



Dorset
Council

Community Governance Review of Dorset Parishes

The Process

- Responsibility falls to the principal Council (Dorset Council).
- Can be triggered by:
 - ✓ A request from a Parish
 - ✓ A community petition
 - ✓ A decision by the principal council
- Requirement for principal council to carry out a review every 10-15 years.
- A review must be completed within 12 months of the publication of the terms of reference of the Review.
- Any changes take effect at the next scheduled elections ie 2024 in Dorset.

What does a Review cover?

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes (grouping or de-grouping parishes)
- Increasing or decreasing the number of Councillors
- Creating ward boundaries or changing existing Warding arrangements
- Changes to Parish names
- Correcting minor boundary anomalies.
- Changing a parish council into a parish meeting

Timetable

- Publication of Terms of reference that sets out what will be covered – in this case it will be a review of all parishes that sit within the Dorset Council area (July 2021).
- Public consultation for 12 weeks seeking proposals/initial submissions.(5 August to 28 October 2021)
- Consideration of consultation responses and preparation of draft recommendations. (to be agreed at Full Council - December 2021)
- Public consultation on draft recommendations. (20 December 2021 – 28 February 2022)
- Consideration of further responses and then publication of final recommendations. (to be agreed at Full Council – April 2022)

Considerations

- The need to secure that community governance within the area under review:
 - reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area.
 - is effective and convenient.
- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.
- The impact on electorate size of future development within the next 5 years.

Mapping

- We are working hard with colleagues to try to find an electronic mapping solution that you will be able to use to plot your proposals to identify if they meet electoral equality.
- Meet with colleagues later this week !

Suggested next steps prior to the formal commencement of the Review?

- parish councils start talking with their residents at an early stage. Whilst the 12 week consultation period may sounds like a long time, this will pass very quickly.
- It is important when considering any submissions that you ensure that they achieve electoral equality – ie each Councillor will represent roughly the same number of electors.
- If parishes are proposing changes, we will ask that you provide information about how this will ensure community cohesion eg what are the links within the community that leads you to recommend that certain areas should be linked together eg in the same ward or parish.
- If parishes are seeking a change to the boundaries of the parish, we suggest that they start talking to the other parishes affected. Decisions are much more straight forward for Dorset Council if there is community agreement.

Any Questions???