



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Boundary Review Committee

4 September 2025

Community Governance Review 2025

Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
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Wards Affected:	All wards

1.0 Recommendations for decision:

1.1 It is recommended that the Boundary Review Committee:-

- a) Approves the adoption of the proposals contained in **Appendix B** (those proposals to take forward following consultation) with the associated maps in **Appendix E**;
- b) Approves the adoption of the proposals in **Appendix C** subject to the amendments set out therein (those areas where it is recommended that the current arrangements should, largely be retained) with the associated maps in **Appendix E**;
- c) Notes the contents of **Appendix D** and associated maps in **Appendix E** in respect of those areas where further consultation might be required;
- d) Confirms what, if any, further proposals should be put out to consultation; and
- e) Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Boundary Review Committee, to make all necessary arrangements to allow for further consultation and to publish the relevant consultation documents.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Committee with further information following the last meeting of the Committee on 30 July 2025, including recommended proposals for adoption, areas where it is recommended that the current arrangements should be maintained (subject to some minor amendments) and those areas where, following the direction of Committee members, further consultation may be desirable before the Committee reaches a view.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 At its meeting of 13 February 2025, the Boundary Review Committee agreed to commence a Community Governance Review in respect of the Town and Parish Council arrangements within Telford & Wrekin. A Community Governance Review is undertaken in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Statutory guidance under the Act provides further information that the Committee is required to take into account when undertaking a review. Earlier reports to the Committee summarise this guidance.
- 3.2 The statutory guidance provides significant detail on the important role that Town and Parish Councils play within their communities, enabling them to build cohesion, address social exclusion and deprivation and cultivating respect amongst communities. It is clear, from the guidance that, whatever the arrangements, there should be strong and accountable local government and leadership with Town and Parish Councils being able to take the lead on local matters in some cases whilst, at other times, they may act as an important stakeholder or partner to key organisations such as the principal council, police, fire and the private sector.
- 3.3 There is no 'one size fits all' approach to community governance with the guidance setting out that in some communities there will be specific characteristics which help to define a parish, for example representing particular groups whilst, in others, the community may coalesce around particular interests such as lifestyle groups or leisure pursuits.
- 3.4 When considering the size and population of local communities and / or parishes, the guidance clearly sets out that it is often these matters that influence whether or not it is going to be viable. It also identifies the range of council sizes at a local level, from small hamlets in which the council represents 50 residents to large towns in which the council may represent more than 40,000 electors. Additional guidance is also available in respect of recommended councillor numbers. This guidance is limited in its usefulness in so much as there are differing views as to optimum councillor numbers and the indicative ranges do not align within the two guidance documents. As a result, when it comes to councillor numbers, wherever possible, the aim is to have equality of representation. However, it is not possible to deliver this in areas which comprise both large, highly-populated urban areas and large sparsely-populated rural areas. That being the case, there is also a need to consider quoracy within Councils and ensuring that smaller Town / Parish Councils are able to transact business.

First phase of consultation

- 3.5 The consultation process is set out in the statutory guidance and has been followed throughout this review.
- 3.6 The first phase of consultation which ran from 17 February 2025 until 14 April 2025 was aimed at inviting as many submissions as possible on what the Town and Parish arrangements should be in the future. At this stage, Telford & Wrekin Council did not provide any potential options for people to consider; rather, it was a case of there being a 'blank canvas' with an opportunity for people to share their views without any restrictions.
- 3.7 To support those wishing to make a submission in this first phase of consultation, a consultation pack was created setting out information on what a community governance review was, what it could take into account and details around the electorate for each local area within Telford & Wrekin. A survey was also created to help people shape their submission although there was no requirement to submit a survey response for a submission to be valid.
- 3.8 The consultation pack was shared with:-
- Local MPs;
 - Town and Parish Councils within Telford & Wrekin;
 - Community Groups within the Borough;
 - Chief Officer Group;
 - Community Centre Managers;
 - Telford Crisis Network Group;
 - Lloyds Bank Foundation;
 - Shropshire Association of Local Councils;
 - Shropshire Council;
 - Interfaith Council;
 - Strategic Partners; and
 - Ward Members
- 3.9 As well as sharing documents with those listed above, officers held a session that Clerks and Town / Parish Councillors were able to attend during which the community governance review process was explained and attendees had an opportunity to ask questions. Additionally, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Boundary Review Committee, together with officers, met with the Chair, and colleagues, of Shropshire Association of Local Councils ("SALC").
- 3.10 Officers also attended two sessions attended by Town and Parish Clerks during this first period of consultation.
- 3.11 A total of 292 responses were received comprising 219 completed surveys and 73 emails were received during this round of consultation. In addition, 8 emails were received requesting additional information.

Second phase of consultation

- 3.12 At its meeting on 12 May 2025, the Committee agreed the draft proposals to put out to consultation. These proposals were put forward having taken account of the statutory guidance in relation to Community Governance Reviews, the legislation and the responses received in the first round of consultation. The second phase of consultation ran from 19 May 2025 until 14 July 2025.
- 3.13 Again, a consultation pack was prepared which included a set of maps setting out the draft proposed town and parish boundaries and information regarding each area. This consultation pack was shared with the same individuals and organisations as set out in paragraph 3.7 above. Comments were sought on the proposals and submissions could be made by completing an online survey, by email or by letter.
- 3.14 Officers also attended 7 drop-in events where people could find out more information about the proposals. These took place at:-
- Southwater 1 library;
 - Madeley library;
 - Wellington library;
 - Newport library;
 - Brookside Community Centre;
 - Waters Upton Village Hall; and
 - Hub on the Hill, Sutton Hill
- 3.15 In addition, the radio station playing in all Council-owned leisure venues also publicised the review on an hourly basis to raise awareness of the review and to encourage residents to have their say.
- 3.16 During the second period of consultation more than 1,300 responses were received. These were provided to the Committee at its last meeting on 30 July 2025. For completeness, they are included again at **Appendix A**. In response to feedback about the presentation of these responses, they have been presented in a slightly different format. This Appendix is sorted into area based upon the **proposed Town / Parish Councils** put forward in the second round of consultation. Some have been included in more than one area based upon the comments they contain. Where a submission also included an attachment, this has been added as an Annex. Some submissions have been included in an “others” category – this is those submissions that are not capable of being identified as relating to a specific area.

4.0 Themes arising from consultation responses

- 4.1 Whilst there is no intention to repeat the consultation responses within this report, there are a few themes that should be noted by the Committee. These are outlined below:-

Amount of Precept

The precept is the sum that a Town / Parish Council levies for each household in its area to provide the services that it delivers. The precept amount is decided by the Town / Parish Council on an annual basis and is collected with Council Tax by Telford & Wrekin Council before being passed on to the relevant Town & Parish Council. The amount of precept charged by a Town / Parish Council can go up or down each year depending upon the budgetary needs of the relevant Council and the number of properties in the Council area at any time.

A number of submissions made comments regarding the precept a household currently pays or, alternatively, is anticipated to pay under new Town / Parish arrangements. This is understandable given the financial implications arising out of this.

However, the amount of precept that any Town / Parish Council may charge is not something that the legislation or the guidance sets out can be included in the Committee's considerations.

Reason for review

In some submissions, there was a misconception that a review could only look at those Town / Parish Councils that are considered to be 'failing'. This is not the case. It is considered best practice for a principal authority (in this case, Telford & Wrekin Council) to undertake a review of their areas every 10 or so years. Whilst a review was carried out in 2023/24, this concluded with no changes due to the Committee's concerns around the low level of engagement throughout the consultation periods. This was the first review undertaken within Telford & Wrekin since its inception.

Whilst it is the case that the review needs to consider whether or not the arrangements in place deliver "effective and efficient governance", it is not the case that only those Town or Parish Councils that are failing that should be subject to amendment. The review needs to consider all elements of the guidance with none of the criteria taking priority over the other. In addition, "effective and efficient governance" is not solely concerned with the effectiveness of a Town and Parish Council; equal consideration needs to be given to the efficiency of arrangements.

Parish meetings / Removal of Parish Councils

The Borough currently has 27 Town / Parish Councils and 2 Parish Meetings within its area. Submissions were received in respect of one area in particular (Horton ward of Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council) seeking the removal of Horton ward from the Parish Council and the creation of a Parish Meeting for Horton.

Whilst there is some sympathy for the well-articulated submissions that were received on this point, there is clear government guidance that an area that is currently within a Parish Council should not become unparished. That being the case, the suggestion to create a Parish Meeting cannot be supported.

Similarly, some submissions suggested that all Town and Parish Councils should be abolished. Again, for the same reasons, this is not capable of being supported.

Councillor numbers

As set out in paragraph 3.4 above, the guidance in relation to councillor numbers is of limited help in reaching a settled conclusion on appropriate councillor numbers. It was clear from a number of submissions that the recommendations, even in areas where the proposals were broadly supported, that a review of the recommended councillor numbers would be welcomed. Therefore, Members of the Committee will see that there are some proposals where changes to councillor numbers have been suggested.

- 4.2 It is clear from the submissions that some of the proposals contained in the second phase of consultation were particularly unwelcome whilst others attracted more support. It is worth reminding Committee members that, in cases such as these, obtaining unanimity in submissions is highly unlikely to occur and that the responses received during consultation are just one element that needs to be taken into account when deciding the outcome of the review.
- 4.3 Furthermore, it also worth mentioning that every change made will necessitate further changes elsewhere in order to ensure that the 'jigsaw' of the Borough's geography fits together as it should. Clearly, therefore, there might be instances where some changes are supported and clearly have benefit which result in consequential changes that are less well supported. This is the balancing exercise that the Committee needs to undertake when reaching a decision.

5.0 Current position

- 5.1 Members are now asked to consider the position in relation to those proposals contained in the attached **Appendices B to D with maps shown at Appendix E** which are each explained in more detail below:-

Appendix B

- 5.2 This Appendix contains the proposals that were put forward during the second phase of consultation which it is recommended the Committee should adopt for the reasons set out in the Appendix.
- 5.3 It should be noted that, in some cases, in response to consultation submissions, some changes have been proposed to councillor numbers. The table below summarises the position:-

Proposed Parish / Town Council	Original Proposed Councillor Numbers	Current Proposed Councillor Numbers
Chetwynd Aston, Woodcote & Church Aston	Ten	No change

Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council	Seventeen	No change
Ketley Parish Council	Eleven	No change to councillor numbers but the distribution between parish wards has been updated to better reflect the electorate in each.
Lilleshall Parish Council	Seven	No change
Muxton Parish Council	Five	Nine
Newport Town Council	Twelve	No change
Priorslee Parish Council	Five	Nine
St Georges & Donnington Parish Council	Seventeen	No change
Tibberton & Cherrington Parish Council	Six	No change
Wellington Town Council	Twenty-five	No change although the Town ward groupings have changed to deliver better electoral equality.
Wrockwardine Wood, Trench & Oakengates Town Council	Fifteen	No change

Appendix C

- 5.4 This Appendix details those Town / Parish Councils where it is recommended that the no changes are made and the current pre-existing arrangements should remain in place. The reasons for this are set out in the Appendix. The table below summarises the position in relation to this Appendix:-

Town / Parish Council	Councillor Numbers
Chetwynd Parish Council	Seven
Edgmond Parish Council	Thirteen
Preston upon the Weald Moors Parish Meeting	Not applicable
Eyton upon the Weald Moors Parish Meeting	Not applicable
Kynnersley Parish Council	Five
Waters Upton Parish Council	Six
Ercall Magna Parish Council	Thirteen

Appendix D

- 5.5 This Appendix sets out proposals for the Boundary Review Committee's consideration and, potentially, to undertake a further period of consultation on these proposals. This follows the meeting of the Committee where Members asked for further work to be done in relation to two specific areas; namely the proposed The Nedge Parish Council and the proposals in relation to the Dawley / Horsehay / Lightmoor area which would have seen the current Dawley Hamlets Parish Council subsumed into other Town / Parish Councils.
- 5.6 In addition, having considered consultation responses, some alternative proposals in relation to Wrockwardine, Little Wenlock and Rodington are contained in this Appendix.
- 5.7 In relation to the proposals contained within this Appendix, the table below summarises the position:-

Original proposals	Changes proposed	Committee asked to:-
<p>Proposed creation of The Nedge Parish Council made up of the current:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council; and Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council 	<p>To review the proposals in light of Committee comments.</p> <p>Number of options:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave as per current arrangements; Create 2 new Parish Councils made up of Hollinswood, Randlay & Stirchley and standalone Brookside Parish; Leave Hollinswood & Randlay as per current arrangements and create standalone Stirchley and standalone Brookside; Leave Stirchley & Brookside as per current arrangements and create standalone Hollinswood and standalone Randlay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unless decision is to keep the current arrangements in place, Committee is asked to confirm which option, if any, to consult upon and the reasons for that decision; If one of the alternative proposals is considered appropriate for consultation, Committee to agree to seek specific proposals on potential names for any new Council(s); It is proposed that any consultation will be for a period of three weeks only.

<p>Proposed changes in the Dawley / Horsehay / Lightmoor area created by expanding the areas of Great Dawley and Lawley & Overdale resulting in the subsuming of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council into other areas.</p>	<p>To review the proposals in light of Committee comments; Updated proposal is that:- Lawley & Overdale Parish Council to take on the Smallhill Parish ward (polling district TLS) from Dawley Hamlets Parish Council; Great Dawley Town Council to take on part of the Town Centre parish ward (polling district TMH) from Lawley & Overdale Parish Council; The creation of a new Parish Council broadly comprising the areas of Horsehay, Lightmoor and Aqueduct (more information available in Appendix C); The Gorge Parish Council to lose Lightmoor parish ward to the new Parish Council referred to above and subsequent changes to councillor numbers as a result; Madeley Town Council to take on Nightingale Walk parish ward (polling district TWL) from Dawley Hamlets Parish Council</p>	<p>Confirm agreement to consult on the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of new Parish Council comprising broadly those areas made up of Horsehay, Lightmoor and Aqueduct; • Inviting specific submissions in terms of the name of the proposed new Parish Council area; • Proposed changes to The Gorge Parish Council as a result of the creation of new Parish Council; • Proposed amendments to Madeley Town Council to take on the Nightingale Walk parish ward (polling district TWL) from current Dawley Hamlets Parish Council <p>The remaining proposals in relation to Lawley & Overdale Parish Council and Great Dawley Town Council do not require a further period of consultation as these have already been consulted upon.</p>
<p>Proposed creation of Little Wenlock, Wrockwardine and Rodington Parish Council</p>	<p>To maintain the existing arrangements in respect of Little Wenlock Parish Council. Updated proposal to create a Wrockwardine & Rodington Parish Council.</p>	<p>Confirm agreement to consult on the creation of a new Wrockwardine & Rodington Parish Council.</p>

6.0 Next Steps

- 6.1 If the Committee agrees to undertake a further consultation for the areas outlined in this report and **Appendix D**, it will be asked to meet again to make its final decision. It is anticipated that that further meeting will take place in mid-October.
- 6.2 Following that meeting, steps will need to be undertaken to complete a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations to ensure that they reflect the updated Town and Parish Council arrangements (if any changes are made).
- 6.3 Furthermore, any Town or Parish Councils that are facing changes will need to agree how best to prepare for the future arrangements. This will include matters such as the distribution of assets, income and expenditure both until elections in May 2027 and beyond, staffing levels and similar. Some guidance has been shared with Town and Parish Councils already and, once the new arrangements are known, officers will make contact with the Clerks of affected Town and Parish Councils to provide further guidance.
- 6.4 Elections to the new Town and Parish arrangements will take place in May 2027 at the next scheduled local elections.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Depending upon the final arrangements that are agreed by the Boundary Review Committee, there may be a need to consider the impact on any Special Fund arrangements in respect of Town and Parish Councils.
- 7.2 Additionally, it should be noted that, where new Town or Parish Councils are created, the legislation sets out that they are able to delay the setting of their precept until October of the year in which the new Council takes effect. This is due to the fact that elections to the new Council will only take place in May 2027. Having said that, in the approach to May 2027, there will be a need for any new Town / Parish Councils to work in 'shadow form' to ensure that matters arising from the review are dealt with.

8.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 8.1 The legal implications are as set out in this report.

9.0 Ward Implications

- 9.1 The final arrangements decided upon by the Boundary Review Committee may have implications for particular Borough wards. These will be confirmed once the final arrangements have been confirmed.

10.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 10.1 Whilst the communities served by the current Town and Parish Councils have diverse needs, there are no direct health, social or economic implications arising

directly from the proposals contained in this report other than already set out in the body of this report.

11.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 11.1 There are no groups that are disproportionately affected by the proposals contained in this report.

12.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 12.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

13.0 Background Papers

- 1 Consultation Pack (phase 1)
- 2 [Report to Boundary Review Committee 13 February 2025](#)
- 3 [Report to Boundary Review Committee 12 May 2025](#)
- 4 Consultation Pack (phase 2)
- 5 Presentation to Boundary Review Committee 3 July 2025
- 6 [Report to Boundary Committee 30 July 2025](#)

14.0 Appendices

- A Phase 2 Consultation Responses
- B Adopt Proposals
- C Retain pre-existing parish arrangements
- D Consult on new draft proposed parish arrangements
- E Maps associated with Appendices B to D

15.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	26/08/2025	27/08/2025	RP
Finance	26/08/2025	27/08/2025	MB