

Agenda Item 26.118

Report to	Findon Parish Council
Meeting Date	14 September 2026
From	Fiona MacLeod, Clerk
Title of Report	Clerk report
Purpose of Report	For information and consideration

1. For information/action

- 1.1 Councillors will be aware from various emails and media information that the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is paused while a review is undertaken of plans or proposals at 16 Councils, including both West Sussex and East Sussex with Brighton. LGR in Hampshire, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk has been abandoned. The Government announced on 7 September 2026 that this was in light of new legal advice. It is understood that local elections will take place for Arun District Council and Arun Town/Parish Councils in May 2027. This includes Findon.
- 1.2 I have received a Freedom of Information request concerning expenditure, if any, by FPC on any activity connected with devolution and/or LGR. I will respond accordingly.
- 1.3 Changes are on the horizon for Smaller Authorities Proper Practices and a number of updates are set to modernise processes, improve accuracy, and reduce administrative burden across the sector. One of the most significant is the transition to a fully digital Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and these changes will affect how smaller authorities prepare, submit, and manage their AGARs with a focus on increasing efficiency and consistency. Central to this shift is the introduction of a secure, user-friendly online portal for AGAR completion and submission. The new system is being user tested ahead of the rollout expected for the 2626/27 data and I have booked onto a free webinar on digital AGAR in February 2027.
- 1.4 The application for the Xmas event has been received and will be progressed with West Sussex County Council Highways.
- 1.5 The full Council and Planning Committee meetings for 2027 are attached as Appendix 1 and have been booked with the Village Hall.
- 1.6 The dates for the Horsham District Local Plan Hearing Sessions have been published and will be held starting at 10:00 Tuesday 13 October 2026 and continuing until Thursday 22 October 2026 in the Council Chambers, Horsham District Council. You will recall that FPC made a submission regarding the Main Modifications to the Plan.
- 1.7 And last but not least, the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has recently agreed the new pay scales for 2026/27 to be implemented from 1 April 2026. My pay scale has increased by £0.65p per hour, equivalent to £546.00pa before tax. The backdated pay scale increase will be included in my September 2026 salary.

2. Issues for consideration/ratification by full Council

- 2.1 None.