

APPENDIX H



FULL COUNCIL 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026 : LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATES

As Cllrs will be aware, LGR in East Sussex has been paused, as with a number of other areas of the country, and we are awaiting further information from the government on what will happen.

It makes it unlikely that there will be a new Authority in April 2028, and the government has confirmed that local elections scheduled for May 2027 will go ahead as planned, using existing District and Borough Council boundaries.

At the most recent cabinet meeting of RDC, the following motion was passed in relation to a report on Community Asset Transfers:

‘That this item be deferred for consideration at the Cabinet meeting on 26 October 2026.’

Following on from this, at the Leaders Meeting a few days later, the RDC Council Leader and RDC Chief Executive confirmed the following. With LGR paused, RDC have to look at everything they are doing. While they are doing this review, the Asset Transfers process is **on hold**.

This does not mean this will not happen, but it does mean that RDC have to do more work on the implications of the LGR pause before things can go any further.

For the Town Council, this means:

1. No immediate transfer of any further assets.
2. Pausing the recruitment of the additional management post agreed at the August Full Council meeting.
3. Postponing the staff training day on assets transfer scheduled for the 14th of October.
4. Reviewing the budget plans for 2027/28 – there will be more information about this from the RFO in due course.

Please note the following plans of the Town Council are unaffected:

1. Complete the build of the Pebsham Inclusive Playground.
2. Maintain and operate the Fountain if it is restored.

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Finally, Cllrs should be aware that RDC have also agreed to look into arrangements for maintenance of the Bexhill War Memorial and surrounding area, and I'll come back to Cllrs when there is more news on this.