Date: 27th October 2026
Council: Rye Town Council

Dear Councillors,

Please find attached a formal governance notice addressed to the Council's Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer concerning continuing commitments connected with LGR, devolution and associated implementation.

I am asking you, as elected representatives, to act on this notice.

Residents working through National Residents for Civic Accountability have already submitted substantial correspondence and evidence concerning public expenditure, financial assumptions, statutory authority and democratic accountability. Please consider the attached notice alongside the relevant material already received by the Council.

The immediate concern is that further expenditure, contractual commitments, delegations, asset arrangements or integration work may proceed while the underlying proposals and assumptions remain unresolved. Describing work as transformation, devolution or housing delivery does not, by itself, answer the concerns about its purpose, dependencies or financial exposure.

Please take the following steps within your respective roles and the Council's procedures:

1. Seek an interim hold on new or extended commitments dependent on the withdrawn or paused proposals, pending a recorded assessment of the changed circumstances and residents' representations.
2. Require the relevant decision report to address those representations and the financial consequences of proceeding, including cancellation costs, unrecoverable expenditure and commitments that could restrict future choices.
3. Seek referral to the appropriate scrutiny or audit committee. Where a relevant decision is eligible for call-in, consider using that procedure within the applicable deadline.
4. Seek an expressly attributable response from the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer on the matters within their respective responsibilities. A general corporate assurance should not leave members uncertain about the assessment each officer has made.
5. Ensure that residents' objections and the reasons for proceeding or deferring are recorded when the matter is considered.

Where the Council is itself challenging the Government's evidence or financial assumptions, members should examine whether those same assumptions underpin expenditure or implementation the Council continues to approve.

Please confirm within five working days what action you have taken or will take. If a relevant decision is imminent, please act before it becomes binding rather than await that response period.

If you consider that no intervention is warranted, please explain your reasons by reference to the concerns in the attached notice. Simply forwarding this correspondence to officers would not answer the request for elected-member action.

Residents need to know how their representatives are protecting public funds and preserving meaningful choices while these matters remain unresolved.

Yours sincerely,

Serena Wallace
Resident of East Sussex