

Telford and Wrekin Conservative Group

Response to Community Governance Review Consultation June 2025

Submission from the Telford and Wrekin Conservative Group

The Telford and Wrekin Conservative Group welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Community Governance Review Consultation of June 2025. We recognise the importance of strong, effective, and representative local governance to ensure that the voices of residents across Telford and Wrekin are heard and their interests safeguarded.

We appreciate the thoroughness of the consultation process and commend the council for seeking a wide range of perspectives before making any decisions on potential changes. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that any revisions to governance arrangements are made in a way that enhances local democracy, improves accountability, and maintains the unique identities of the communities within our borough.

We wish to highlight the following key points as part of our response:

- **Local Representation:** We support the principle of ensuring all communities have a fair and effective voice. Any proposed boundary changes or amendments to representation should seek to balance population growth with a commitment to community identity and historical ties.
- **Parish and Town Councils:** The role of parish and town councils is vital in representing local interests. We urge that any proposals fully consider the impact on these councils, ensuring that no area is left under-represented or disadvantaged by potential boundary changes.
- **Community Engagement:** We believe that engagement with residents, community groups, and local stakeholders is essential before any final decisions are made. Transparency and open communication must remain central throughout this process along with a clear explanation of any proposed changes.
- **Changes to governance structures** should deliver tangible benefits to local communities. We encourage a careful assessment of benefits associated with any proposed changes.
- **Preservation of Local Identity:** It is imperative that the individual character and heritage of our towns, villages, and neighbourhoods are respected and preserved as part of any review outcomes.

Some specific comments on the proposals are as a result of consulting with residents, community representatives and sitting Councillors.

The review is more extensive than it needs to be at this time. With significant developments included in the local plan a scaled down review would accommodate the more pressing changes where significant new housing developments have been made e.g. new Parish Councils for Muxton and Priorslee.

Specific response to the proposals are as follows:

NEWPORT: Support proposed changes

CHETWYND ASTON & CHURCH ASTON: Support proposed changes

LILLESHELL: Support proposed changes

CHETWYND & EDGMOND: Support option 1 (status quo)

TIBBERTON & CHERRINGTON: Support proposed changes

WATERS UPTON & ERCALL MAGNA: Support option 1 (status quo)

Both communities have a distinct identity and are geographically separated by a significant distance which includes an airfield.

Muxton: Support the separate Parish Council
The boundary of the new Parish Council should be the same as the Borough ward boundary. The new developments on Donnington Wood Way and at the top the Redhill should be included in the Muxton Parish boundary to continue to embrace the new residents as part of the existing community. The extra care facility on Donnington Wood Way was approved with community facilities for Muxton included in the planning application. Donnington Wood Way, Redhill and the A5 are the obvious and logical boundaries of the new Muxton Parish as opposed to the arbitrary proposed boundary which divides the existing community.

Priorslee: Support the separate Parish Council

St. Georges, Donnington, Wrockwardine Wood, Trench and Oakengates:

The proposals are not supported. Donnington and St. Georges are older well established communities. Residents of Donnington have more in common with Wrockwardine Wood and Trench whereas residents of St. Georges will identify more with Oakengates. In addition the proposals will split Wrockwardine Wood in two with the traditional areas of Wrockwardine Wood e.g. Summer Crescent, Cockshut Piece and The Nabb being placed in St Georges.

A more logical proposal and in keeping with the statutory principles of the review would be to merge Donnington (minus Redhill) with Wrockwardine Wood & Trench; and create a single Oakengates and St Georges Town Council which would better reflect current community identities.

Ketley:

Support the proposal

Eyton, Preston, Kynnersley and Hadley & Leegomery: Amended proposals

Wealdmoor Parish Council to include Kynnersley and Preston, Horton to have its own Parish Meeting being distinct and a predominantly rural community separate from Hadley and Leegomery. Eyton to remain as a Parish meeting due to their distinct and isolated rural location.

Hadley & Leegomery: Remove Horton as above and Apley Castle which is a distinct community with little connection to Hadley & Leegomery.

Great Dawley:

Amended proposals

The proposed Great Dawley Parish Council is too large for effective local governance with Little Dawley being 'swallowed up'. Residents would be better served and the statutory guidelines of the review adhered to by maintaining the current arrangements and incorporating the proposals set out by Dawley Hamlets Parish Council.

Lawley & Overdale:

Amended proposals

Town Centre (Lawley part) removed to Hollinswood & Randley (The Nedge) as residents will have little affinity to Lawley. Old Park Way is a more logical boundary.

The Gorge:

Proposal concerns

Due to geographical considerations the Lightmoor and Horsehay polling districts would be better represented if they were included in the Lawley Parish Council, the A4169 is a more logical boundary.

Nedge Parish Council:

Amended proposals

The proposal to set up The Nedge Parish Council will weaken the current local governance, therefore the current arrangements should continue.

Madeley Town Council:

Support the proposals

Wellington Town Council:

Amended proposals

Admaston, Bratton & Shawbirch to have their own Parish Council as they are a distinct urban area with shared local services.

Wrockwardine and Little Wenlock are geographically separated by The Wrekin and are two long established distinct communities and therefore should have their own Parish Councils.

Rodington should retain its own Parish Council.

In conclusion, the Telford and Wrekin Conservative Group remains committed to working constructively with the council and all stakeholders to help shape governance arrangements that reflect the needs and aspirations of our diverse communities. We look forward to further opportunities to contribute as the review progresses and thank the council for the opportunity to share our views.