

Local Governance Review Update

As you are aware, the biggest focus of the Forum over the last ten months was on the need for a local governance review. The Independents led a petition to secure one and it was clear from the debate at the Forum that the people of Bexhill strongly want one.

We are now delighted to be able to report that Rother have checked and verified the petition, and have confirmed that sufficient, valid, signatures were found on it. The review is therefore guaranteed.

What happens next? The key stages ahead are:

- For the review to get under way
- Once started it has to be completed within twelve months
- If the outcome is for there to be a change then that change will be effective from the next election, that is May 2019, and there needs to be a period of time between the decision being made and its implementation for all the work needed.

When will the review start?

At present RDC are obliged by the Boundary Commission to undertake a boundary review and that is taking up the required resources. This means that the governance review cannot begin until autumn 2016, when those resources are freed up.

But – this is not a problem since, completing the review in the autumn of 2017 will leave 18 months for all the implementation work.

This is the timetable and the Forum committee will continue to work alongside RDC to ensure that there will be no slippage in the timescales. As and when activities commence, we will update the Forum so that the people of Bexhill will be kept apprised all along of the progress that is being made.