



SOMERSET COUNCIL

Community Governance Review of Huish Episcopi and Langport Parishes

Terms of Reference

Introduction

Somerset Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review of Huish Episcopi and Langport parishes following receipt of valid petitions signed by electors of both parishes. In undertaking the review, the Council will be guided by Part 4, Chapter 3, of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and the Local Government (Parish and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review (“CGR”) provides an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. It can take place for the whole or part of the Somerset Council area and can consider the following:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing Parishes;
- the naming of Parishes and the style of new Parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for Parishes including:
 - the ordinary year of election;
 - the number of Councillors to be elected; and
 - the warding (if any) of the Parish
- grouping Parishes under a common Parish Council or de-grouping Parishes

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
- is effective and convenient In doing so, the review will take into account:
 - the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
 - the size, population and boundaries of a local community or Parish If changes are made which affect the Somerset Council Electoral Division boundaries, the Council will ask the Local Boundary Commission to consider amending the Electoral Division boundaries to match.

Why undertake a Community Governance Review?

The Council has received a petition to undertake a review of parishes of Huish Episcopi and Langport following receipt of petitions signed by electors from each parish requesting the abolition of Huish Episcopi Parish Council and Langport Town Council and the creation of a

single Huish Episcopi and Langport Parish Council to cover the same geographical area as the two parishes.

Somerset Council will also consider, if a new parish council is constituted, whether or not it should be warded and the number of parish councillors to be elected.

Who will undertake the Review?

As the relevant Principal Authority, Somerset Council will oversee the review and approve the final recommendations. The matter will be determined under delegated powers by the Council's Constitution and Governance Committee

Draft Review Timetable

Event	Date
Council approve Terms of Reference and Timetable	10 February 2025
Consultation with relevant stakeholders closes	Friday 11 April 2025
Recommendations considered by Constitution and Governance Committee	Tuesday 29 April 2025
Consultations on draft recommendations	Summer 2025
Final recommendations considered by Committee	Autumn 2025
Order prepared to include implementation date by	1 December 2025
Implementation	1 April 2027

Making representations

If you wish to make written representations on the community governance review, please do so via e-mail: cgr@somerset.gov.uk

Alternatively, submissions may be sent by post CGR- Electoral Services, Somerset Council, County Hall The Crescent, Somerset TA1 4DY. Should you require any further information regarding the review, please contact Steven Lake – Electoral Services Manager, at the email address above or by phone 01749 341 236.