

Parish Council Report – February 2026

Local Plan Update

Horsham District Council has announced that the Local Plan 2023-2040 examination will reopen.

Following Horsham District Council's request to re-open the examination of its 2023-2040 Local Plan, the Government's newly appointed Planning Inspector, Jonathan Bore has now confirmed that he will approach the examination afresh and a revised workplan and timing schedule have been announced.

The examination will take place in two stages:

Stage One will focus on housing requirements with examination hearings on this issue in April 2026. The outcomes from these hearings will guide subsequent site selection decisions.

Stage Two will take place in September 2026 and will consider the Council's overall strategic approach, including the identification of specific development sites within the Plan.

[Read More Online](#)

Annual Plan

Horsham District Council has balanced its budget for the 2026/27 financial year whilst securing the lowest Council Tax rate in Sussex. The Council will also provide support for the most vulnerable residents of Horsham District, whilst investing in significant capital projects to improve the quality of life for local people.

This programme will see investment in infrastructure to include home repairs, disabled facility grants and housing enabling grants, a £10.2 million refurbishment of The Capitol theatre and building improvements for the Rec Rooms, replacement waste collection vehicles, a new community centre for Highwood and improved infrastructure and community facilities for Billingshurst.

The budget will be delivered with a £1.6million surplus despite high levels of inflation and significant reductions in core government funding which have increased gross costs. Government funding is set to reduce by a further £0.9m in 2027/28.

[Read more online](#)

Food Waste Collection

The new food waste collection service for Horsham District continues to be rolled out through the Spring.

More details on our food waste collection service including what you can and can't put in your food waste bin can be found here: www.horsham.gov.uk/foodwaste