

Community Governance Review

Briefing Note No. 26-06

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This note sets out details of a public survey being undertaken as part of the Community Governance Review as set out in Briefing Note 25-09

Further details can be found on the following [webpage](#)

What are Community Governance Reviews?

1. 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 can be.

What can a Community Governance Review change?

2. A Community Governance Review can make a number of changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements including:
 - the alteration to, merger or grouping of, creation or abolition of parishes;
 - the naming of parishes and adoption of alternative styles for new parishes (the naming process can also be undertaken under S75 of the LGA 1972);
 - parish council size. e.g. number of councillors to be elected, and warding arrangements;
 - any other electoral arrangements.
3. A Community Governance Review is not responsible for the number of boundaries of Unitary Divisions of Wiltshire Council. That is a process known as an Electoral Review and is conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). In certain circumstances a Community Governance Review may request minor alteration to a Unitary Division as a consequence of other changes, but this must be agreed by the LGBCE.

Areas included in this review

4. At its [meeting](#) on 15 October 2025 the Electoral Review Committee agreed areas to be included in a Community Governance Review and the scope of the reviews in those areas.
5. On 20 November 2025 Wiltshire Council published terms of reference for a Community Governance Review for the following parish areas:

Devizes:

- a. Bishops Cannings, Bromham, Bulkington, Cheverell Magna, Coulston, Devizes, Easterton, Erlestoke, Etchilhampton, Little Cheverell, Market Lavington, Marston, Potterne, Poulshot, Rowde, Seend, Stert, Urchfont, West Lavington, Worton.

Marlborough:

- b. Aldbourne, Avebury, Baydon, Berwick Bassett, Chilton Foliat, East Kennett, Fyfield, Marlborough, Mildenhall, Ogbourne St Andrew, Ogbourne St George, Preshute, Ramsbury, Savernake, West Overton, Winterbourne Monkton.

Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade:

- c. Braydon, Broad Town, Broad Hinton, Clyffe Pypard and Bushton, Cricklade, Latton, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze, Lyneham and Bradenstoke, Marston Maisey, Purton, Royal Wootton Bassett, Tockenham, Winterbourne Bassett.

Public surveys

6. Following meetings on 26 March and 15 April, as part of its information gathering process, the Electoral Review Committee is conducting a consultation of the proposals in relation to some of the areas listed above.
7. The consultation surveys for each of the following areas can be accessed from the main [CGR webpage](#) :
 - 1 – Purton and Lydiard Millicent
 - 2 – Royal Wootton Bassett
 - 3 – Devizes and Bishops Cannings
 - 4 – Devizes, Rowde and Potterne
8. Before making its draft recommendations, the Committee also undertook pre-consultation information gathering, including sessions between representatives of the Committee and affected unitary councillors, and where requested sessions with Town and Parish Councils in the review area.
9. In addition to briefing notes and advertisement through local Area Board meetings and the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)

newsletter, town and parish councils impacted are urged to publicise the details within their local communities.

10. Letters will also be sent to any household within one of the areas proposed to be transferred from one parish to another, providing information and inviting them to submit comments to the consultation.
11. The council would strongly encourage that responses to any recommendation be made using its online survey. This will be accessible from the webpage provided above.
12. However, a physical response can be filled in and posted to the County Hall address listed at the top of this letter. You may make a copy of the form if multiple people wish to complete their own response. Further details can also be requested from CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk

Community Governance Review – next steps

13. The Electoral Review Committee will analyse all responses to its draft recommendations and consider them along with other relevant information. It will then prepare final recommendations for each area if appropriate, or it may amend or withdraw the recommendations.
14. Any final recommendations will be considered by a future meeting of Full Council. Any change, if confirmed, would take effect at the next elections in May 2029.
15. Details of future meeting dates can be viewed on the Electoral Review Committee meeting page [here](#).