

Community Governance Review - Consultation Briefing Note No. 24-03

Service: Legal and Governance
Date Prepared: 12 February 2024
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Background

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a process to provide opportunity to review and make changes to governance arrangements to town and parish councils. This is to ensure that they continue to be reflective of the identity and interest of local communities, and that they are as efficient and effective in their governance as possible.

This note is further to Briefing Note 23-27 announcing the commencement of a Community Governance Review for 2023/24.

Draft recommendations

Following analysis of all relevant information the Electoral Review Committee has formed draft recommendations for the areas listed above, which it will now consult upon.

It should be noted that most of the proposed changes relate to very minor proposals to correct apparent electoral boundary anomalies. In those cases, there may not have been previous engagement with the local parish councils prior to the consultation.

Parishes where recommendations for governance changes have been made:

- Mere and Zeals
- Trowbridge and North Bradley
- Salisbury (Dorset Rd/Cambridge Rd)
- Royal Wootton Bassett and Brinkworth
- Broad Town and Clyffe Pypard
- Chippenham (Ray Close)
- Trowbridge (Frampton Court)
- Calne and Calne Without (Low Lane)
- Westbury East (Millstream Cottages)
- Wilcot, Huish and Oare, and West Overton (Heath Cottage)
- Bradford on Avon (Kingston Road)
- Melksham (Bolwell Place)

- Calne (High Street)

A consultation on the proposed changes will take place from 12 February – 18 March 2024.

The full Draft Recommendation document and the online survey can be found at the council's webpage below:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr>

Public meetings

The Committee will also hold a public meeting to receive representations in respect of the proposals relating to Mere and Zeals parishes. This note will be republished when the date has been arranged and provided to the relevant councils to publicise.

Reasonable numbers of hard copies of the consultation materials will be available upon request. The council will contact parishes through this briefing note. Letters will be sent to households in areas proposed to be transferred to another parish with details of the consultation.

Next steps

The Committee will analyse responses to the consultation and will then determine whether to confirm its final recommendations, to be considered at Full Council at an appropriate meeting in 2024. It may decide to amend its proposals and undertake further consultations.

Any changes to electoral arrangements for parishes, arising from the Review, would come into effect from the next scheduled ordinary parish council elections in May 2025. Any changes to the areas of parishes would have to be effective from the start of the financial year on 1 April 2025.

Due to the nature of some recommendations consent would be required from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for some changes.