



By Tony Murphy

We published a (still available) article in September about the Borough wide CGR and the initial consultation which closed on 19<sup>th</sup> September. The purpose of this article is to tell you what happens next (or what the intentions are!).

Democratic Services (of SHBC) will consider the submissions made and create Draft Recommendations in the period to 10<sup>th</sup> October. Hopefully to be published immediately, or soon after, as any Public Questions must be submitted by 5.30pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, in preparation for the Full SHBC meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Questions can be presented verbally or spoken to the meeting on your behalf.

All being well, these Draft Recommendations will be put out for consultation from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> December. This is a 'formal' consultation, which should be on government guidelines and is about the specific recommendations being considered. Remember that, at a high level, a CGR ought to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services – this latter being variable depending on local needs and the extent to which some matters are to be devolved by the Unitary Authority (UA).

Then there will be the formulation of Final Recommendations from 8<sup>th</sup> December to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and their presentation to Full council on 18<sup>th</sup> February. A declaration of the outcome is due to be made on 26<sup>th</sup> April with Parish Council elections under any new arrangements in May 2027.

This is entirely from an SHBC perspective and may be the subject of change depending on the government and formation of the UA's.

