

**Community Governance
Review- Consultation
Briefing Note No. 22-08**

Service: Legal and Governance
Date Prepared: 18 March 2022
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Background

A Community Governance Review is a process where the governance arrangements of a parish may be altered by Wiltshire Council. This requires a vote by Full Council, with the process overseen and recommendations made by the Electoral Review Committee.

This note is further to Briefing Note 21-18 advising Members of the commencement of a Community Governance Review for 2021/22, and Briefing Note 21- 25 on commencement of a public survey on potential governance changes as part of the information gathering phase.

Stage 2

As part of Stage 2 of the review process, the committee resolved to undertake a public survey in relation to all relevant proposals which it received in relation to the areas included within the review. The survey ran from 15 November 2021 to 6 January 2022.

A total of 370 responses were received to the surveys, along with other information received from emails, public online meetings and online information gathering sessions.

Draft Recommendations

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

The consultation will run from 18 March to 5 April 2022

The full Draft Recommendation document, an interactive map and the online survey can be found at the council's webpage:

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

Any changes to electoral arrangements for parishes, arising from the current Community Governance Review, would need to come into effect at 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.

The survey on the draft recommendations is available online from 18 March 2022, however in addition, all residents living in any area proposed to be transferred to another parish, would be written to and receive a list of all recommendations, along with a hard copy response form. The survey can then be completed by post if preferred or if no internet access was available.

Further details relevant to each area can also be requested by mail or telephone as appropriate.

The Review has included engagement with parishes on proposals once these have been received, online sessions with initially affected parish councils and unitary councillors, online public meetings on submitted proposals, and briefing notes.

Public meetings

The Committee will hold the following public meetings in April 2022:

- **Calne & Surrounding Parishes - Tuesday 5 April – 7.00pm, at Calne Town Hall**
- **Malmesbury & Surrounding Parishes - Thursday 21 April – 7.00pm, at Malmesbury Town Hall**

The council will communicate this with parishes through this briefing note and press releases. The letter sent to residents in potentially affected areas notes the details of the public meetings and advises them to check the website for any further updates.

Next step

The committee will analyse responses to the consultation and will then determine whether to formulate its final recommendations, to be considered at council in July 2022.