

Policy and Resources Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	9 September 2026
Report Title	Community Governance Review (CGR) Delegation
EMT Lead	Lisa Fillery, Director of Resources
Head of Service	Stephanie Curtis, Head of Policy and Transformation
Lead Officer	Sarah Porter, Transformation and Project Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That Policy and Resources Committee recommends that Council delegates authority to the Head of Legal and Director of Resources to complete all necessary legal and financial formalities to implement the Community Governance Review (CGR) recommendations.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summaries the requirement for an officer delegation in order to progress the implementation of the Community Governance Review (CGR) recommendations.

2 Background, Context and Proposals

- 2.1 It was agreed by Council on the 22 July 2026 to take forward the proposed Community Governance Review (CGR) recommendations. This includes the formation of a number of new parish/town councils; boundary amendments to a number of existing town/parish councils; a name change; and councillor number changes.
- 2.2 A Reorganisation Order will need to be created, to give effect to these recommendations. The Order will establish the new Parish/Town Councils, along with boundary changes, name change and councillor number changes required for the existing town and parish councils.
- 2.3 The Order needs to be made and signed before the Structural Change Order (SCO) for the new unitary council is 'made' – expected March 2027.
- 2.4 The Council must publicise the Order, including the maps of the affected areas with the reason for its decisions and make these available for public inspection. Once the Order is made, the Council must inform other necessary bodies including the Secretary of State.

- 2.5 Section 3(2) Local Government Finance (New Parishes) (England) Regulations 2008 provides that the billing authority (Swale Borough Council) has the power to anticipate a precept that must then be set out in the Reorganisation Order. The Section 151 Officer is the designated officer within law, and the Council's Constitution, who has overall responsibility for the financial affairs of Swale Borough Council and would therefore be responsible for calculating the initial precept for the new Parish/Town Councils.
- 2.6 This calculation may then be included in the Reorganisation Order and will be included in the Council Tax report to Full Council in February 2027. Once the Parish/Town Councils are legally established, with duly elected Town Councillors, it will then have the power to create its budget and base future precepts on this.
- 2.7 The necessary delegations are required for Officers to be able to implement the required legal and financial activities as outlined above.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Policy and Resources Committee recommends that Council delegates authority to the Head of Legal and Director of Resources to complete all necessary legal and financial formalities to implement the Community Governance Review (CGR) recommendations.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 To not provide this delegation – this is not recommended as this would prevent the implementation of the CGR recommendations previously agreed by Council, with new parish/town councils not being able to be legally formed.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 No consultation has been undertaken or is proposed.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	This proposal supports the corporate plan priority – running the council.
Financial, Resource and Property	There are no financial, resource or property implications for this proposal.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	In order to progress the formation of the Orders for the implementation of the CGR recommendations, there is a requirement for this Delegation to be agreed. Without which, officers will not be able to progress with the CGR.

Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications for this proposal.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	There are no environment and climate/ecological emergency implications for this proposal.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no health and wellbeing implications for this proposal.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	There are no safeguarding implications for this proposal.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	There are no risk management/health and safety implications for this proposal.
Equality and Diversity	There are no equality and diversity implications for this proposal.
Privacy and Data Protection	There are no privacy and data protection implications for this proposal.
Local Government Reorganisation	The undertaking of a CGR ensures that all levels of governance within the borough have been reviewed ahead of LGR. This ensures that local government best meets the needs of local communities.

7 Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

8 Background Papers

Full Council 22 July 2026 -

<https://democracy.swale.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=128&MId=4452>