concerns about libraries closing, waste disposal is also complicated, and help with 'community interest companies'. RC said that ESCC had a duty to provide comprehensive library service although it had closed 7. RC continued that ESCC had work with a number of Parish and Town Council and arranged for 6 libraries to be taken on locally at a peppercorn rent.

- 1.6 Cllr Bill Bentley, (BB), Armed Forces Champion, ESCC, said there were 36,000 former armed forces personnel in East Sussex many of whom are 'hidden', this number does not include reservists or those currently serving. Of this hidden number of veterans a percentage may be sleeping rough or have mental problems, or just need to feel part of the community. BB asked that parish and town councils identify members of the armed forces in their communities and ensure they have the support they need. There are a number of organisations who can help.
- 1.7 Paul Rideout, (PR), Policy Manager, Governance Services, ESCC, said that Civic Crowdfunding is a way of investing in communities and can help with grants from less than £500 to large grants of more than £50,000 plus social investment (repayable finance). PR said there were various models of funding but the Civic Crowdfunding was for projects generated by and for the benefit of communities or not-for-profit organisations. Individuals donate money and time to projects that they have an interest in, or grant funding organisations and public sector can match fund or provide a small grant to local projects that meet defined criteria. That is parish or town councils can have a project which can benefit the parish or town. Such as a community hub and spaces; buildings, restorations and infrastructure; equipment, tools or kit for community activity; or events, arts and culture activities and one-off activities.
- 1.8 Giles York, (GY), Chief Constable, Sussex Police, said that he was aware of the concerns expressed by many ESCC residents, parish and town councils, but to try and put matters into perspective he wanted to give us some facts and figures. For example the 101 calls (not urgent Police calls) amounted to in excess of 70,000 calls a month, they also received 45,000 emails per month. The plan is to increase the workforce by 200 or more police officers over the next 4 years. The Met are also looking to recruit 3,000 officers over the next 6 months. GY said if any councillors wanted a tour of the 101 call room to let Trevor Leggo, CEO SSALC, know and GY will arrange tours of approx. 15 councillors to enable parish and town councillors see what happens on a daily basis.
- 1.9 Melanie Gorman, East Sussex Joint Waste Partnership Manager, explained that the current contract with Keir was not working and as a result from 29 June 2019 Hastings, Rother & Wealden will have all of their collection services provided under a new joint contract, with Rother and Wealden also having their street cleansing provided by the same contract. Kier kept the recycling waste and expected to earn an income of just over £2m which has not happened. Plus there were lots of problems when Kier merged with May Gurney, resulting in the mutual decision to end the contract 4 years early. The new contract will mean changes and there will be a different financial basis for the contract. Residents may expect changes to the list of what is collected. Currently 27% of black bin is food waste of which 24% is real food not bones/skin and could be used or composted. There is no immediate plan to change the day the green bin is collected, but it may change in the future. It is also possible that food waste collections might become a legal requirement. It is also possible that a plastic bottle return system will be implemented in addition to other changes in the future. A recommendation to award the new contract will be made on 30 November. Each partner council will check the recommendation and make budget preparations in December, with final signing of the contract taking place in early January 2019.

Information will be communicated to residents in Spring 2019. What this will mean for the councils involved will depend on who wins the contract. However the operation will be managed from 3 depots in Pebsham, Hailsham and Uckfield.

**Matters for Council to note**

- 2.1 Potential increase in council tax to pay for increase in waste collection
- 2.2 Potential changes to recycling, i.e. closing of various sites, changes to sites, including the recycling amenity in Burwash car park
- 2.3 Potential changes to list of items to go in the green bins and pink recycling bags