

Hi Alice and Shona

Firstly many thanks for meeting with me the other day – I felt we had a very positive meeting and I am looking forward to working with you both and of course the wider Town Council.

I am really keen to set up the Liaison Meetings between LTC and ES that we spoke about. As explained we have a similar set-up with Felixstowe Town Council and so you may want to touch base with Ash if you want the views from the other side of the table.

Basically the remit of the liaison meetings is simply to provide an informal regular meeting which will facilitate better communications between the two authorities. There is no decision making function or budget allocation involved.

Although I'm sure no deep secrets will be shared we do need to have an understanding that some things are confidential and are early discussions about ideas and initiatives which may or may not come to fruition. We do record notes which are shared with the wider Town Council and are thus within the public eye but often they are by design light on detail. I.e. "we spoke about potential improvements to the south seafront" – as opposed to the detail of specific projects or ideas.

We have found at Felixstowe that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk provide the right level of attendance from the Town and that the Leader, Econ Development portfolio holder and one other Cabinet member is right for the District. We will also bring admin support and any relevant officers that are leading on the various agenda items.

I anticipate both authorities will want to bring things to the table and it is right and proper that this is facilitated. If it is to succeed it must be collaborative and not adversarial in nature.

One of the main benefits I see is that it opens lines of communication which is often the sticking point when it comes to joined up working. I am sure this wont be the great panacea for all but it is definitely a move in the right direction.

If you are Ok with this I will get my team to make contact and set up a first meeting.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Regards

Steve



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Leader

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East Suffolk Council is a new district authority which, from April 2019, delivers services for the residents, businesses and communities previously served by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils