

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 25TH SEPTEMBER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

SUMMARY

This report sets out the results of the first-round consultation in respect of the Community Governance Review (CGR) approved by Council on 10th July 2025. The consultation demonstrated some support for an additional tier of community governance in Rushmoor. It is proposed the Community Governance Review moves to a second-round consultation on the proposals set out in this report.

It is proposed that Council ask the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee* to consider the second-stage consultation results in December 2025 and offer recommendations to Council for the meeting in January 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is recommended to:

- proceed to a second-round Community Governance Review consultation; and
- ask the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee* to consider the second-stage consultation results report and provide recommendations for consideration by Council.

*It is proposed that this will be carried out by the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee if proposals for the committee structure are approved.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of the first-round consultation in respect of the Community Governance Review (CGR) approved by Council on 10th July 2025. The consultation demonstrated some support for an additional tier of community governance in Rushmoor.
- 1.2 It is proposed the Community Governance Review moves to a second-round consultation on the proposals set out in this report. Council will consider the second-stage consultation results and the recommendations of Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee in January 2026 to agree the final outcome of the review.

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”. Council will tonight debate the final submission to Government for LGR.
- 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 The Council [approved the terms of reference for a Community Governance Review](#) at its meeting on the 10 July 2025. 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.
- 2.4 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.

First stage consultation results

- 2.5 The survey was primarily an online survey which asked respondents for their views on their preferred local governance arrangements after Rushmoor becomes part of a larger unitary authority. The survey also asked what areas parish councils or neighbourhood area committees should cover and about possible additional council tax precepts. The survey ran from Friday 13 June to Friday 12 September. There was an additional survey for Rushmoor's partner organisations.
- 2.6 The survey was advertised through social media, email news, roadshows and a special edition of Arena. The additional partner survey was emailed to organisations in the area. There were 412 responses to the survey and 3 responses to the additional partner survey. The consultation report can be seen in Annex 2.
- 2.7 Key findings:
- 62% of respondents thought introducing parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in the area would help make sure that local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area

- 60% of respondents thought they should be introduced in Rushmoor.
- 73% of Aldershot respondents thought they should be introduced in Rushmoor, compared to 53% of Farnborough respondents
- 34% of respondents thought parish councils should be introduced, compared to 21% that thought neighbourhood area committees should be introduced
- Towns had more support than other areas, for the geographies that should be covered by parish councils or neighbourhood area committees
- 61% of respondent only wanted a parish council if there was no increase in council tax. However, 49% of Aldershot respondents were happy to pay a precept for a Parish Council, compared with only 33% of Farnborough respondents.

2.8 Overall, there was positive support for the introduction of parish councils or neighbourhood area communities in Rushmoor to ensure local communities can influence what happens in their local area. There was more support from Aldershot respondents than from Farnborough respondents. There was slightly more support for parish councils than neighbourhood area committees and there was the most support for the areas covered to be towns. There was concern from respondents about possible council tax increases.

3 DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

General

- 3.1 This Community Governance Review (CGR) aims to assess potential parish governance arrangements across the whole of the local authority area and consider:
- Creating parishes
 - The naming of parishes and the style of any new parishes
 - The electoral arrangements for the parishes
- 3.2 The outcome of the CGR must have regard to Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ('the 2007 Act'), reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and promote effective and convenient community governance. They should also follow the [Guidance on community governance reviews](#) ('the Guidance') issued by the (then) Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- 3.3 The dual-roles of a parish council are community representation and local administration. They should reflect a distinctive and recognisable community of place, with its own sense of identity, and be a viable administrative unit.

- 3.4 The first-stage consultation response showed local support for parish councils or neighbourhood area committees based on the communities of Farnborough and Aldershot towns, with less support for other smaller communities. Therefore, Council is recommended to proceed to the second-stage consultation on a proposal to establish either:
1. Aldershot Parish Council and Farnborough Parish Council¹
 2. Smaller parishes across the Rushmoor area - for example: North Camp and North Town
 3. Aldershot Neighbourhood Area Committee and Farnborough Neighbourhood Area Committee
- 3.5 A second-round consultation asks more specific and detailed questions – for example, the level of precept a resident is prepared to tolerate, the types of assets and services they would like the parish to be responsible for (in short, what matters to them in terms of being delivered on a hyper-local level), and the appropriate number of parish councillors per resident.

Parish council assets, services, and council tax precept

- 3.6 Parish councils can own community assets, deliver local services, and charge an additional council tax precepts. The decision to transfer assets and services needs to balance the need to provide effective and convenient local government with the requirement for parish councils to be financially viable.
- 3.7 The timing of the conclusion of the review means that any asset transfers undertaken at the establishment of any new parish council could not be accounted for in the Council's budget nor in the first parish council precept. In addition, Rushmoor cannot bind the parish council in terms of the assets it should take. Therefore, it is proposed that any asset transfers take place after the parish council have been established, in consultation and agreement with the newly elected parish councillors. Further assets and services may be transferred or delegated to the parish councils in the future by the principal council(s) (unitary, county, or borough).
- 3.8 Given this, it is proposed that the parish councils would be set a precept for their first year as set out below to allow them to meet their staffing needs, set up costs, build a small reserve, and pay the legal costs of receiving assets. Residents will be consulted on the level of precept with an explanation as to why funding is necessary should they wish to have an additional tier of governance. Any future changes to parish council tax precepts, taking into account any asset and service transfers, would be a decision for the parish councillors. Asset and service transfers may increase parish precepts while reducing borough precepts, reducing the net impact to residents.
- 3.9 As part of the second-round consultation, residents will be shown the indicative funds raised by a £1 per month to £10 per month Band D precept.

¹ When creating a new tier of council, a parish must be established first, and it can then change its styling to a Town Council.

An example of the Band D £1 per month and £3 per month precept is included in the table below. Further examples can be seen in Annex 2.

- 3.10 This includes the cost per month for each Band and the indicative amount that would provide Aldershot and Farnborough respectively. The final report to Council in January 2026 will include residents' views on the appropriate first year precept. The consultation will show a broad range of precepts so that residents may consider the impact of a parish council seeking a higher level of precept once they have assets to maintain and services to run.

Table 1: Example of the Band D £1 per month and £3 per month precept

Farnborough - Band D Amount 10.00				Aldershot - Band D Amount 10.00			
CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band	CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band
A	615	6.67	4,102	A	902	6.67	6,016
B	5,654	7.78	43,988	B	3,598	7.78	27,992
C	9,116	8.89	81,041	C	7,858	8.89	69,858
D	5,194	10.00	51,940	D	3,952	10.00	39,520
E	2,878	12.22	35,169	E	1,377	12.22	16,827
F	888	14.44	12,823	F	435	14.44	6,281
G	529	16.67	8,818	G	64	16.67	1,067
H	7	20.00	140	H	4	20.00	80
	24,881		238,022		18,190		167,642
Farnborough - Band D Amount 30.00				Aldershot - Band D Amount 30.00			
CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band	CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band
A	615	20.00	12,300	A	902	20.00	18,040
B	5,654	23.33	131,908	B	3,598	23.33	83,941
C	9,116	26.67	243,124	C	7,858	26.67	209,573
D	5,194	30.00	155,820	D	3,952	30.00	118,560
E	2,878	36.67	105,536	E	1,377	36.67	50,495
F	888	43.33	38,477	F	435	43.33	18,849
G	529	50.00	26,450	G	64	50.00	3,200
H	7	60.00	420	H	4	60.00	240
	24,881		714,035		18,190		502,897

- 3.11 The second-stage consultation will ask residents to indicate their support for a council tax precept level, as well as the local assets and services that they wish their parish council to be responsible for. Residents will be able to make

an informed decision based on the indicative costs of the running of the assets, and the impact that would have on their council tax.

3.12 Parish councils can be responsible for a range of assets and services of differing scale, such as:

- Allotments
- Cemeteries and Crematorium
- Community Centres
- CCTV and Community Safety
- Drainage
- Entertainment and the Arts
- Street maintenance, such as footpaths, lighting, litter bins, benches, tree care, and grass cutting.
- Car Parking
- Community Lottery
- Parks, recreation grounds, and open spaces
- Public conveniences
- Planning consultation and neighbourhood planning
- Tourism
- Taxi fare concessions and bus services grants

Neighbourhood Area Committees

3.13 Instead of parish councils, the Council could recommend that the future North Hampshire Unitary Authority consider establishing neighbourhood area committees. These would provide a flexible, non-statutory model for local engagement and the amplification of community voices. They could play a valuable role in strengthening neighbourhood-level representation. The second-stage consultation will ask residents what decisions they would like their neighbourhood area committees to be responsible for.

No change

3.14 If there is a low response rate and/or no clear preference from respondents to the second-stage consultation, the Council may choose to defer changes and revisit governance in a future review. There is no legal requirement to review annually, but the Council can commit to periodic reviews or respond to future community interest.

Second-stage consultation

3.15 The Council is invited to consider the results of the first consultation and the proposed approach to a second consultation with residents.

3.16 If it approves the second-stage consultation, the Council will consider a final report and draft Community Governance Reorganisation Order(s) by January 2026 in advance of potential parish council elections in May 2026.

Alternatively, the Council could decide to not make any changes to community governance having given regard to the consultation results.

Implementation arrangements

Council tax precept

- 3.17 If a parish or town council is introduced, a separate precept must be added to the Council Tax bill. The Council Tax database does not currently support the inclusion of a parish or town council precepts. To accommodate this change, the council will require technical support from its software supplier, NEC.
- 3.18 A £5,000 licence fee is required to enable the inclusion of parish / town precepts. Additional support charges from NEC and the bill printers would be £1,600.
- 3.19 Council Tax bills are issued in March annually for the financial year beginning 1st April. Any changes resulting from the Community Governance Review must be reflected in the billing cycle from the 1st of April, following the determination date. The Revenues Team must begin preparations and testing well in advance of any formal decision. It is imperative that approval to purchase the licence fee is granted as soon as possible to allow sufficient testing and integration. Delays may compromise the Council's ability to meet statutory billing deadlines.

Alternative Options

Conclude review with no changes

- 3.20 An alternative option is to conclude the community governance review at this stage with no change to community governance arrangements. This means that residents will not have the opportunity to give their view on whether these governance arrangements will be effective, convenient and reflect the identities and interests of local communities.
- 3.21 Given the commitments in the proposed Council Delivery Plan to acting in the best interests of residents and engaging them on their views, this alternative option is not recommended.

Boundary changes

- 3.22 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England must give its consent to the establishment of any parish council that requires changes to district ward boundaries.
- 3.23 A parish council that consists of the whole of one or more existing district wards will not require boundary changes and therefore can be established without requiring the consent of the Boundary Commission.

- 3.24 A parish council that consists of part of any existing district wards will require boundary changes and therefore will require the consent of the Boundary Commission before the Council can lawfully make the Community Governance Reorganisation Order.
- 3.25 It is unlikely that the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will be granted within the constraints of this review. Therefore no changes to district ward boundaries have been proposed as part of the options above.

Consultation

- 3.26 This proposed includes a programme of consultation to seek the views of residents on whether the current local community governance arrangements will be effective, convenient and reflect the identities and interests of local communities after local government reorganisation.
- 3.27 It proposed that Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee consider the second-stage consultation results report and agree cross-party recommendations in December 2025, prior to Council in January 2026.

4 IMPLICATIONS (of proposed course of action)

Risks

- 4.1 If the review is delayed beyond January 2026, the Council may lose the legal authority to complete the review and/or transfer any assets and services to the new councils. The Council is expecting a [Section 24 direction](#), restricting its decisions making, to be in place after May 2027.
- 4.2 The Council must ensure the review follows the applicable process to avoid judicial review.
- 4.3 Residents may not be able to make an informed decision without sufficient information on the benefits, opportunities, risks, and implications of the establishment of parish councils in-principle and the specific proposals for the borough. This could lead to low participation in the consultation and distrust in the outcomes.
- 4.4 Poorly designed parish boundaries and governance structures may not reflect community identities, may lead to inequity, and feelings of unfairness. This could lead to resident disengagement and dissatisfaction in their community governance arrangements.
- 4.5 Asset and service transfers are complex legal, logistical, and financial changes that could result in unforeseen issues.

Legal Implications

- 4.6 There are no specific legal implications of moving to a second-round consultation, which will be administered in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Financial Implications

- 4.7 At this stage, there are no specific financial implications save the requirement for Council Tax Software changes costs and consultation support, which will be considered in line with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. There will be implementation costs in the event parishes are established in 2026, which will be set out in the report for Council in January 2026.

Resource Implications

- 4.8 There are no resource implications in relation to this report. It is anticipated that these will be considered at the conclusion of the Community Governance Review.

Equalities Impact Implications

- 4.9 An equality impact check found that younger people and the Nepali community were under-represented in the first-stage consultation respondents. A full assessment will be carried out in advance of the second-stage consultation to consider consultation methods to mitigate these issues. The Equality Impact Assessment in Annex 2 will be updated at the conclusion of the review.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 This report sets out the results of the first-round consultation in respect of the Community Governance Review (CGR) approved by Council on 10th July 2025. The consultation demonstrated some support for an additional tier of community governance in Rushmoor.
- 5.2 It is proposed the Community Governance Review moves to a second-round consultation on the proposals set out in this report. Council will consider the second-stage consultation results and the recommendations of Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee in January 2026 to agree the final outcome of the review.
- 5.3 This proposal supports the proposed [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 will contribute 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:

Annex 1: Consultation Report

Annex 2: Potential Precept Amounts – Farnborough and Aldershot

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

CLLR BILL O'DONOVAN
CHAIR OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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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Have your say on the way your local area could be represented and managed in the Future

Community Governance Review Consultation Report
September 2025

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Introduction

In response to local government reorganisation (LGR), which would see Rushmoor replaced with a larger unitary council, the council are looking at what, if any, local arrangements residents would like to see to make sure their voices are heard on local decisions.

These proposals would see councils, like Rushmoor, replaced with larger, single councils providing all your local services. The preferred option for LGR is for a new north Hampshire unitary council that would replace Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane councils. This new council would also take on the services provided by Hampshire County Council.

Because the new council would be much larger than Rushmoor, the council is exploring what, if any, local arrangements residents would like to see put in place so local voices are heard on local decisions. This is called a community governance review.

The council is looking at options that could include introducing parish councils (also known as town councils) or neighbourhood area committees.

The consultation has been designed to collect local residents' views on parish/town councils and neighbourhood communities. The consultation also covered collecting the views of local organisations in Rushmoor.

Method

The consultation consisted of two online surveys, one for residents (annex A) and one for local organisations on Rushmoor (partners).

To engage with residents, posters and flyers (annex B) along with the public notice (annex C) were used at a series of public engagement events and static displays (annex D). Paper version of the survey were also available at some of the later events.

Note: The survey was carried out at the same time a Local Government Review survey was running. Public events and communications often covered both surveys to encourage completion.

A special edition of Arena (annex E) was produced and distributed in the week beginning 18 August. The edition went to every household in the borough, informing residents about the possible changes and the online survey. Paper copies of the survey were available on request. The survey was also advertised via the council's social media and email news

The consultation ran from Friday 13 June to the Friday 12 September 2025.

To engage with the Council's partners, a letter (annex F) was sent with a link to a survey specifically form them to complete (annex G). The email went to 114 organisations in Rushmoor. This part of the consultation ran from Monday 11 August to Friday 12 September.

Reponses

Overall, there were 412 responses to the resident survey, with 405 online responses and seven paper responses. For reference purposes Rushmoor's last annual resident survey received 1680 responses.

The partner survey received two repos and one email response. Three emails from members of the public were also received.

Executive summary

Overall, respondents thought the introduction of Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Area Communities was positive, to ensure local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area. There was more support from Aldershot respondents than from Farnborough respondents.

There was slightly more support for Parish/Town Councils than Neighbourhood Communities, and there was the most support for the areas covered to be towns.

There was concern from respondents about possible council tax increases and the majority respondent only wanted a new council if there is no increase to council tax.

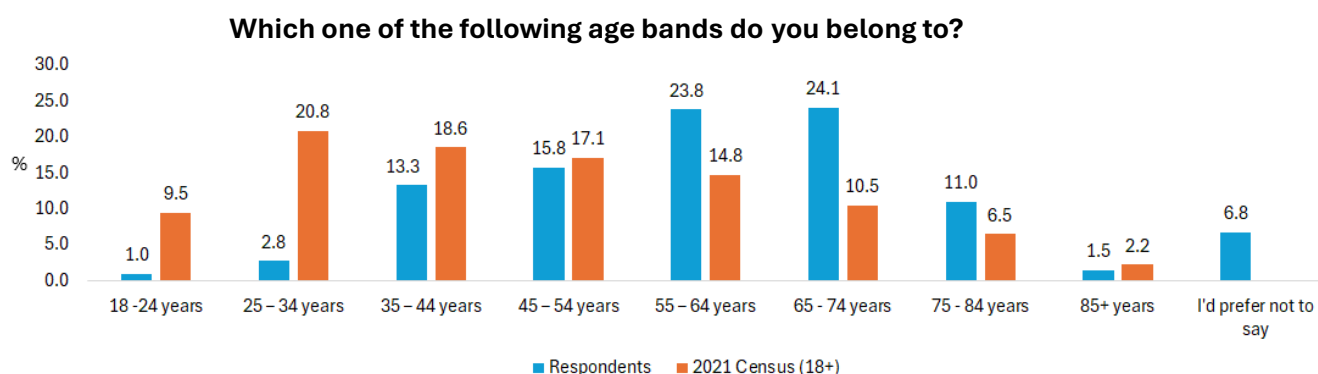
Characteristics of respondents of resident survey

These questions were only open to those over 18 years of age.

Note: three respondents identified as being under 18 years of age.

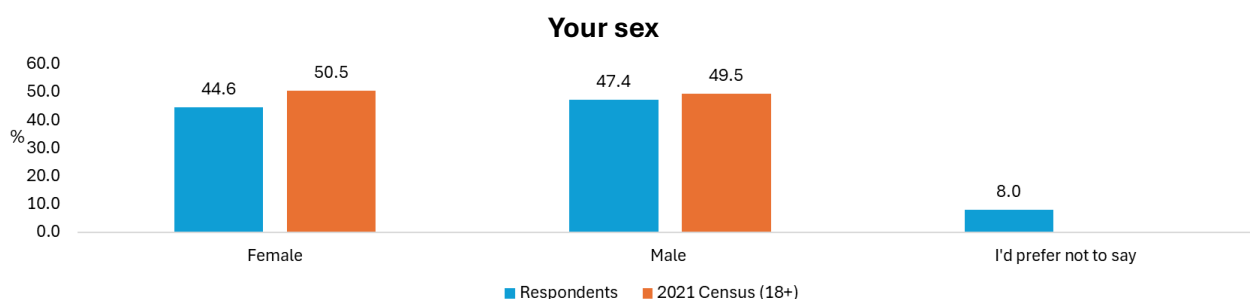
Which one of the following age bands do you belong to?

In total 399 respondents completed this question. Those under 44 years of age are underrepresented and those over 55 to 84 years of age are over-represented.



Your sex

In total 399 respondents completed this question. 44.6% (178) of respondents indicated that they were female and 47.4% (189) of respondents indicated that they were male. For reference purposes, the 2021 Census indicated that there were slightly more females than males over the age of 18 in Rushmoor.



What is your ethnic group?

In total 399 respondents completed this question. When compared to the data from the 2021 Census, those who identified as white British are over-represented and those who identified in the groups other than white are under-represented. The Nepali population, which makes up the vast majority of the Asian other group, is very under-represented. Zero respondents identified as Nepali.

Annex 1: Consultation Report

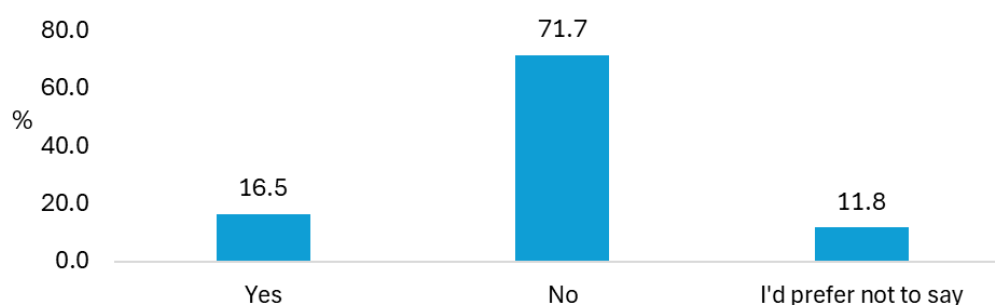
Respondents	Number	%	2021 Census (18+)
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Bangladeshi	0	0.0	0.3
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Chinese	0	0.0	0.5
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian	2	0.5	2.0
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian (including Nepali)	0	0.0	11.2
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Pakistani	1	0.3	1.0
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African	0	0.0	1.4
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Caribbean	0	0.0	0.7
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Other Black	0	0.0	0.2
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	0	0.0	0.5
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	0	0.0	0.5
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	0	0.0	0.2
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	1	0.3	0.5
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	5	1.3	2.9
Other ethnic group: Arab	0	0.0	0.2
White: British	341	85.5	71.3
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.3	0.2
White: Irish	2	0.5	0.8
White: Other White	12	3.0	5.7
I'd prefer not to say	34	8.5	

Of five respondent that answered other ethnic group, the main theme of the answers were white English or English (four respondents).

Do you consider yourself to have any health conditions or disabilities, which limit your daily activities?

In total 399 respondents completed this question. 71.7% (286) of respondents indicated that they didn't have any health conditions or disabilities which limited their daily activities. 16.5% (66) of respondents indicated that they did have health conditions or disabilities which limited their daily activities. For reference purposes, 16.4% of residents over 18 in the 2021 Census indicated that they were disabled under the Equality Act.

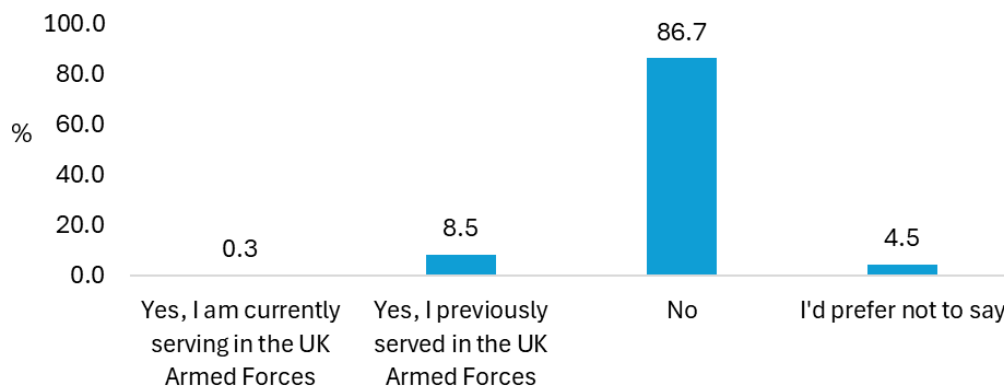
Do you consider yourself to have any health conditions or disabilities, which limit your daily activities?



Are you currently serving in the UK Armed Forces or have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?

In total 399 respondents completed this question. 86.7% of respondents (346) are not and have not served in the armed forces, 8.5% (34 respondents) indicated that they previously served in the armed forces. One respondent indicated that they were currently serving. For reference purposes, the 2021 Census indicated that 6.7% of Rushmoor adults have previously served in UK armed forces as a regular and/or reserve.

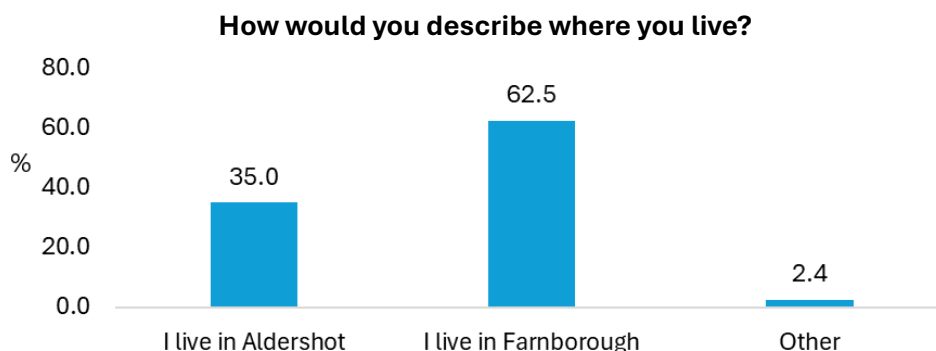
Are you currently serving in the UK Armed Forces or have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?



Results of resident survey

1. How would you describe where you live?

In total 411 respondents completed this question. According to the 2021 Census, 59.9% of Rushmoor residents lived in Farnborough and 40.2% lived in Aldershot. 62.5% (257) of respondents indicated that they were Farnborough residents and 35.0% (144) of respondents indicated that they were Aldershot residents. This would suggest Farnborough residents were overrepresented in the survey.



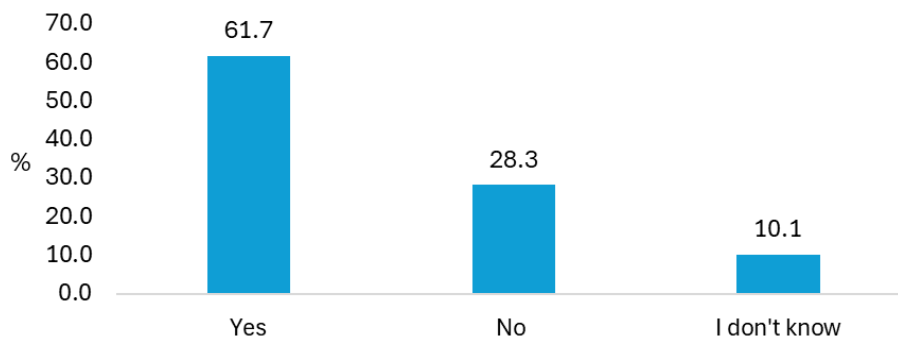
10 respondents (2.7%) indicated other four of these indicated they lived in North Camp. Other responses included: own a shop in North Camp, Fernhill, Fleet and Farnham.

As this survey asked about geographical areas, the some of the results of the remaining questions will be spilt by town.

2. Do you think 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?

In total 407 respondents completed this question. The majority of respondent indicated yes (61.7% - 251 respondents), they thought introducing parish councils or neighbourhood committees in the area would help make sure that local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area. 28.3% (115 respondents) disagreed that introducing parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in the area would help make sure that local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area.

Do you think introducing parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in our area would help make sure that local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area?



The question also asked why the respondent gave their answer, in total 256 completed this part of the question

The main themes of the answers from those who answered yes were:

- In favour as means local people have a voice / are better connected / local people making local decisions (mentioned in around 88 comments)
- In favour because larger authorities miss the needs of local areas/people or area will be overlooked (mentioned in around 33 comments)
- Prefer or in favour of parishes (mentioned in around 11 comments)

The main themes of the answers from those who answered no were:

- Concern / negativity about the extra costs (mentioned in around 24 comments)
- Negative comments about current council (mentioned in around 17 comments)
- Unnecessary layer / extra layer (mentioned in around 14 comments)
- Concern around the people involved parish councils or neighbourhood committees (mentioned in around 7 comments)
- Leave it as it is / no larger authority / no changes (mentioned in around 12 comments)
- Currently not being listened too (mentioned in around 7 comments)
- Comments asking why won't views be heard (mentioned in around 6 comments)
- Concern that this change is party politics (mentioned in around 5 comments)

The main themes of the answers from those who answered I don't know were:

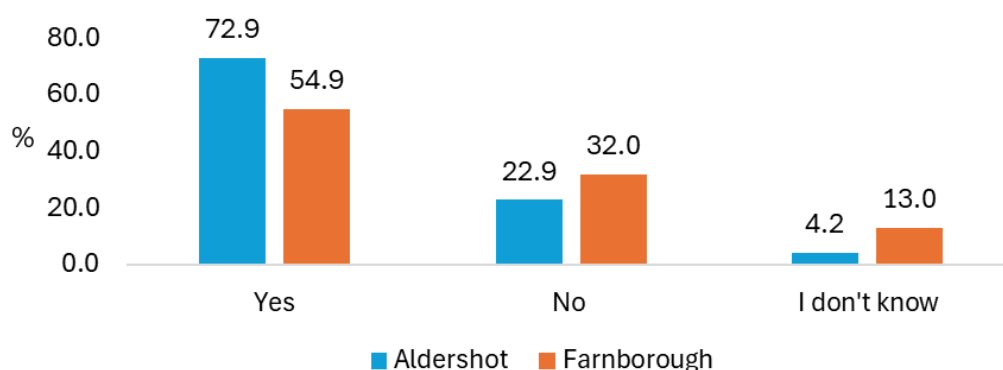
- Negative comments about the current system (mentioned in around 5 comments)
- Comments around wanting to know what powers the parishes or committee will have (mentioned in around 4 comments)
- Concern / negativity about the extra costs (mentioned in around 4 comments)

Results by town

The majority of respondents from both towns agreed that introducing parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in the area would help make sure that local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area. However, Aldershot respondents were more likely to agree (72.9%), than Farnborough respondents (54.9%).

Results by town

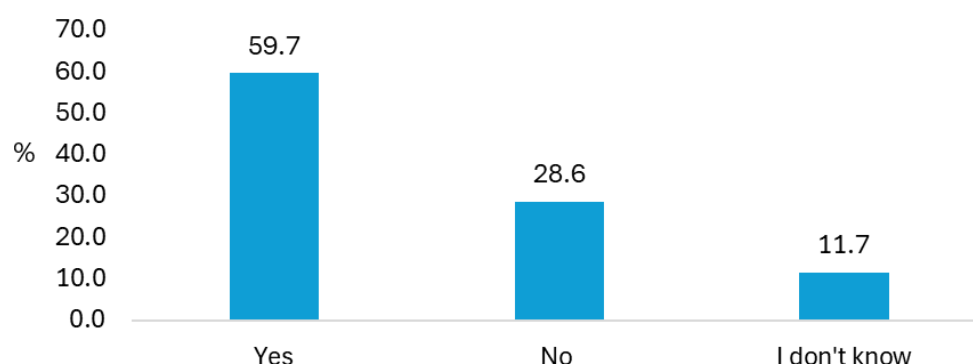
Annex 1: Consultation Report



3. With this in mind, do you think the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in our area?

All 412 respondents completed this question. The majority of respondent indicated yes (59.7% - 246 respondents), they thought the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees. 28.6% (118 respondents) disagreed that the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees.

Do you think the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in the area?



The question also asked why the respondent gave their answer, in total 222 completed this part of the question.

The main themes of the answers from those who answered yes were:

- Think is a good idea as means local people have a voice / are better connected / sense of pride in the area / more influence / things are kept local (mentioned in around 61 comments)
- As above (mentioned in around 20 comments)
- Agree with parishes (mentioned in around 15 comments)
- Concerns about the people who will run the parishes/committees, and how they will be run / the powers they will have (mentioned in around 8 comments)
- Agree with Neighbourhood Area Committees (mentioned in around 5 comments)

The main themes of the answers from those who answered no were:

- Concerns / negative about the costs (mentioned in around 22 comments)
- As above (mentioned in around 13 comments)

Annex 1: Consultation Report

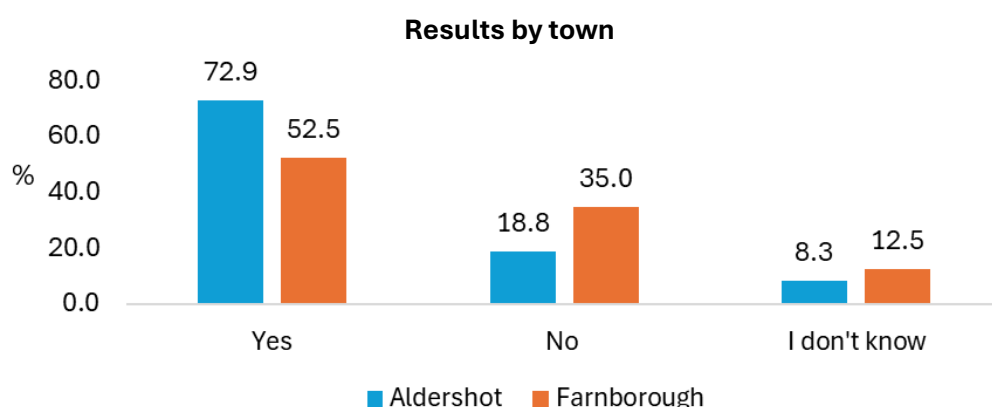
- Leave as is / don't change Rushmoor Borough Council (mentioned in around 11 comments)
- Concerns about the people who will run the parishes/committees, and how they will be run / the powers they will have (mentioned in around 10 comments)
- Concerns about another layer government (mentioned in around 9 comments)

The main themes of the answers from those who answered I don't know were:

- Respondents unsure of benefits (mentioned in around 7 comments)
- Concerns about the people who will run the parishes/committees, and how they will be run / the powers they will have (mentioned in around 6 comments)
- Leave as is / don't change Rushmoor Borough Council (mentioned in around 4 comments)
- As above (mentioned in around 4 comments)

Results by town

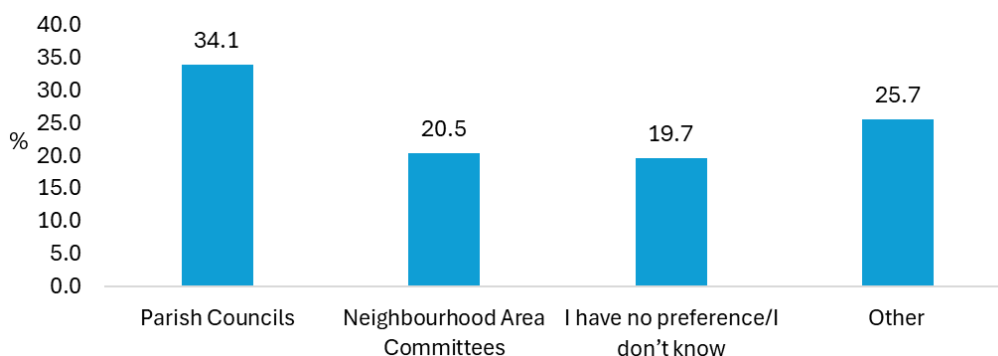
The majority of respondents from both towns agreed the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in the area. However, Aldershot respondents were more likely to agree (72.9%) than Farnborough respondents (52.5%).



4. If you do think the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees, which would you prefer?

In total 381 respondents completed this question. 130 respondents (34.1%) indicated that they would prefer parish councils, 98 respondents (25.7%) indicated 'other', 78 respondents (20.5%) indicated that they preferred neighbourhood area committees, and 75 respondents (19.7%) indicated that they had no preference.

If you do think the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees, which would you prefer?

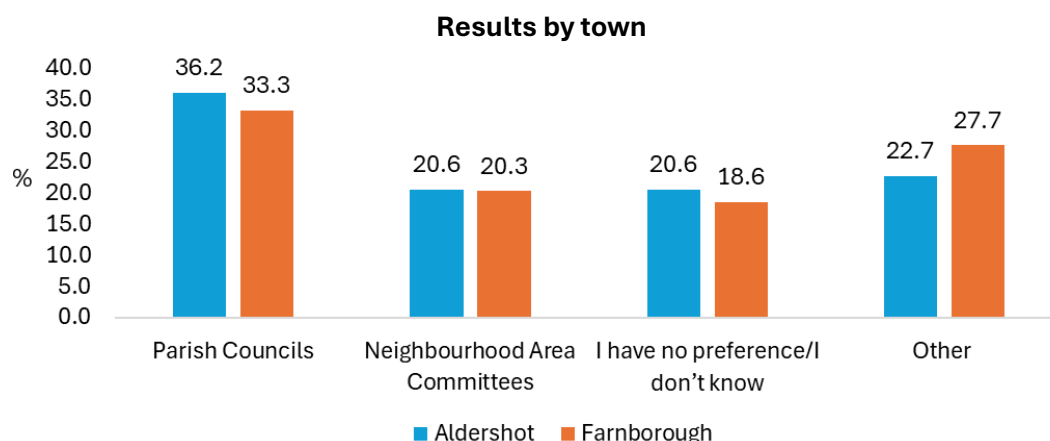


The question had a comment box for those who answered other. In total 98 completed this part of the question the main theme of the answers were:

- Don't do it / neither (mentioned in around 33 comments)
- Comments leave as it is / Rushmoor Borough Council (mentioned in around 14 comments)
- Comments in support of parish councils/ town councils (mentioned in around 11 comments)
- Concern about costs (mentioned in around 8 comments)
- Concern about the people involved and/or the powers of parishes or committees (mentioned in around 7 comments)

Results by town

Aldershot respondents were slightly more likely to prefer parish councils (36.2%), than Farnborough respondents (33.3%). Farnborough respondents were more likely to indicate 'other' (27.7%), than Aldershot respondents (22.7%).



5. If we were to introduce parish councils in Rushmoor, what local area or areas would you like your parish council to cover? This could be your local neighbourhood, electoral ward, village area or town, or a combination of these.

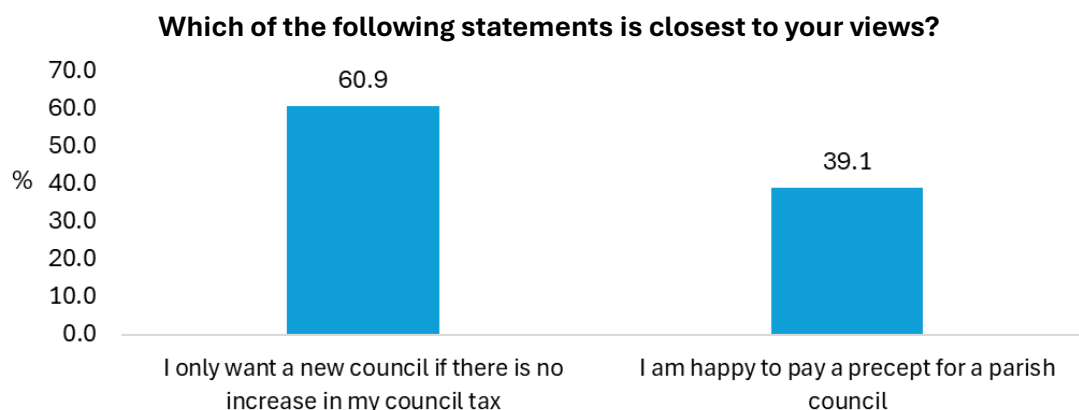
In total 337 responded to this question. The main theme of the answers were:

Annex 1: Consultation Report

- Towns or Aldershot or Farnborough mentioned in around 130 comments
- 61 Responses mention other specific areas, the main themes of these were:
 - North Camp or South Farnborough mentioned in around 23 responses
 - Cove mentioned in around 17 responses
 - Hawley mentioned in around 5 responses
 - Southwood mentioned in around 5 responses
- Wards mentioned in around 46 responses
- No to parishes mentioned in around 39 responses
- Rushmoor/borough size in around 16 responses
- Local neighbourhood mentioned in around 19 responses
- A mix / combination mentioned in around 11 responses
- Concern about introduction, including costs mentioned in around 8 comments
- Unable to tell / more information needed mentioned in around 7 comments
- It has already been decided mentioned in around 5 comments
- Leave it as it is mentioned in around 5 responses
- None / N/A mentioned in around 5 responses

6. Establishing new parish councils could lead to an increase in council tax for the area they cover. This is called a precept. The amount you'd pay depends on the services the new parish council would provide and how much income it has. Which of the following statements is closest to your views?

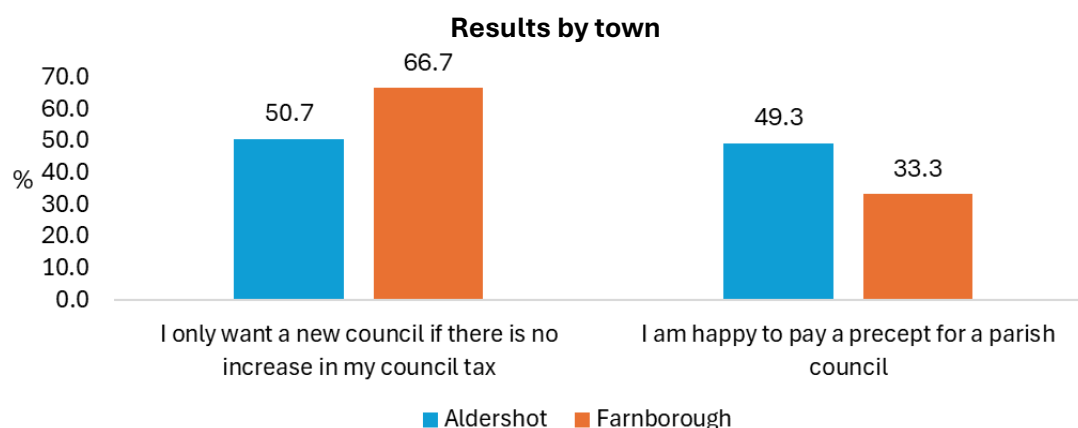
In total 384 respondents completed this question. Over half of the respondents (60.9%) would only want a new council if there is no increase in their council tax. 39.1% (150 respondents) were happy to pay a precept for a parish council.



Results by town

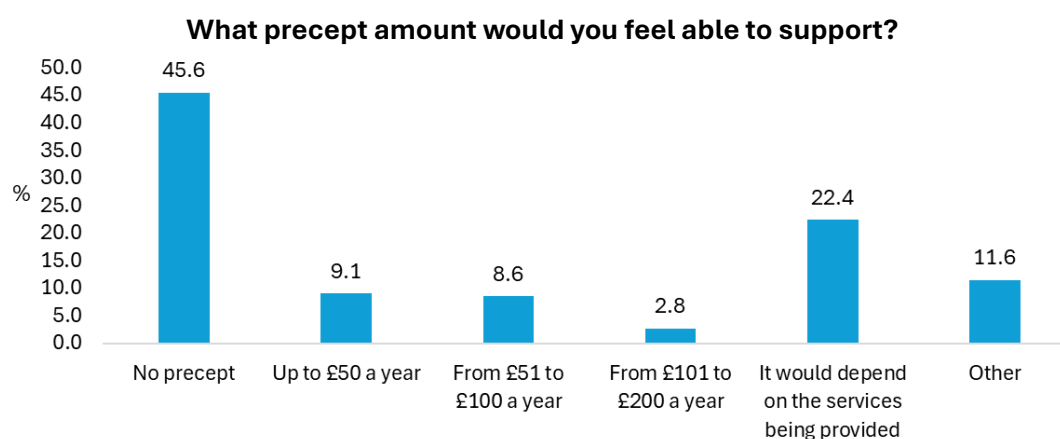
The majority Farnborough respondents would only want a new council if there is no increase in their council tax (66.7%). The results were a lot closer for Aldershot respondents with 49.3% happy to pay a precept and 50.7% would only want a new council if there is no increase in their council tax.

Annex 1: Consultation Report



7. What precept amount would you feel able to support?

In total 397 respondents completed this question. The most support was for no precept (45.6% - 181 respondents), followed by it would depend on the services being provided (22.4% - 89 respondents), followed by other (11.6% - 46 respondents), followed by up to £50 a year (9.1% - 36 respondents), followed by £51 to £100 a year (8.6% - 34 respondents) and lastly 2.8% (11 respondents) who indicated that they were able to support from £101 to £200 a year.



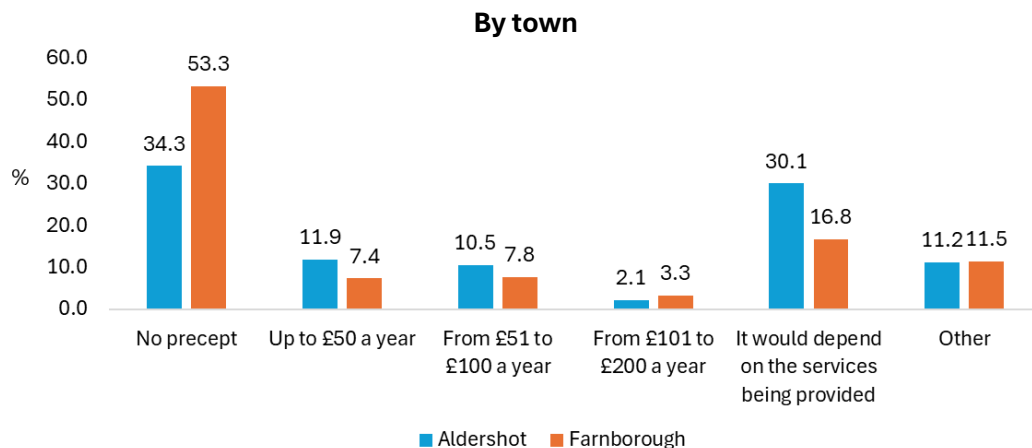
The question had a comment box for those who answered other. In total 46 completed this part of the question. The main theme of the answers were:

- Respondents unhappy / concerned with a rise in council tax (mentioned in around 22 comments)
- More information is needed to make a judgement (mentioned in around 8 comments)
- Respondents suggesting council tax could/should go down with the creation of a unitary / cost covered by these savings (mentioned in around 7 comments)
- No / not wanted (mentioned in around 7 comments)

Results by town

Annex 1: Consultation Report

A larger percent of Farnborough respondents supported no precept (53.3%) than Aldershot respondents (34.3%).



8. If we were to introduce neighbourhood area committees in Rushmoor, what local area or areas would you like a neighbourhood area committee to cover? This could be your local neighbourhood, electoral ward, village or town or a combination of these.

In total 325 responded to this question. The main theme of the answers was:

- Towns or Aldershot or Farnborough mentioned in around 79 comments
- 63 Responses mention other specific areas, the main themes of these were:
 - North Camp or South Farnborough or St Marks mentioned in around 21 responses
 - Cove mentioned in around 14 responses
 - Southwood mentioned in around 8 responses
 - North Town mentioned in around 6 responses
 - Manor Park mentioned in around 5 comments
- Ward mentioned in around 47 responses
- Not in favour / don't want it / leave as is mentioned in around 43 responses
- Local neighbourhood mentioned in around 23 responses
- Concern about the people involved and/or the powers of neighbourhood committees mentioned in around 14 comments
- N/A mentioned in around 12 comments
- Borough mentioned in around 9 responses
- Mix / combination of areas mentioned in around 9 comments
- No / none mentioned in around 9 comments
- As above mentioned in around 8 comments

9. Do you have any more comments about the introduction of parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in Rushmoor?

In total 256 responded to this question. The main themes of the answers were:

- Concern about cost and paying more council tax (mentioned in around 45 comments)

Annex 1: Consultation Report

- In general agreement with proposals (mentioned in around 43 comments). Of these:
 - Around 23 comments mentioned yes to parishes / town councils
 - Around 8 comments mentioned yes to Neighbourhood Committees
- Around 20 comments mentioned the need to keep things local (decision / local voice)
- Not in favour with proposals (mentioned in around 27 comments)
- Not necessary / waste of time and money / not value for money (mentioned in around 22 comments)
- No / N/A (mentioned in around 21 comments)
- No to or concern about unitary's / reorganisation (mentioned in around 17 comments)
- Concern about the people involved and/or the powers of parishes and/or committees (mentioned in around 17 comments)
- More information needed (mentioned in around 15 comments)
- Keep Rushmoor Borough Council (mentioned in around 12 comments)
- Unhappy with current county council and / or local council services (mentioned in around 6 comments)

Results of partner survey

There were only two completed partner surveys, one organisation emailed directly.

However, as there were only two responses to the survey, there were not enough responses to fully analysis the survey.

The main themes of the replies were:

- All three organisations agreed that introducing parish or town councils or neighbourhood area committees in the area would help make sure that local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area.
- Because good relationships with the council are important, and people that live and work here have a better understanding. It is important to have a local decision-making bodies in local communities. The need for a two-way conversation, which could be lost with bigger authorities.
- One preferred parishes, one preferred Neighbourhood Committees and one had no preference/didn't know.
- One was concerned about possible increase in council tax.
- One was concerned about evenness of services at different councils.
- One was concerned about funding pressures.
- One was concerned about the possible agenda of those serving on Neighbourhood Area Committees.
- One thought the area covered should be towns, another thought North Town area.

Other feedback

Over the consultation period we received three emails about the consultation. Below is a summary of their contents:

- Concern about council tax rises;
- Asking why change it;
- A request to the return of Farnborough Town Council;
- A suggestion to return to Aldershot and Farnborough Town Councils;

Summary

The number responding to the consultation was low compared to the number of respondents to the annual council residents' surveys (1000 respondents plus). However, there were other consultations happening at the same time which may have put people off completing another survey. The response rate for the councils' partners survey was very low.

Overall, respondents thought the introduction of Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Area Communities was positive, to ensure local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area, and they agreed that the council should introduce them. Respondents thought that they would give local people a voice, they are better connected, and local people would be making local decisions. However, there was concern about the possible extra costs, and also concerns about who would sit on them and what powers that would have.

A higher percentage of Aldershot respondents were in support of the introduction of Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Communities, than Farnborough respondents.

Parish Councils got the most support with 34.1% thinking they should be introduced, compared to Neighbourhood Area Committees (20.5%). The main theme of the responses of those who indicated other was that neither should be introduced, or it should be left as it is.

The area for Parish Councils with the most support was for towns (119 respondents wrote either towns, or Aldershot, or Farnborough). Wards came second with 39 respondents writing wards.

The majority (60.9%) of all respondents only wanted a Parish/Town Councils if there was no increase in Council Tax. The results were a lot closer for Aldershot respondents with 49.3% happy to pay a precept and 50.7% would only want a new council if there is no increase in their council tax.

The area for Neighbourhood Area Committees with the most support was for towns. 79 respondents wrote either towns, or Aldershot, or Farnborough. Wards came second with 47 respondents writing wards.

Although there was general support for the introduction of Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Area Communities, to ensure local communities can have their views heard and what happens in their local area, there was a lot of concern about the cost involved.

Annex A- Copy of residents' survey



Have your say on the way your local area could be represented and managed in the future

Introduction

The government has asked councils to look at how they are organised, as it wants to improve services and make better use of public money.

In Hampshire, there are proposals to have a small number of unitary councils that would replace borough and district councils, like us, and Hampshire County Council, and provide all your services.

For our area, a new north Hampshire council could replace Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane councils, plus the services currently provided by the county council.

As this would mean our area would be covered by a larger unitary council, we want to understand what matters most to you about how you are represented and how you can influence what happens in your local area.

There are two main ways that communities could be represented more locally once the proposed new unitary is in place: parish councils (sometimes called town councils) and neighbourhood area committees. You can read more about how these would work on our [website](#).

Parish councils:

- Are elected by residents
- Run local services and local events
- Own local assets
- Comment on planning applications
- Raise money through a small additional council tax charge called a precept

Neighbourhood area committees:

- Are part of a bigger council – in our case, it would be the new unitary council
- Include local councillors and community representatives
- Take part in decisions for their area about local services, local events, and local assets
- Don't need a separate precept as they are funded by the council

In this survey we are asking for your views on what, if anything, you think should be introduced for our area.

This survey is part of a formal process called a [community governance review](#). The aim of the review is to make sure that any new local arrangements continue to be effective, convenient and work in the interests of residents if a new unitary council is introduced.

It is open to people living in Rushmoor, aged 16 or over, until Friday 12 September.

To view our consultation survey privacy notice, please visit www.rushmoor.gov.uk/consultationprivacynotice

Annex 1: Consultation Report

1. How would you describe where you live? *(please tick one)*

- ☐ I live in Aldershot
- ☐ I live in Farnborough
- ☐ Other (please tell us how you describe where you live)

2. Do you think 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? *(please tick one)*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

Please tell us why:

* 3. With this in mind, do you think the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in our area? *(please tick one)*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

Please tell us why:

4. If you do think the council should introduce parish councils or neighbourhood area committees, which would you prefer? *(please choose your preferred option)*

- ☐ Parish Councils
- ☐ Neighbourhood Area Committees
- ☐ I have no preference/I don't know
- ☐ Other (Please tell us more)

Annex 1: Consultation Report

5. If we were to introduce parish councils in Rushmoor, what local area or areas would you like your parish council to cover? This could be your local neighbourhood, electoral ward, village area or town, or a combination of these.

Please write in

6. Establishing new parish councils could lead to an increase in council tax for the area they cover. This is called a precept. The amount you'd pay depends on the services the new parish council would provide and how much income it has.

Which of the following statements is closest to your views? *(please tick one)*

- ☐ I only want a new council if there is no increase in my council tax
- ☐ I am happy to pay a precept for a parish council

7. What precept amount would you feel able to support? *(please tick one)*

- ☐ No precept
- ☐ Up to £50 a year
- ☐ From £51 to £100 a year
- ☐ From £101 to £200 a year
- ☐ It would depend on the services being provided
- ☐ Other (please write in)

8. If we were to introduce neighbourhood area committees in Rushmoor, what local area or areas would you like a neighbourhood area committee to cover? This could be your local neighbourhood, electoral ward, village or town or a combination of these.

Please write in

9. Do you have any more comments about the introduction of parish councils or neighbourhood area committees in Rushmoor?

Please write in

* 10. Please can you confirm that you are over 18 years of age:

- ☐ Yes - I am over 18
- ☐ No - I am under 18



Have your say on the way your local area could be represented and managed in the future

About you

As part of the Equality Act 2010, we must make sure our services are open and accessible to everyone, that we treat people fairly and appropriately and in consultations, we hear all views.

The following questions will help us to check that we are doing this and will also help us to understand better the answers we receive. We will treat this information as anonymous and confidential and will not identify individuals.

You do not have to answer these questions if you would prefer not to.

11. Which one of the following age bands do you belong to?

- ☐ 18 - 24 years
- ☐ 25 - 34 years
- ☐ 35 - 44 years
- ☐ 45 - 54 years
- ☐ 55 - 64 years
- ☐ 65 - 74 years
- ☐ 75 - 84 years
- ☐ 85+ years
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

12. What is your sex?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

Annex 1: Consultation Report

13. What is your ethnic group?

- ☐ White - British
- ☐ White - Irish
- ☐ White - Gypsy/Traveller
- ☐ White - other
- ☐ Mixed - white and black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed - white and black African
- ☐ Mixed - White and Asian
- ☐ Mixed - other
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Nepali
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Indian
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Pakistani
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Chinese
- ☐ Asian - other
- ☐ Black or British black - Caribbean
- ☐ Black or British black - African
- ☐ Black - other
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say
- ☐ Any other background (Please specify)

14. Are you currently serving in the UK Armed Forces or have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?

- ☐ Yes, I am currently serving in the UK Armed Forces
- ☐ Yes, I previously served in the UK Armed Forces
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

15. Do you consider yourself to have any health conditions or disabilities, which limit your daily activities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say



Have your say on the way your local area could be represented and managed in the future

Thank you for completing our survey

We'll use your feedback to help inform our decision on the future local representation in Aldershot and Farnborough. The result of this survey will be published on our website.

Annex B – Poster and flyer

Your community, your say

Who should represent you
at a very local level?
We want to hear your views

Rushmoor Borough Council is set to be replaced by a larger unitary
council that would provide all your council services from 2028.

As we plan ahead for this, we're looking at what, if any, extra arrangements
should be in place so that your voice is heard on local decisions.

This could be introducing parish councils (sometimes called town councils)
or what are known as neighbourhood area committees.

Please tell us what you think

- 1 Take part in our online survey

Scan the QR code.

Survey closes Friday 12 September



- 2 Come and chat to us at our drop-in session

To find out more, go to:
www.rushmoor.gov.uk/communityreview

RUSHMOOR
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annex C – Public notice

Your community, your say

Public Notice
Community Governance Review 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That Rushmoor Borough Council, following the decision of Council taken on 10 July 2025, is undertaking a Community Governance Review to determine whether to establish parish councils (which may be styled as town, village, neighbourhood or community councils) in the Rushmoor borough area.

Pursuant to the Local Government and Public Involvement Act 2007, the council is required to ensure that community governance across the borough:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the local community
- Is effective and convenient


In carrying out the review, the council must take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
- The size of the population of a local community or parish

**The first-round consultation will run from
Friday 11 July 2025 to Friday 12 September 2025**

To find out more scan the QR code

Or go to: www.rushmoor.gov.uk/communityreview



The council has published its terms of reference, which can be found at the link above. Printed copies may be obtained by contacting policy@rushmoor.gov.uk or calling **01252 398 399**

If you wish to prepare a written submission, please send it to: Rushmoor Borough Council, Legal Services, Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough GU14 7JU

RUSHMOOR
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annex D – List of roadshows and static displays

Roadshows & Static Displays

What: Roadshows & static displays

Method: Face to face & static information displays

Launch Date: 13th July

Closing Date: 27th July

Lead: RBC Comms & Engagement Team

Venues & Locations: As below, some still in planning stage and therefore subject to change and not for onward sharing at this stage

Week 1 - 13 th to 19 th July		Week 2 - 21 st to 26 th July	
Sun 13 th	Moorfest	Mon 21 st	Aldershot Train Station
Mon 14 th	Farnborough Train Station	Tues 22 nd	North Camp Location TBC
Tues 15 th	Farnborough Market	Wed 23 rd	Farnborough TBC
Wed 16 th	Wetherspoons Aldershot	Thur 24 th	Aldershot Market
Thur 17 th	Farnborough North Station	Fri 25 th	Aldershot Lido
Fri 18 th	North Camp Location TBC	Sat 26 th	Farnborough Town Centre
Sat 19 th	Aldershot Town Centre		

Static Displays:

Farnborough:

Farnborough Library
Play 360
The Hub
Abbey House
Kingsmead
Southwood Field Centre
The Village

Aldershot:

Aldershot Library
West End Centre
Princes Hall
Aldershot Enterprise Centre
Union Street
Garrison Sports Centre
Aldershot Pools & Fitness Centre

Annex E - Special edition of Arena

www.rushmoor.gov.uk

Arena

Special edition • August 2025





Important changes to your council

by Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of Rushmoor Borough Council

Welcome to our special edition of Arena magazine. We want to tell you about big changes proposed to Rushmoor Borough Council and the way your services are provided and to let you know how you can be involved.

Inside, you'll find details of proposals to replace us and the county council, with one single council for our area

providing all your services.

We're also keen to find out what you think about the idea of introducing parish or town councils to our area when these new arrangements come into place.

These are important changes so it's really important to us that you give your views on the councils that will be delivering your services in future.

I would urge you to spend a few minutes reading through the following pages and to take time to respond in our survey.

Thank you in advance.



RUSHMOOR

BOROUGH COUNCIL



New single council for our area

The government wants to reduce the number of councils, opting instead for single councils that provide all your services.

At the moment, you get your local services, like bin collections, parks, street cleaning and planning, from Rushmoor Borough Council, and bigger services like education, roads and adults' and children's social care from Hampshire County Council.

Under the proposals being considered, you would have one 'unitary' council that would do everything.

We've been working with 11 other councils across Hampshire on what we think would work best so that any new councils are big enough to deliver good services efficiently, but small enough to understand local communities and their needs.

In our area, we think the best option to provide this balance would be a unitary council that covers north Hampshire, replacing Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane councils and taking on the county council services.

Over the last few weeks, we've been consulting on these proposals, as we told you in our June edition.

The consultation has now closed, and we will be looking at all your feedback as we prepare and consider our final submission to the government in September.

The government will then carry out its own public consultation on the options it thinks meet its requirements and decide on the final council arrangements. There would be shadow council elections in 2027, with the new councils officially established in April 2028.

Find out more and keep up to date at www.rushmoor.gov.uk/localgovernmentreorganisation

Making sure your voice is heard locally

As we plan for the new, bigger unitary councils, we are also thinking about what, if any, arrangements could be put in place to make sure our communities are still recognised and represented on local issues.

Parish and town councils

Parish and town councils are the same, apart from the name. They can vary in size from a handful of electors to more than 40,000 people but reflect their local identity.

They are elected by residents and directly accountable to their communities.

Depending on the council, they can legally provide a variety of local services, ranging from allotments, cemeteries and crematoriums, to running community centres, events and arts. They can also provide street maintenance including footpaths, litter bins and grass cutting; parking, public toilets and parks and open spaces.

They can comment on planning applications and help shape their local area through neighbourhood plans.

These councils can be funded by grants, fees and charges and a small council tax charge, called a precept. The precept varies depending on the extent of services offered.

Neighbourhood area committees

These are very local committees led by frontline ward councillors, involving members from community groups and public organisations, like the police and health, as needed.

They are created by a bigger council to focus on specific places and to act as a community voice on local issues.

They have no formal powers and have no separate funding.



At the moment, we don't have any town or parish councils in our area. But one option would be to create these to offer very local council services and decision-making. A different option would be something called neighbourhood area committees, or we could do nothing.

Because this would be an important change to our area, we would like to hear your views so we can understand what might work for you and how you feel about potentially paying an additional council tax charge for new parish or town councils.

You can read more here about the different options and how parish and town councils work elsewhere.

We would then really welcome your feedback in our online survey, www.rushmoor.gov.uk/communityreview, which is open until Friday 12 September. If you don't have internet access, please give us a call on 01252 398399 and we will be happy to send you a paper copy of the survey.

We will consider your thoughts as part of our review. Depending on the outcome, we may carry out more



engagement later this year on more detailed proposals.

Farnham Town Council

Services include:

- Town centre events including farmers' markets, food festival, Christmas lights
- Managing green spaces, public gardens and cemeteries
- Community centre and hall management
- Helping to maintain Farnham's bins, benches and bus stops
- Running allotments

Council tax Band D
precept - **£83.45**

Fleet Town Council

Services include:

- Running The Harlington Centre and community centres
- Floral displays
- Managing football pitches, tennis courts, a skatepark and the war memorial
- Managing some parks and play equipment
- Community events and repair cafe

Council tax Band D precept - **£131.27**

Ash Parish Council

Services include:

- Managing allotments and open spaces
- Maintaining play areas, sports facilities, car parks and public toilets
- Collecting litter and disposing of waste
- Cemetery and chapel administration
- Community events, including gardening competition

Council tax Band D
precept - **£78.52**

Neighbourhood area committee examples

Bristol City Council has nine area committees, which decide how local funds, including developer contributions, are spent to improve their own area. This includes local projects like play area refurbishments, traffic calming, park upgrades and accessibility improvements.

Sunderland City Council has five area committees across the city. They identify local priorities for their area and receive a fund from the council to support local initiatives, like youth centres, street lighting, parks and play areas, and tree planting.

Your views matter – take part in our survey

www.rushmoor.gov.uk/communityreview

Closing date Friday 12 September

Annex F – Letter to partners



Leader of the Council
Councillor Gareth Williams
Council Offices, Farnborough Road
Farnborough, Hants GU14 7JU
(01252 398399)

Our reference:

August 2025

Dear partner,

Changes to your local council and community representation

The government has asked councils to look at how they are organised, as it wants to improve services and make better use of public money.

In Hampshire, there are proposals to have a small number of unitary councils that would replace borough and district councils, like Rushmoor, and the county council.

A new council for north Hampshire

We are supporting a new north Hampshire council which would replace Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane councils and also carry out the services currently provided by the county council in these areas – all 'under one roof'.

As we prepare for these changes, we want to understand the views of our partners, particularly about how we work with you and support you, both now and in the future.

We would like your views on local government reorganisation by inviting you to take part in our survey on local government reorganisation that is open until Sunday 17 August at www.rushmoor.gov.uk/localgovernmentreorganisation.

Additionally, as a key local partner, you can also [pledge direct support for the north Hampshire model online](#).

Local arrangements for Rushmoor

The second purpose of this letter is to ask for your thoughts on what new arrangements, if any, this council could put in place to make sure local voices are heard on local issues when the proposed new bigger, unitary council is in place.

We are currently looking at two options for what could be in place locally when the new unitary councils come into effect. The first is to establish parish councils (sometimes called town councils) and the second is to consider creating neighbourhood area committees. We could also choose not to have any additional local arrangements in place.



Leader of the Council
Councillor Gareth Williams
Council Offices, Farnborough Road
Farnborough, Hants GU14 7JU
(01252 398399)

Parish councils are elected by residents, with powers to run various local services. If the council decides to set up parish councils locally, the first elections for these would be in May 2026.

Neighbourhood area committees are usually made up of existing councillors, who use their knowledge of an area to help make decisions on how local funds are spent and what improvements are needed. They have no formal powers, other than those delegated to them.

Tell us what you think about these options

Our councillors are committed to making sure that local voices are heard and represented on these important matters and that includes those of our partners, key stakeholders and community groups.

We would therefore like your views on these options as part of what is known as a community governance review. You can give these by filling in our partner survey using the following link or scanning the QR code below.

[How local areas could be represented and managed in future - partner survey](#)

There is further information on the council's website,
www.rushmoor.gov.uk/communityreview

This survey is open until 12 September. You can also respond formally to the public notice attached with this letter.

We know that some of you may have some questions about the community governance review and if there is demand for this, we can offer a short online Q&A session in September. **If you'd like to participate in a Q&A session, then please send a note to communitydevelopment@Rushmoor.gov.uk**



I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Williams'.

**Councillor Gareth Williams
Leader of the Council**

Annex G – Copy of partner survey



How local areas could be represented and managed in future - partner survey

*** 1. Please provide the name of your organisation:**

2. What type of organisation are you?

- ☐ Voluntary
- ☐ Charity
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Sports club
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

3. In what capacity are you responding to this form?

- ☐ Owner
- ☐ Manager
- ☐ Employee
- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

*** 4. We would like to use your organisations name in our survey report to show who we've engaged with, but we will anonymise any responses you give us. Is this ok?**

- ☐ Yes, that is fine
- ☐ I'd rather you didn't include my organisations name

Annex 1: Consultation Report

* 5. Thinking about the organisation you represent, do you think introducing parish or town councils or neighbourhood committees in the area would help make sure that local communities can have their views heard and influence what happens in their local area? *(please tick one)*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

Please tell us why:

6. If your organisation thinks the council should introduce parish or town councils or neighbourhood area committees, which would you prefer? *(please choose your preferred option)*

- ☐ Parish Councils
- ☐ Neighbourhood Area Committees
- ☐ I have no preference/I don't know
- ☐ Other (Please tell us more)

7. Establishing new parish or town councils could lead to an increase in council tax for the area they cover. This is called a precept. The amount residents pay depends on the services the new parish council would provide and how much income it has.

Does your organisation have any thoughts about the possible introduction of a precept?

Please write in

8. If parish or town councils were introduced, what opportunities or risks does your organisation think they would create?

Please write in

9. If neighbourhood area committees were introduced, what opportunities or risks does your organisation think they would create?

Please write in

10. If we were to introduce parish or town councils or neighbourhood area committees in Rushmoor, what local area or areas would your organisation think they should cover? This could be local neighbourhoods, electoral ward, village area or town, or a combination of these.

Please write in

11. Does your organisation have any more comments about the introduction of parish or town councils or neighbourhood area committees in Rushmoor?

Please write in



How local areas could be represented and managed in future - partner survey

Thank you for completing our survey

We'll use your feedback to help inform our decision on the future local representation in Aldershot and Farnborough. The result of this survey will be published on our website.

Annex 2: Potential Precept Amounts – Farnborough and Aldershot

Farnborough - Band D Amount 10.00				Aldershot - Band D Amount 10.00			
CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band	CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band
A	615	6.67	4,102	A	902	6.67	6,016
B	5,654	7.78	43,988	B	3,598	7.78	27,992
C	9,116	8.89	81,041	C	7,858	8.89	69,858
D	5,194	10.00	51,940	D	3,952	10.00	39,520
E	2,878	12.22	35,169	E	1,377	12.22	16,827
F	888	14.44	12,823	F	435	14.44	6,281
G	529	16.67	8,818	G	64	16.67	1,067
H	7	20.00	140	H	4	20.00	80
	24,881		238,022		18,190		167,642
Farnborough - Band D Amount 30.00				Aldershot - Band D Amount 30.00			
CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band	CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band
A	615	20.00	12,300	A	902	20.00	18,040
B	5,654	23.33	131,908	B	3,598	23.33	83,941
C	9,116	26.67	243,124	C	7,858	26.67	209,573
D	5,194	30.00	155,820	D	3,952	30.00	118,560
E	2,878	36.67	105,536	E	1,377	36.67	50,495
F	888	43.33	38,477	F	435	43.33	18,849
G	529	50.00	26,450	G	64	50.00	3,200
H	7	60.00	420	H	4	60.00	240
	24,881		714,035		18,190		502,897
Farnborough - Band D Amount 50.00				Aldershot - Band D Amount 50.00			
CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band	CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band
A	615	33.33	20,498	A	902	33.33	30,064
B	5,654	38.89	219,884	B	3,598	38.89	139,926
C	9,116	44.44	405,115	C	7,858	44.44	349,210
D	5,194	50.00	259,700	D	3,952	50.00	197,600
E	2,878	61.11	175,875	E	1,377	61.11	84,148
F	888	72.22	64,131	F	435	72.22	31,416
G	529	83.33	44,082	G	64	83.33	5,333
H	7	100.00	700	H	4	100.00	400
	24,881		1,189,985		18,190		838,097
Farnborough - Band D Amount 75.00				Aldershot - Band D Amount 75.00			
CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band	CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band
A	615	50.00	30,750	A	902	50.00	45,100
B	5,654	58.33	329,798	B	3,598	58.33	209,871
C	9,116	66.67	607,764	C	7,858	66.67	523,893
D	5,194	75.00	389,550	D	3,952	75.00	296,400
E	2,878	91.67	263,826	E	1,377	91.67	126,230
F	888	108.33	96,197	F	435	108.33	47,124
G	529	125.00	66,125	G	64	125.00	8,000
H	7	150.00	1,050	H	4	150.00	600
	24,881		1,785,060		18,190		1,257,217
Farnborough - Band D Amount 100.00				Aldershot - Band D Amount 100.00			
CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band	CT Band	No Of Households	Precept Amount Per Band	Total Amount Payable by Band
A	615	66.67	41,002	A	902	66.67	60,136
B	5,654	77.78	439,768	B	3,598	77.78	279,852
C	9,116	88.89	810,321	C	7,858	88.89	698,498
D	5,194	100.00	519,400	D	3,952	100.00	395,200
E	2,878	122.22	351,749	E	1,377	122.22	168,297
F	888	144.44	128,263	F	435	144.44	62,831
G	529	166.67	88,168	G	64	166.67	10,667
H	7	200.00	1,400	H	4	200.00	800
	24,881		2,380,072		18,190		1,676,282

Equality Impact Assessment: Screening Tool

The **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Tool** should be completed for any new proposal. It helps staff check if their proposal will positively, neutrally, or negatively affect residents, staff, or service users. If the impact is positive or neutral, a full EIA isn't needed.

A **full EIA** is required if the screening shows a negative impact on specific groups. We also advise that a full EIA should be completed when a [key decision](#) is being made. Key decisions are executive actions likely to:

- Significantly affect Council tax, budget balances, or contingencies.
- Have a major impact on communities across two or more Borough wards.
- Expenditure or savings over £100,000 qualify as significant, with a £250,000 threshold for property transactions.

Furthermore, for staff, we generally consider the impact on more than 25 people as significant, which would require a full EIA. If you're unsure, you can seek guidance from the Policy Team.

***After screening, if you identify the need for a full Equality Impact Assessment, you can use your existing answers as a foundation for the full assessment.**

Name of Project	Community Governance Review
Reference number (if applicable)	
Service Area	Legal
Date screening completed	23 June 2025
Screening author name	Martin Iyawe
Policy Team sign off	Alex Shiell
Authorising Director/Head of Service name	Amanda Bancroft

Please provide a summary of the proposal

Please outline:

- What are the aims / objectives of this proposal?
- Will this deliver any savings?
- What benefits or change will we see from this proposal?
- Which key groups of people or areas of the borough are involved?

The proposal is to begin a Community Governance Review (CGR) to consider the creation of parish councils within Rushmoor. The review is in response to expected local government reorganisation and the potential establishment of a unitary council for North Hampshire. The CGR will involve borough-wide consultation with residents and stakeholders to understand their views on potential parish councils, with a decision by January 2026 to allow for elections in May 2026 if new councils are created.

The current options going to Full Council on Thursday 25 September include:

- Aldershot Parish Council and Farnborough Parish Council
- Smaller parishes across the Rushmoor area - for example: North Camp and North Town
- Aldershot Neighbourhood Area Committee and Farnborough Neighbourhood Area Committee
-

Aims/Objectives: To review and potentially establish new community governance arrangements to ensure effective, convenient local representation that reflects community identity.

Savings: No direct savings. Some one-off costs will be incurred for legal advice, systems updates, and elections. Any future financial implications (e.g., precepting arrangements) would be considered in later stages.

Benefits/Change: Potential for enhanced local representation, community voice, and neighbourhood control of services/assets.

Key groups or areas: All Rushmoor residents. The proposal affects the entire borough.

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

Who will the proposal impact? Delete as appropriate.

Group of people	Impacted?
Residents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Visitors to Rushmoor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Voluntary or community groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Council staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Trade unions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other public sector Organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Others	Please specify:

What impact will this change have on staff? Please complete where relevant.

<p>Please outline in brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will be impacted? For example, which services, teams, or buildings? How many staff members? What will the impact be? (e.g., changes to structure, staffing levels, responsibilities, relocation, or new working methods)
<p>At this stage: no structural impact on staff</p> <p>A small project team is coordinating the review, creating a temporary increase in workload. The current project team members are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Bancroft (Interim Monitoring Officer & Corporate Manager Legal Services) Belinda Tam (Corporate Manager – People) Jill Shuttleworth (Corporate Manager – Democracy) Gill Chisnall (Service Manager – Communications) Rosie Plaistowe-Melham (Service Manager - Finance & Deputy S151 Officer) Alex Shiell (Service Manager – Policy, Strategy, and Transformation) David May (Local Taxation Manager)

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

- Matt Edwards (Litigation & Regulatory Solicitor)
- Martin Iyawe (Policy and Projects Officer)

If parish councils are approved at Council, workload will rise through things such as service or asset transfers.

What consultation or engagement will you be leading (with residents, staff, or other stakeholders) as part of this project?

Please outline in brief:

- Which groups will you consult (residents, staff, other stakeholders)?
- Will you collect personal data?
- How will you engage (e.g., surveys, focus groups)?
- How will you use the feedback?

If no engagement is planned, explain why.

A full borough-wide consultation will be carried out in two phases. The aim is to ask residents and community groups whether they would like a more local level of representation in their area (such as a parish council, or a neighbourhood area committee), and if so, how that might be set up.

The first consultation (21 July to 12 September 2025) asked for views on whether people support the idea of local councils, how they might be set up (e.g. one for each ward or a single council for a town), and what they could be called.

The second consultation (6 October to 28 November 2025) will follow up with more detailed questions if there is support for new councils — such as the number of councillors, funding methods, and which services or assets they should manage.

- **Who will be consulted?** All Rushmoor residents, local voluntary and community groups, and key partners.

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

- **How will we consult?** The consultation will be shared through the council website, social media (Facebook, X/Twitter, Nextdoor, LinkedIn, etc.), email newsletters, engagement sessions with residents, local media, partner organisations like RVS and Arena Magazine. Internal staff channels include Viva Engage, staff and member newsletters, and Rushmoor Round-Up.
- **Personal data:** We do not plan to collect any personal data as part of the consultation. It will be an anonymous survey.
- **How feedback will be used:** The findings from both consultation rounds will be reviewed and used to decide whether to propose setting up parish councils and to shape the details if so.

-

Evidence from Consultation (September 2025):

- 412 residents and 2 partner organisations responded
- 62% agreed that parish councils or neighbourhood committees would improve community voice
- 60% thought they should be introduced, with stronger support in Aldershot (73%) than Farnborough (53%)
- Slightly more respondents preferred parish councils (34.1%) over neighbourhood committees (20.5%)
- There was strong concern about possible council tax increases. 60.9% would only support parish councils if there was no additional precept
- Aldershot respondents were more willing to pay a precept (49.3%) compared to Farnborough (33%)
- Demographics: younger people (under 44), Nepali residents, and ethnic minorities were under-represented in the consultation responses
- 16.5% of respondents had health conditions/disabilities limiting daily activity (in line with Census)
- 8.5% of respondents had previously served in the armed forces (higher than the 6.7% Rushmoor average)

-

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

What impact will this change have on people with protected characteristics and/or from disadvantages groups?

Direct and indirect impacts

When completing this table, please consider both **direct and indirect impacts**, see helpful guidance.

Direct discrimination occurs when someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a **protected characteristic**. This includes:

- **Actual possession** of a protected characteristic.
- **Perceived possession** of a protected characteristic (discrimination by perception).
- **Association** with someone who has a protected characteristic (discrimination by association).

A valid comparison must show that someone without the protected characteristic would have been treated better in similar circumstances. It can still be direct discrimination even if the person treating you unfairly shares the same characteristic.

Note: Age discrimination may be lawful if it can be objectively justified. For other protected characteristics, direct discrimination is unlawful regardless of intent or justification.

Indirect discrimination happens when a **policy, rule, or practice** applies to everyone but puts people with a protected characteristic at a **particular disadvantage**. It occurs when:

- A policy is applied equally to all.
- It disadvantages a group sharing a protected characteristic.
- You are personally disadvantaged by it.
- The organisation cannot justify the policy as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

If the policy can be objectively justified, it is not considered indirect discrimination.

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

For example: Closing public toilets may be an example of indirect discrimination, as it affects everyone but disproportionately disadvantages women, due to toilet frequency, alternative options and safety/hygiene factors.

Likely impact

For the groups identified earlier, tick the likely impact (both direct and indirect) on people with protected characteristics (e.g., age, disability, race, etc.):

- **Neutral:** No impact.
- **Positive:** Benefits people with protected characteristics.
- **Negative:** Harms people with protected characteristics.
- **Not Sure:** It's unclear how this affects people with protected characteristics, or more information is needed.

Rate the negative impact as **low**, **medium**, or **high**. Also, consider whether the proposal may be seen as controversial or negative by some groups. See the guidance for help.

Protected characteristic - Age

(for example, young people under 25, older people over 65)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
		Low		The consultation will be open to everyone, with accessible formats where needed. Indirect impact that older residents or young people may be less likely to engage with online consultations. Alternative consultation methods will be considered to include these groups. <i>Post-consultation:</i> older residents were over-represented in responses, younger residents under-represented.

Protected characteristic – Disability

(include people with physical disabilities, people with learning disabilities, blind and partially sighted people, Deaf or hard of hearing people, neurodiverse people. This also includes carers.)

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
	Yes	Choose an item.		No specific impact expected. Information will be made available in accessible formats. Accessible formats are being made available. <i>Post-consultation:</i> 16.5% of respondents declared a limiting condition or disability, broadly in line with the Census.

Protected characteristic - Gender reassignment and identity

(Include people who identify across the trans* umbrella, not only those who have undergone gender reassignment surgery. This is inclusive of girls and or/women, men and/or boys, non-binary and genderfluid people and people who are transitioning) *Trans is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth.

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure		Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
	Yes	Choose an item.			No specific impact expected.

Protected characteristic - Marriage and Civil Partnership

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
	Yes	Choose an item.		No specific impact expected.

Protected characteristic – Pregnancy and Maternity

(Include people who are pregnant in or returning to the workplace after pregnancy. Could also include working parents.)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
	Yes	Choose an item.		No specific impact expected.

Protected characteristic – Race or ethnicity

(include on the basis of colour, nationality, citizenship, ethnic or national origins)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
		High		Directly, all residents are able to take part in the consultation. Indirectly, The Rushmoor has a large Nepali community, it may be difficult to get their views on the formation of parish councils. Alternative consultation methods will be considered to include these groups. <i>Post-consultation:</i> Nepali residents were under-represented (0 responses).

Protected characteristic – Religion or belief

(include no faith)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
	Yes	Choose an item.		No specific impact expected.

Protected characteristic - Sex

(Under the Equality Act 2010 and following the 2025 Supreme Court ruling on 15 April 20205, a person's legal sex is defined as their biological sex as recorded at birth. Trans individuals are still protected from discrimination under the characteristic of gender reassignment.)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
	Yes	Choose an item.		No specific impact expected.

Protected characteristic - Sexual Orientation

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

(Include people from across the LGBTQ+ umbrella, for example, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual or asexual.)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
	Yes	Choose an item.		No specific impact expected.

Protected characteristic - Other

(e.g. people on low incomes, people living in poverty, looked after children, people with care experience, people who are homeless, people with mental health problems, people who are prison leavers, people affected by menopause, people affected by menstruation and/or period poverty)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
	Yes	Medium		Armed Forces: Positive recognition of armed forces community. A higher proportion of veterans responded (8.5% vs 6.7% in Census). Poverty: Residents expressed strong concerns about council tax rises.

Screening Decision	Outcome
Neutral or Positive – no full EIA needed*.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Negative – Low Impact – full EIA at the service director's discretion*.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Negative – Medium or High Impact – must complete a full EIA.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Annex 3: Equality Impact Assessment

Is a full EIA required? Service decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is a full EIA required? [Policy Team] sign off recommendation: Alex Shiell	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Flag for DPIA (will include engagement that collects personal data). [Policy Team]:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Flag for ethics (high risk / will involve engagement with vulnerable residents):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No