

Parish Council Report – December 2025

HDC Budget and Council Tax

Council has approved the continuation of its 100% Council Tax Relief scheme for those who qualify, which is our key plank of our efforts to support the most vulnerable through the cost-of-living crisis.

Whilst HDC is projecting a modest surplus for the 2025/26 financial year, we are yet to receive our draft financial settlement (government funding) for the 2026/27 year. We expect to receive this at the end of the week as Parliament rises for Christmas. However, Horsham District has already been pre-warned that it is one of the authorities that should expect to see its funding reduced more than other areas in real terms.

This will mean that whilst the Council is better-placed than many financially, residents should expect a rise in the HDC element of Council Tax of close to the maximum permissible without a referendum. The cap is 2.99% and we expect a rise of close to this amount.

It should be borne in mind that at Band D, HDC charged just under £175 in 2025/26. So we are talking about a rise of around £5 per annum.

Local Plan

Horsham District Council has confirmed discussions on the development of its Local Plan are set to progress, marking an important step toward providing greater certainty for local communities and future home building across the District.

The Council has received a formal response from the Local Plan Inspector to the Council's letter of November 2025, which set out the significant changes in circumstances affecting the Local Plan examination (particularly around water neutrality and the duty to co-operate) and requested that the Inspector re-open the hearings.

In his reply, the Inspector agrees that circumstances have materially changed and welcomes the Council's willingness to support amendments to the draft plan. To explore the implications of this in more detail, the Inspector has offered an exploratory meeting, expected to take place in February 2026.

This marks an important development in resuming the examination process and providing clarity on how the plan can be advanced.

Full details of the Inspector's letter can be found [on the Council's website](#).

The Council is now carefully considering the matters raised and will provide a formal response to the Inspector shortly.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government consultation on local government reorganisation for Sussex & Brighton, and Horsham District Council remains open.

Local residents, businesses and community groups are invited to have their say until 11 January 2026 23:59pm. The statutory consultation is published and available to complete at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/west-sussex-local-government-reorganisation>

A promotional poster for the 'Shaping West Sussex' consultation. The background is a black and white photograph of a street with traditional houses. A large pink speech bubble on the left contains the title 'Shaping West Sussex' in a white script font, followed by 'West Sussex' in a bold sans-serif font. Below this, it says 'The Government has launched a formal consultation on Local Government Reorganisation for our area.' and 'Have your say until 11.59pm on 11 January 2026'. At the bottom of the speech bubble, it says 'Find out more: www.shapingwestsussex.org'. To the right of the speech bubble is a small icon of a building with a flag. On the far right, a vertical black bar contains logos for several local councils: ADC (Adur District Council), ARUN (Arun District Council), CHICHESTER (Chichester District Council), Crawley (Crawley Borough Council), Horsham (Horsham District Council), MID SUSSEX (Mid Sussex District Council), west sussex county council, and WBC (Worthing Borough Council).

Annual Plan

Horsham District Council recently ran a consultation on our draft Annual Plan for 2026-2027.

We acknowledge that this was open for a shorter period than we would have liked and will look to consult earlier and for longer on the next Annual Plan. However, we are analysing all the feedback that was received from external stakeholders and the general public, as well as the Council's two Policy & Scrutiny committees, and are already working on refinements.

The final Plan will go to Cabinet for final approval in January, along with the Draft Budget - which will then go to Full Council for approval in February.

HDC are looking to set up 4 area meetings with grouped Parish Councils in February. In these area meetings we intend to discuss the Annual Plan, along with other topics. Each meeting will have one member of the Cabinet and one member of the Senior Leadership Team present.

Christmas Bin Collections

There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Our crews will be working on Saturday 27 December, Saturday 3 January and Saturday 10 January to catch up. Your waste and recycling collections will be back to the normal schedule from Monday 12 January.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from week commencing 22 December and will resume on 6 January. We will continue to empty all dog bins and litter bins throughout the District during Christmas week.

Click the button below to view your personalised collections calendar or download the Horsham District Council app to get collection reminders straight to your phone,

[Check your bin calendar](#)