

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE UPDATE

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Head of Service:</b>                         | Jackie King, Chief Executive |
| <b>Report Author</b>                            | Piero Ionta                  |
| <b>Wards affected:</b>                          | (All Wards);                 |
| <b>Urgent Decision? (yes/no)</b>                | No                           |
| <b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b> | N/A                          |
| <b>Appendices (attached):</b>                   | None                         |

### Summary

This report outlines the progress made on the Council's 2025-2027 Strategic Priority 1.

### Recommendation (s)

#### The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the update and progress made as set out in the report below.

## 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 This report is the first opportunity to update this Committee as to the Community Governance Review (CGR) Strategic Priority that falls within its Terms of Reference.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 At its 6 May 2025 meeting, Full Council approved seven Strategic Priorities to be delivered in 2025-2027. The revised Priorities replaced the Council's Four-Year Plan and focused its strategic delivery in the context of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) timescales.

- 2.2 This report covers the Strategic Priority 1, which stated:

*Creation of new local government entities*

*On successful creation, transfer of assets (subject to financial viability) as part of Priority 4*

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2.3 It should be noted that the second limb of this strategic priority, in respect of the transfer of strategic assets, has not been progressed at this stage of the CGR process, as detailed within the recent report brought to full Council.

2.4 As a detailed report was brought to full Council on 9 December 2025, there is little to add save to ensure that this Committee is aware of the timeline adopted by Full Council and the next steps, as summarised below:

2.4.1 Full Council at its meeting held on 9 December 2025, determined to proceed to the next stage of the CGR;

2.4.2 A list of recommendations were adopted and are currently subject to a further public consultation that started on 16th December 2025 and ends on 1st February 2026

2.4.3 An Extraordinary Full Council is now in the process of being scheduled to be held on 11th March 2026 to consider the outcome of the consultation and to determine if a Reorganisation Order will be made at that meeting.

### 3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 No direct implications.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 No direct implications.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No direct implications.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None

### 4 Financial Implications

4.1 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the content of this report.

### 5 Legal Implications

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5.1 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the content of this report.

## 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- At its meeting on the 6 May 2025, the Council agreed that the investigation into the creation of parish councils would be the Council's number one priority.

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No direct implications.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** No direct implications.

6.5 **Partnerships:** No direct implications.

6.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** Members are reminded of a report brought to Full Council on 9 December 2025 with the title "Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – Update" that sets out the recent decision by the Secretary of State to create an East and West Surrey unitary, with election held to their predecessor Shadow authorities on 7 May 2026.

## 7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

### **Previous reports:**

- None

### **Other papers:**

- None