



LEAD MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISIONS to be made by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment,
Councillor Claire Dowling

MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 10.00 AM

COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

AGENDA

1. Decisions made by the Lead Member on 20 October 2025 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
2. Disclosure of Interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
3. Urgent items
Notification of any items which the Lead Member considers urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda.
4. Proposed relocation of Hastings Register Office (*Pages 7 - 12*)
Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
5. Hastings Green Connections Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (*Pages 13 - 16*)
Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
6. Installation of Fire Suppression Systems at Waste Transfer Stations (*Pages 17 - 20*)
Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
7. Any non-exempt items previously notified under agenda item 3
8. Exclusion of the Public and Press
To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting for the remaining agenda item on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
9. Installation of Fire Suppression Systems at Waste Transfer Stations - Exempt Information (*Pages 21 - 24*)
Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
10. Any other exempt urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

PHILIP BAKER
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31 October 2025

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LEAD MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor Claire Dowling, on 20 October 2025 at Committee Room, County Hall, Lewes

Councillors MacCleary and Maples spoke on item 4 (see minute 19)

Councillors Field and Maples spoke on item 5 (see minute 20)

Councillors Field and Redstone spoke on item 6 (see minute 21)

15. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

15.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2025.

16. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

16.1 Councillor Field declared a personal interest in item 5 as a Member of Rother District Council. She did not consider this to be prejudicial.

17. URGENT ITEMS

17.1 There were none.

18. REPORTS

18.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

19. PETITION: INSTALLATION OF A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT IN LEWES ROAD, NEWHAVEN

19.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport together with written comments from Councillor Osborne, a Local Member.

19.2 Ms Vera Zakharov, the Lead Petitioner for the petition calling on the County Council to install a safe crossing point and a 20mph speed limit in Lewes Road, Newhaven spoke to highlight safety concerns for pedestrians including children crossing Lewes Road, the importance of reinforcing driver perception of Lewes Road being within a residential area and the geography of Lewes Road contributing to the factors that make it difficult for pedestrians to cross.

DECISIONS

19.3 The Lead Member RESOLVED to advise petitioners that:

(1) A potential scheme to install a pedestrian crossing and implement a 20mph speed limit with associated traffic calming in Lewes Road between Lawes Avenue and Robinson Road will be assessed for possible inclusion in the Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements for 2026/27 and that petitioners will be advised of the outcome of this assessment when the results become available in early November 2025; and

(2) Petitioners may wish to consider setting up a Community Speedwatch Group for the area to carry out occasional speed checks.

REASONS

19.4 The Council has considered the petition calling on the County Council to install a pedestrian crossing and a 20mph speed limit between Lawes Avenue and Robinson Road, in Lewes Road, Newhaven.

19.5 In early November 2025 officers will advise petitioners if a potential scheme to install a pedestrian crossing and implement a 20mph speed limit with associated traffic calming in Lewes Road between Lawes Avenue and Robinson Road, has been progressed to detailed appraisal. It is important to note that progression to detailed appraisal does not guarantee inclusion in a future Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements.

19.6 If petitioners wish to consider setting up a Community Speedwatch group for the area to carry out occasional speed checks, further details are available online via <http://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk/> or petitioners can contact the District Speedwatch Administrator at csw@sussex.pnn.police.uk.

20. PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF PARKING CHARGES, BROOMHILL SANDS CAR PARK, CAMBER

20.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport.

DECISIONS

20.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

- (1) Note the proposal to introduce off-street parking charges at Broomhill Sands Car Park, Camber; and
- (2) Approve that a 21-day public consultation is taken on the proposal outlined in the report.

REASONS

20.3 The proposed introduction of parking charges at Broomhill Sands Car Park would generate revenue to contribute towards the maintenance of the car park and nearby Camber Sands Site of Special Scientific Interest. Prior to the introduction of charges, informal and formal public consultations must be carried out.

21. COMMUNITY MATCH SCHEMES FOR 2025/26

21.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport with a correction to paragraph 2.3. It was confirmed that the table at paragraph 2.3 in the report should say layby scheme for the Ewhurst Parish Council scheme instead of introduction of a 30mph speed limit.

DECISIONS

21.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

- (1) Agree that £15,000 (subject to detail design and any unforeseen circumstances) of match funding is allocated towards the Catsfield Community Match speed reduction scheme for detailed design work and construction in 2025/26;
- (2) Agree that £25,000 (subject to detail design and any unforeseen circumstances) of match funding is allocated towards the Ewhurst Community Match layby scheme for detailed design work and construction in 2025/26; and
- (3) Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to approve the 50% match funding contribution for the schemes in resolutions 1 and 2, up to a maximum contribution of £60,000 (including contingencies) per scheme once the design and construction costs are known.

REASONS

21.3 The Community Match programme provides the opportunity for town or parish councils, local resident groups and organisations to secure match funding to enable local priority schemes to be delivered. These are schemes which otherwise would not materialise using County Council funding alone through the capital programme of local transport improvements.

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 10 November 2025

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Proposed relocation of Hastings Register Office

Purpose: This report proposes the relocation of Hastings Register Office for births, deaths, and marriages to the Hastings library building. The move aims to enhance service delivery, optimise use of Council assets, and improve accessibility for residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the proposal to move Hastings Register Office (“the Service”) to Hastings Library, subject to planning permission, to facilitate service delivery improvements and deliver revenue savings of £100K. The savings that would be delivered through the relocation of the Service would contribute to the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings in 2026/2027 and 2027/2028;**
 - (2) Note that the Service would refocus the current Council ceremony venues offer to meet customer demands and continue to provide a ceremony room at Hastings Library. In addition, the Register Office would continue to support the local economy through the licensing of approved marriage premises in Hastings; and**
 - (3) Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to approve the detailed scheme of works for the proposal.**
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1 Background Information

1.1 The cessation of formal Adult Learning by the Library Service which was part of service changes that delivered savings of £192k during 2024/2025, has created an opportunity to relocate Registration Services to Hastings Library. Currently the Registration Service is located in the Town Hall, which is owned by Hastings Borough Council. The proposal is to move the Registration Service to the former learning space in the library. Relocation to this former learning space would ensure that public library space is not impacted.

1.2 While the current Register Office has served the community for a number of years, there are several challenges which include outdated facilities and accessibility.

2 Supporting Information

Legal requirements

2.1 The County Council provides registration services for births, deaths, and marriages, ensuring that these significant life events are accurately recorded and managed. This

responsibility is not only a statutory duty but also a vital service to the community, providing essential documentation that supports individuals throughout their lives. Currently the County Council provides registration services in Eastbourne, Hastings, Crowborough and Lewes.

2.2 There is no legal requirement for the exact number of registration offices a County Council must provide. However, the General Register Office (GRO) mandates that councils ensure their registration services are accessible and meet the needs of their communities. This typically means having enough offices to cover the geographical area effectively and to provide timely and convenient access for residents.

2.3 Councils are expected to assess local demand and ensure that their services are available within reasonable travel distances for all residents. The number of offices can vary based on the size and population of the county, as well as the specific needs of the community.

2.4 In addition, the County Council is required to provide at least one approved venue for civil ceremonies. Currently East Sussex County Council offers a wide range of ceremony venues to cater to a variety of preferences and needs.

Ceremonies

2.5 Responsibilities for ceremonies include:

- Conducting Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies: Ensuring that all legal requirements are met and that ceremonies are conducted in accordance with the law
- Providing Non-Statutory Ceremonies: Offering services such as naming ceremonies and renewal of vows
- Managing Approved Venues: Overseeing the licensing and regulation of venues approved for civil ceremonies

2.6 Ceremonies are an important service offered by a Register Office. The proposed change would continue to offer customers a wide selection of venues across the county in which to hold a ceremony.

2.7 The current venue offers for ceremonies include:

- Register Offices: Located in Crowborough, Eastbourne, Hastings, and Lewes, these offices provide official settings for ceremonies
- Licensed Venues: Over 85 licensed venues are available across the county, including historic buildings, hotels, and unique locations

Hastings Town Hall ceremony usage

2.8 Currently the Register Office in Hastings Town Hall has 3 ceremony rooms and overall has the capacity to hold 15 ceremonies every day, if used to maximum capacity the service has space to hold up to 5,475 a year. This is based on each room holding 5 ceremonies per day, 365 days per year.

2.9 In the year 2022/2023 the Service conducted 273 ceremonies. In the year 2023/2024 216 ceremonies were conducted and in the following year (2024/2025) 219 ceremonies were held at Hastings Town Hall.

2.10 The usage figures demonstrate that the current provision of ceremony rooms at Hastings Town Hall are underutilised for ceremonies and identifies a potential opportunity to revise the

offer. The proposal moving forward, should the service relocate to Hastings Library, would be to have 1 ceremony room that can accommodate 10 people (10 to include 2 ceremony registrars) with a larger option on the ground floor that would be available when the library is closed.

2.11 With the proposed offer in Hastings library of one main ceremony room the service has the potential of holding up to 5 ceremonies per day in this room and has the maximum capacity to offer up to 1460 slots per year.

2.12 In addition, the library closes on a Wednesday from 1pm for the afternoon and does not open on a Sunday. The Registration Service could use the space at the front of the library on the ground floor during this time, offering a large attractive space to customers within the town. This space could accommodate up to 60 people and the service has the potential to offer 416 additional slots during these times.

Approved Marriage Premises

2.13 Currently within Hastings Borough there are 34 approved marriage premises, and these offer a wide range of venues, at a variety of price points. Should the service relocate to the library building, there would remain in Hastings a wide range of alternative options for customers to consider as venues for their ceremonies. The licensing of Approved Marriage Premises by the Registration Service is an important part of supporting the local economy.

Service integration

2.14 The integration of the Registration Office into the library space offers wide-ranging advantages across all age groups. For young families and new parents, the convenience of registering births in a familiar, community-focused setting reduces stress and supports engagement.

2.15 Older adults would benefit from the welcoming environment of the library, which offers seating, assistance, and accessible facilities. Libraries also play a vital role in supporting older and socially isolated residents through difficult times, for example bereavement. Feedback from other County Councils where Registration and the Library Service are collocated has been that older residents have found it a comforting and supportive environment.

2.16 Integrating registration offices within libraries offers several benefits, enhancing both the accessibility and efficiency of public services. Some additional advantages include:

- Co-location: Libraries serve as community information centres where people gather for various activities. Having registration services in the same location could increase community engagement and awareness of available services
- Cost Efficiency: Sharing facilities and resources between libraries and registration services would reduce operational costs for the council, making better use of public funds
- Enhanced Service Delivery: Libraries are equipped with trained staff who can assist with a variety of inquiries, providing a seamless and supportive environment for individuals accessing registration services
- Promotion of other services: Visitors to the library for registration purposes may become aware of and utilise other library services, digital literacy training, and cultural events

2.17 Integrating the Registration Service and Hastings Library within the current library building would deliver revenue savings of £100K. The savings that would be delivered through the relocation of the Service would contribute to the MTFP savings in 2026/2027 and 2027/2028.

2.18 A draft programme has been developed and costed and the estimated costs associated with the relocation of the Hastings Register Office, based on pre-tender estimates, are £125K. Should the Lead Member endorse the recommendations in this report, the Registration Service would be operational from Hastings Library in September 2026. This programme would ensure service continuity and a smooth coordinated relocation with minimal disruption to users.

2.19 Overall, the integration of registration offices within libraries fosters a more connected and resourceful community, enhancing the delivery of essential public services. It is proposed that, should the relocation be approved, the library building is renamed to incorporate the dual use.

Lease arrangements

2.20 Currently the lease for Hastings Town Hall will expire in January 2026 and if the Lead Member endorses the recommendations of this report, a new flexible lease will be put in place, subject to Hastings Borough Council's agreement.

2.21 It is proposed that East Sussex County Council liaise with Hastings Borough Council to minimise the financial impact on them by exploring opportunities for Hastings Borough Council to continue to use the existing town hall venues as Approved Marriage Premises as a potential income generator for the Borough Council.

Planning applications

2.22 Following consideration, and subject to agreement of the proposal, a planning application would need to be submitted for change of use of the library space in Hastings to facilitate the relocation. In addition, an application for listed building consent may also be submitted, if required.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 This proposal offers value for money and would deliver an improved and enhanced library and Registration Office. The proposal can be delivered within the existing budget, due to forecast additional ceremony and citizenship income for this financial year and will achieve on-going revenue saving. The proposals will make the best use of library buildings.

3.2. The proposal allows the Service to refocus the current Council ceremony venues offer to meet customer demands and establish a ceremony room at Hastings Library. In addition, the Service would continue to support the local economy through the current 34 approved marriage premises in Hastings.

3.3 It is, therefore, recommended that the Lead Member for Transport and Environment approve the proposal for the Register Office to relocate to Hastings Library. It is further recommended that authority is delegated to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to approve the detailed scheme of works for the proposals.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Cllr Godfrey Daniel

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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Report to:	Lead Member for Transport and Environment
Date of meeting:	10 November 2025
By:	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title:	Hastings Green Connections Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders
Purpose:	To consider the use of Traffic Regulation Orders and Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders for Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) note the previous development work that has been undertaken in relation to Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections project;**
 - (2) note that Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) will be advertised prior to construction in relation to cycle access to Hastings Town Centre and speed limitation on Havelock Road and Harold Place;**
 - (3) approve that Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) are advertised post construction in relation to vehicular access and timings on Havelock Road, Harold Place and Wellington Place, Hastings; and**
 - (4) delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport, to take any actions necessary to progress the scheme to the construction phase including but not limited to the award of any construction contract required.**
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1 Background

1.1 In November 2019, Hastings Borough Council (HBC) was allocated £24.4m from the Government's Towns Fund. In November 2023, East Sussex County Council entered into a funding agreement with HBC to receive £9,754,458 of this funding to deliver the Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections project. The scheme targets improvements along Havelock Road and Harold Place, enhancing access between the rail station, town centre, and seafront.

1.2 Between 22 January and 1 March 2024, the County Council publicly consulted on the proposed designs for the project. A consultation outcome report was considered by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment at a decision-making meeting on 15 July 2024. Further discussions were then held with Southern Water (SW), Homes England and the local bus operator, to understand how Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections project could integrate within HBC's wider vision and strategy for the town. Details of these discussions were considered by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment at a decision-making meeting on 23 September 2024. At this meeting, the Lead Member resolved to retain two-way movement for buses and cyclists on Havelock Road and Harold Place and the revised scheme progress to detailed design and construction.

2 Supporting information

Design Development

2.1 Since the approval to proceed, design consultants, Arup, have progressed through the developed detailed design (RIBA [Royal Institute of British Architects] stages 3 and 4). This has included working with SW to increase the specification and amount of Sustainable Urban Drainage planting within the scheme, consulting accessibility specialists, and undertaking a Road Safety Audit.

2.2 The next stage of the project is to advertise Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and procure construction contractors.

Consultation and Engagement

2.3 Throughout the design phase, the project team have engaged with key stakeholders, including local councillors, bus operators, the Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicle Association, licensing and parking teams, the Sustainable Transport Forum, and the Chamber of Commerce, to inform and assess the proposals.

2.4 This engagement has highlighted support for a reduction in speed in Havelock Road and Harold Place and for increased pedestrianised hours in Wellington Place. Feedback on restrictions and access for cyclists has also been received.

2.5 Feedback on the restriction and timings for vehicular access to Havelock Road and Harold Place has highlighted the need for further engagement and testing of the proposals.

Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

2.6 Consultation with key stakeholders is anticipated to start during November 2025, with formal advertisement and the statutory consultation then due to take place in January 2026. The proposals to reduce the speed limit on Havelock Road and Harold Place and include cycle access to the town centre to allow for use of proposed cycle lanes will be advertised. Representations may be made during the 21-day period statutory consultation period, and any unresolved objections will be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee. The objections and recommendations of the members of the Planning Committee will be taken into account when a decision is made whether to make an Order in the form of the TRO, in full or in part, or not to make the Order.

Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs)

2.7 In addition to the TRO, it is also proposed to advertise restrictions to some vehicle access on Havelock Road, Harold Place and Wellington Place as part of an ETRO. The proposed restrictions have been informed through ongoing engagement with key stakeholders as set out in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 of this report.

2.8 As part of the regulatory process this would include providing notice of the proposed changes to the order, then allowing up to 18-months to test the proposals, a review period and updates to be made to the order. This period will include a 6-month period where representation may be made. Any unresolved objections to the ETRO will then be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee. The objections and recommendations of the members of the Planning Committee will be taken into account when a decision is made whether to make an Order in the form of the ETRO, in full or in part, or not to make the Order.

2.9 This process would allow for more flexibility to review and adapt the timings and restrictions based on qualitative feedback from the public and quantitative measures. A clear monitoring and evaluation plan will be created to ensure transparency.

Delivery Programme and Construction

2.10 The project is currently programmed for construction starting in May 2026 pending the outcome of the TRO process, with scheme completion in December 2027. To meet these timescales, the project will run a competitive tender on a framework for procurement of a construction contractor from November 2025 to January 2026. Following an evaluation period, it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in February 2026.

3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 Since November 2023, the County Council, as the project deliverer for the Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections project, has been moving forward with the development and detailed design phases of the delivery programme.

3.2 Based on continued stakeholder engagement and feedback received and to ensure the County Council meet its statutory duties for consultation on Traffic Orders, it is recommended that Traffic Regulation Orders are advertised for the project from November 2025 in relation to cycle access to Hastings Town Centre and speed limitation on Havelock Road and Harold Place, along with recommending Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders are advertised on completion of construction in relation to vehicular access on Havelock Road, Harold Place and Wellington Place, Hastings to seek a view on the proposed timings and access restrictions;.

3.3 Finally, to meet the delivery timescales for the project it is recommended that delegated authority is awarded to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport, to take any actions necessary to progress the scheme to the construction phase including but not limited to the award of any construction contract required.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Daniel

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

[Decision - Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections - update | East Sussex County Council](#)

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Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 10 November 2025

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Installation of fire suppression systems at waste transfer stations

Purpose: To seek Lead Member approval to the installation of fire suppression systems at Maresfield and Pebsham waste transfer stations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Note the heightened increasing risk of fires at the Council's household waste transfer stations and the proposal to install fire suppression systems;**
 - (2) Subject to approval by Council to the variation of the Capital Programme to include this proposal, agree a 50% contribution towards the installation of fire suppression systems at Maresfield and Pebsham waste transfer stations; and**
 - (3) Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to finalise the written agreement relating to fire suppression systems between the Councils and Veolia.**
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1. Background

1.1 Maresfield and Pebsham waste transfer stations (WTS) are service critical hubs for the management of household waste in East Sussex. Waste and recycling from household collections are delivered to these transfer stations by the borough and district councils where it is bulked up and transported to sorting and treatment facilities. Maresfield and Pebsham handle approximately 45,000 and 84,000 tonnes of waste respectively each year and are operated and insured by Veolia as part of the Integrated Waste Management Services Contract (IWMSC), the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract.

1.2 Waste fires are becoming increasingly common due to the growing numbers of lithium batteries in household waste and recycling, often linked to improper disposal of consumer electronics. Despite campaigns to encourage proper disposal, there were over 1,200 battery fires recorded in bin lorries and waste sites across the UK in 2023.

1.3 There have been 45 fires at Veolia sites in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove over the last 3 years, fortunately, none have resulted in damage to the infrastructure. The last major incident was a night-time fire at Hollingdean WTS in Brighton in August 2019, which resulted in the facility being out of action for over a month. This caused extensive disruption to waste collection services in Brighton & Hove and generated significant negative publicity and concerns from residents and stakeholders. A fire suppression system was subsequently installed in 2020.

1.4 In September 2024 there was a small fire at Pebsham WTS. This closed the site for a day and required support from the fire service, but fortunately there was no damage. However, despite a relatively short closure period, the impact felt by district and borough collection crews

was great, with crews spending several hours in additional travel time to tip at alternative sites. The incident demonstrated that alternative sites for tipping waste are limited and that a major fire at Maresfield or Pebsham could cause widespread disruption to bin collections for weeks or months.

2. Legislative requirements

2.1 There is now a legal requirement for fire suppression systems at sites that store combustible waste in a building, as directed in the Fire Prevention Plan (FPP) guidance first published by the Environment Agency in March 2015 (updated in 2021). Whilst the Council's waste facilities pre-date this guidance, the Environment Agency has the power to impose a FPP on existing permit holders in certain circumstances, which include following a major fire, a change of operator, or if the operator wishes to vary other conditions in the environmental permit.

2.2 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 sets out that district and borough councils are entitled to claim tipping-away payments from a county council if directed to tip waste outside their district boundary. If a fire disabled one of the Council's facilities, the Council would be duty bound to pay tipping-away payments until the facility was rebuilt, or an alternative facility provided.

2.3 Whilst the Council's PFI contract with Veolia offers some financial protection through the application of unavailability deductions when a facility cannot accept waste, these are capped and therefore if the facilities were lost, the unavailability deductions would only cover a few months of tipping away payments.

3. Supporting information

3.1 To secure the sites from structural damage, major service outage and protect from additional financial risks, Veolia, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and Brighton & Hove City Council have provisionally agreed to jointly fund the costs to fit sprinkler systems to the Pebsham, Maresfield and Hove sites. Veolia are not under any contractual obligation to contribute funding but have agreed to fund 50% of the costs at each of the three sites. Brighton will contribute 50% of the costs at Hove and ESCC will contribute 50% at Maresfield and Pebsham.

3.2 Veolia has carried out preliminary design work, site investigations and market engagement to develop and cost the solution at each site. Veolia received planning consent for the required alterations at the Maresfield facility on the 15 August 2025 and at the Pebsham facility on the 22 September 2025. Veolia is able to proceed with the construction phase of the works, pending ESCC drawdown of funds.

3.3 The construction programme is estimated to take 23 weeks at Maresfield and 28 weeks at Pebsham. Works inside the tipping halls will take place at night and weekends to minimise the impact on day-to-day tipping operations.

3.4 The cost per site (including a 10% contingency) is shown below. These costs are based on quotations from Veolia's preferred suppliers.

Facility	Costs: April 2025	ESCC contribution
Maresfield WTS	£893,192	£446,596
Pebsham WTS	£1,471,649	£735,825
Phases 2&3 project management	£65,413	£32,707
Total	£2,430,254	£1,215,127

3.5 The financial risk of claims for a change in law and tipping away following a serious fire at East Sussex transfer stations is subject to regular review. At the last review, the value of this particular risk was assessed at £2.27m. Whilst it is acknowledged that fire suppression systems cannot guarantee that property damage and disruption to services will be prevented, the installation of fire suppression measures will reduce the risk to a more acceptable level and safeguard the sites beyond the end of the PFI contract in 2033, when the transfer stations and fire suppression systems revert to ESCC ownership. Additional financial information is set out in an exempt report later in the agenda.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The proposal to install fire suppression systems is supported by the East Sussex Fire Service, the Environment Agency and insurers, and is considered industry good practice. It will help mitigate the risk of a major business continuity event impacting waste collection services across the county and increase the resilience of ESCC waste management facilities through the current waste PFI contract and beyond.

4.2 There is an ongoing risk of a qualifying change in the law and tipping away claims against the County Council, should there be a major fire at one of the transfer stations. This proactive approach would align mitigations consistently across sites and stabilise the ongoing risk.

4.3 Veolia has agreed to a contribution towards infrastructure which could otherwise be an ESCC cost. This provides ESCC with reduced financial liability and supports wider commercial contract arrangements.

4.4 The Council's waste team will continue efforts to support residents in safe recycling; however, the increasing risk of fires is likely to remain as demand for electronic products grows. The Council must therefore protect its assets and service operations effectively to mitigate both service and financial risks.

4.5 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to note the heightened increasing risk of fires at the Council's household waste transfer stations and the proposal to install fire suppression systems.

4.6 Subject to approval by Council to the variation of the Capital Programme to include this proposal, the Lead Member is recommended to agree a 50% contribution towards the installation of fire suppression systems at Maresfield and Pebsham waste transfer stations.

4.7 Finally, the Lead Member is recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport, to finalise the written agreement relating to fire suppression systems between the Councils and Veolia.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director Communities Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Cllr Roy Galley – Maresfield & Buxted
Cllr Charles Clarke – Bexhill East

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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