

## CLlr Julian Joy Report - PC meeting - February 2025

### Summary of Statement on Sussex Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

At 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 full council meeting, a statement was made regarding Sussex's devolution plans. The Government has confirmed that Sussex is a priority area for a strategic combined authority with an elected mayor. A public consultation has been launched, and all members are encouraged to review and respond.

The County Council will analyse the proposals and provide feedback to ensure they deliver on promised benefits. Devolution presents an exciting opportunity for Sussex, bringing new funding and local decision-making powers over economic growth, jobs, skills, health, planning, and transport.

Additionally, the Government has outlined steps for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). West Sussex Councils must submit preliminary proposals by **March 21, 2025**, with final submissions due in **September 2025**. The goal is to create unitary authorities while minimizing disruption and ensuring alignment with government policies and residents' needs.

Key requirements for the LGR submission include:

- Progress on developing proposals in line with Government guidance
- Challenges and barriers faced
- Likely size and boundaries of new councils (aiming for populations of at least 500k)
- Estimated costs of creating new authorities and service transformations
- Governance arrangements balancing urban, rural, and coastal needs
- Stakeholder engagement and community impact

The final decision on restructuring is expected by the end of 2025, with the new combined authority and elected mayor in place by **2026** and unitary authorities operating in shadow form by **2027**, with full implementation by **2028**.

While many details remain unclear, members will be kept informed throughout the process, ensuring transparency and avoiding speculation.

### Revised Version:

#### On Highways

I have contacted Mike Dare from WSCC Highways to arrange a meeting regarding CHS and TRO applications, focusing on how to improve their chances of success. I would like to hold a joint meeting with representatives from Fishbourne, Bosham, and Funtington to identify common issues with previously unsuccessful applications and explore the best strategies for submitting strong applications with the highest potential for approval.