

17 September 2025

Report No. LEG2511

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW CONSULTATION RESULTS

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

SUMMARY:

This report sets the scene for a Policy and Projects Advisory Board (PPAB) discussion on the results of the first Community Governance Review consultation and the future publication of a report to Council.

The consultation closes on the 12 September and the Council report will be published on the 17 September. PPAB will be briefed on these items at their meeting on the 17 September.

RECOMMENDATION:

PPAB is invited to have a cross-party, comprehensive and considered discussion to inform the Council debate.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets the scene for a Policy and Projects Advisory Board (PPAB) discussion on the results of the first Community Governance Review consultation and the future publication of a report to Council.
- 1.2 The consultation closes on the 12 September and the Council report will be published on the 17 September. PPAB will be briefed on these items and invited to have a cross-party, comprehensive and considered discussion to inform the Council debate.

2 BACKGROUND

General

- 2.1 The Government have [invited proposals](#) for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and asked that two-tier areas, such as Hampshire, form unitary authorities that combine all powers into a single Council. One criterion for LGR proposals is to “enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunities for neighbourhood empowerment”

- 2.2 On 20 March 2025, Cabinet approved the Council's LGR Interim Plan on 20 March 2025 (Report No. [ACE2506](#)). In line with the principles set out in the interim plan and at this stage of the process, the Council believes that both the sense of place and economic geography of the area favours a North Hampshire unitary council (comprising the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane).
- 2.3 At its meeting on the 10 July, the [Council confirmed](#) that this approach continues to be its preferred option, representing the best balance of a Council large enough to deliver high quality services and value for money, but small enough to be connected the place and the needs of the people the council serves.
- 2.4 The Council [approved the terms of reference for a Community Governance Review](#) at its meeting on the 10 July. A first stage consultation seeking resident views on the principle and nature of a lower tier of local government in the borough was conducted from 21 July to 12 September. This consultation was promoted through social media, email newsletters, a special edition of Arena, and in-person events throughout the borough.
- 2.5 The [Council Delivery Plan](#) commits the Council to achieve the best outcome for Rushmoor residents and business from LGR, to engage with residents and business, and to ensure their needs are met.

3 DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The first stage consultation seeks resident views on whether introducing parish councils or neighbourhood committees in our area would help make sure that local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area.
- 3.2 The consultation closes on the 12 September. Policy and Projects Advisory Board (PPAB) will be briefed on the results of the consultation and the published Council report at their meeting on the 17 September.
- 3.3 As of the 29 August 2025, the survey has had 286 responses. This is considered sufficient interest on the principle of neighbourhood governance. Therefore Council will be recommended to proceed with the second consultation on several specific options to establish neighbourhood governance in the Borough. These options will be informed by the full consultation responses.
- 3.4 PPAB is invited to have a cross-party, comprehensive and considered discussion on the consultation results and the report to Council, to inform the Council debate on this item. The outcomes of the discussion will be reported to Council by the Chair.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This report sets the scene for a Policy and Projects Advisory Board (PPAB) discussion on the results of the first Community Governance Review consultation and the future publication of a report to Council.
- 4.2 The consultation closes on the 12 September and the Council report will be published on the 17 September. PPAB will be briefed on these items and invited to have a cross-party, comprehensive and considered discussion to inform the Council debate.
- 4.3 The Community Governance Review supports the [Council Delivery Plan](#) commitment to achieve the best outcome for Rushmoor residents and business from LGR, to engage with residents and business, and to ensure their needs are met. It contributes to the Council's Local Government Reorganisation submission meeting the criterion to "enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunities for neighbourhood empowerment."

LIST OF APPENDICES/ANNEXES:

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

[House of Commons Library – Parish and town councils: recent issues](#)

[House of Commons Library - Unitary authorities: The role of parish and town councils](#)

Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England [Guidance on community governance reviews](#)

[You've got the power: a quick and simple guide to community rights - GOV.UK](#)

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