

**Report of the Democracy and General Purposes Committee held on 13 September 2023 – Community Governance Review (Parishes) – Review Outcome**

<b>Timetable</b>	
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Democracy and General Purposes Committee	13 September 2023
Council	27 September 2023

<b>Wards affected</b>	All
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**Executive Summary**

At its meeting on 13 September 2023 the Democracy and General Purposes Committee agreed the Community Governance Review and recommended to Council that the outcome of the review be adopted and delegated authority be given to the Director of Strategy Insight and Governance to give effect to Council's resolution.

**This report makes the following recommendation to the Council:**

1. That the outcome of the Community Governance Review, as set out at Appendix 1, be adopted; and
  2. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Strategy Insight and Governance to give effect to the Council's resolution.
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# Report of the Democracy and General Purposes Committee held on 13 September 2023 – Community Governance Review (Parishes) – Review Outcome

## 1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Democratic and Electoral Services Manager presented the outcome of the Community Governance Review which was the culmination of 11 months' work, and highlighted that the Stage 2 consultation had resulted in a number of meaningful amendments to proposals, as set out in the report.
- 1.2 There was an update to the review which consisted of two elements, firstly a briefing on the process to be followed if the Review was implemented by Council, and secondly the updated table and review outcome on Parish Wards.
- 1.3 The briefing on the post Council process covered the permission required to alter parish boundaries that had been impacted by the Local Government Boundary Review, and requesting 'Related Alterations' to Borough Ward boundaries. It was highlighted that these processes would commence after Council, and delegated authority was therefore sought to the Director of Strategy Insight and Governance in order to be able to implement Council's decision. It was also noted that finalising of Borough Ward related alterations via the Local Government Boundary Commission for England might not take place until February/March 2024.
- 1.4 The Committee considered the review outcome and in response to questions raised by Visiting Members the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager clarified that a leaflet had been circulated to areas which were significantly impacted by the review; Barming, Loose and the changed areas around Grove Green and Weaving. It was highlighted that the Stage 2 consultation had received responses from around the Thurnham part of Weaving and that had resulted in amendments to the proposals put forward.
- 1.5 The Committee expressed support for the review outcome and the work carried out to deliver it. However, they wanted a firmer proposal on the proposed review timescale recommended in response to the interest shown from the Grove Green area not covered by the consulted proposals.
- 1.6 **RESOLVED:** That
  1. The Community Governance Review set out at Appendix 1 to the report, with the additional information provided in the update, be approved;
  2. The Council be recommended to:
    - (i) Adopt the outcome of the review; and
    - (ii) Give delegated authority to the Director of Strategy Insight and Governance to give effect to the Council's resolution; and
  3. A report on whether to conduct a Community Governance Review in the area of Grove Green and Weaving be considered within 2 years.

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## **2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND WHY NOT RECOMMENDED**

2.1 The Committee considered the options outlined in the report.

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## **3. REPORT APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Community Governance Review 2022-2023

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## **4. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Democracy and General Purposes Committee Report – 13 September 2023  
– Community Governance Review \(Parishes\) – Review Outcome](#)