

Community Governance Review

Parishes within the following Parish Council areas: Vale of Allen Parish Council, Winterborne Farringdon Parish Council, Chickerell Town Council and Weymouth Town Council

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Terms of Reference

Published on 24 October 2022

1. Introduction

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the Council's area to consider one or more of the following:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election, council size (the number of councillors to be elected to council), and parish warding); and,
- grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes;
- Other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings.

A Community Governance Review is required to take into account:

- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will:

- be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- be effective and convenient.

If the Council is satisfied that the recommendation of a Community Governance Review would ensure that community governance within the area under review will reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient, the Council makes a Reorganisation Order.

Why is the Council carrying out this Community Governance Review?

The Council is required to keep its area under review every 10-15 years. Following the creation of Dorset Council, and a number of requests from Parishes for a Review, it was

deemed appropriate to undertake a Review of the whole principal council area, rather than dealing with review requests piecemeal. During the public consultation period from 28 February 2022 to 23 May 2022 in respect of draft recommendations published by the Council, a number of alternative proposals were put forward that Dorset Council wants to study further, and also to carry out public consultation in respect of the alternatives put forward. However, due to the statutory timetable, it was not possible to carry out a full and detailed public consultation prior to the end date of the Review in July 2022.

Dorset Council agreed to remove a limited number of parishes from the Review commenced in July 2021 and to undertake a further Review to ensure that residents of the areas affected and other interested parties had an opportunity to review and comment on the proposals.

Scope of the Review

The Review will consider the following parishes:

All parishes forming the Vale of Allen Grouped parish council, namely the parishes of Crichel, Gussage All Saints, Gussage St Michael, Hinton and Witchampton.

Chickerell

Weymouth

All parish forming the Winterborne Farringdon Grouped parish council, namely the parishes of Bincombe, Whitcombe, Winterborne Came, Winterborne Herrington and Winterborne Monkton.

2. **Consultation**

How the Council proposes to conduct consultations during the Review?

Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, the Council must consult local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review. The Council will therefore:

- publish a Notice and these Terms of Reference on the Council's website via www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/community-governance-review and arrange for copies to be available for public inspection at County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ during normal office hours;
- send a copy of the Notice and these Terms of Reference to all parish clerks of the areas affected, and to the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils;
- seek to arrange for the notice to be published on parish council websites and notice boards; and
- send a copy of the Notice and these Terms of Reference to all local Members of Parliament.

Before making any recommendations, the Council will take account of any representations received. The Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the Community Governance Review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them.

3. **Timetable for the Community Governance Review**

The Council has to complete a Community Governance Review within twelve months from the day on which the Council publishes the Terms of Reference. A Community Governance Review is concluded on the day on which the Council publishes the recommendations made by the Community Governance Review.

Timetable

| Action | Timeline | Details |
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| Report to Full Council | Thursday 20 October 2022 | Council approves the principle of the Community Governance Review and its Terms of Reference. |
| Publish Terms of Reference | Monday 24 October 2022 (The Review must be completed within 12 months of the date of publication). | Publish Terms of Reference and notify stakeholders of the commencement of the Review. |
| Prepare draft consultation document and invite initial submissions | 1 November 2022 – 28 December 2022 (8 weeks) | Initial submissions invited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • town and parish councils • Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) • Member of Parliament • local groups and interested parties Publish proposals on Dorset Council website. |
| Consider submissions | 3 January 2023 – 3 February 2023 | Consider any submissions/representations and prepare report of draft recommendations for Full Council on 14 February 2023. |

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| Publish draft recommendations | 20 February 2023 – 17 April 2023 (8 weeks) | <p>Publish draft recommendations for further consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all local government electors • all town and parish councils • DAPTC • Member of Parliament • local groups and interested parties. <p>Publish draft recommendations on Dorset Council website.</p> |
| Make final recommendations | 11 May 2023 Full Council meeting | Consider any further submissions/representations and prepare final recommendations for report to Full Council. |
| Publish final recommendations | May 2023 | Publish final recommendations and make Order. |