



Meeting	Extraordinary Full Council
Date	20 November 2023
Report Title	Community Governance Review (CGR) - Suggested Amendments
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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider two proposed amendments that have been submitted to Wiltshire Council as part of their ongoing Community Governance Review (CGR).
- 1.2 To consider if there are any further anomalies in ward boundaries that Council would support to be submitted to be reviewed by Wiltshire Councils' Electoral Review Committee as part of this process.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 A CGR is a process to review and make changes to governance arrangements for town and parish councils and parish areas. 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.
- 2.2 A CGR can make a number of changes to parish governance when there is clear evidence to do so:
  - i. it can make changes to parish areas - including changes to boundaries between parishes, mergers of two or more parishes, creating a new parish out of part of one or more existing parishes.
  - ii. it can make changes to electoral arrangements within parish areas - including changes to the number of parish councillors, introducing or changing parish warding arrangements.
  - iii. it can accommodate changing the name of a parish (though this can also be undertaken through a process under S75 of the Local Government Act 1972)
  - iv. it can accommodate the grouping together of parishes under a common parish council.
- 2.3 A review is undertaken for reasons including changes in population, housing growth and anomalous boundaries. The last CGR for Chippenham took place in 2019/20.
- 2.4 CGR decisions must ensure that arrangements reflect the identity and interests of local communities and ensure effective and convenient local governance. Any other factors such as level of precept cannot be considered.

- 2.5 The Town Council were contacted as there are two schemes which impact Chippenham. The Head of Planning and the Head of Democratic Services met with representatives from Wiltshire Council to go through the current proposals and the CGR process. A timetable of the process is available at **APPENDIX A**.

### **3.0 PROPOSALS FOR CHIPPENHAM**

- 3.1 Wiltshire Council do not require a formal Town Council view at this stage, these suggestions will be considered by the Electoral Committee. However, Council is asked to consider the proposals outlined below and consider whether these are supported or if there are any additional comments to be taken into consideration. The Electoral Review Committee to decide whether to take additional submissions forward or not.

- 3.2 **Amendment 1: Ref: LAC01, Lacock/Chippenham, identified as anomalous during the 2019/20 review, (Rowden Lane).** Further information is attached at **APPENDIX B**.

#### Boundary changes

As part of the 2019/2020 Review involving Chippenham and Lacock parishes, the Electoral Review Committee recommended, and it was agreed, to transfer an area of land containing new housing within the new Chippenham Lowden and Rowden Division from Lacock to Chippenham. The area also included the small area of Rowden Lane, a rural hamlet accessed through the town. The review of Rowden Lane is to explore whether the previously agreed new boundary line is best placed where it currently is. This boundary change was given a temporary 'approval' under the previous CGR review, Councillors are being asked to consider whether the temporary change should become permanent. A map of the previous ward boundary between Chippenham and Lacock in this area is attached at **APPENDIX C**.

#### Reason for Request

A review to look at the precise boundary around Rowden Lane, to see if it is possible to adjust to improve local governance and community cohesion for the communities concerned.

- 3.3 **Amendment 2: Ref: CHI01, Chippenham, raised by Ward Wiltshire Councillor, (Ray Close).** Further information is attached at **APPENDIX D**.

#### Anomaly - Minor changes to a boundary

To review an area where a discrepancy has been identified, with some properties being in the wrong electoral division. A review has been requested by the divisional member for Chippenham Pewsham division, to look at several properties in Ray Close, Chippenham, which currently sit in the Hardens and central division. The request is for a boundary change to incorporate the properties within the Pewsham division.

#### Reason for Request

To carry out a review of an area where a minor boundary or other anomalous arrangement has been identified.

- 3.4 Councillors are asked to make any further suggestions for minor amendments or anomalies that they would like to be forwarded to Wiltshire Council to consider as part of the review. The Electoral Review Committee will discuss and determine whether they will be progressed or not and this will be followed by draft recommendations in late December and a public consultation in the New Year.

#### **4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES**

4.1 Responding to the CGR will contribute to the following corporate priorities;

- Play an active role in the future development of the town through collaboration with partners, stakeholders, and our community.
- Maintain effective and efficient governance and management of resources.

#### **5.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no staffing implications.

#### **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Any changes made could result in a financial implication on the precept due to changes in the tax base.

#### **7.0 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 This report is administrative and does not have any known direct Climate and Ecological impact.

#### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 CGRs are undertaken by Wiltshire Council in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

#### **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Council consider whether there are any additional comments to be submitted to Wiltshire Council in relation to the following two schemes:

- i) Ref: LAC01, Lacock/Chippenham, Rowden Lane, identified as anomalous during the 2019/20 review.
- ii) Ref: CHI01, Chippenham, Ray Close, raised by Ward Wiltshire Councillor.

9.2 That Council consider whether there are any further minor anomalies that would be supported by Council to be forwarded to Wiltshire Council for them to take into consideration as part of this review process.

9.3 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to submit comments to Wiltshire Council accordingly.