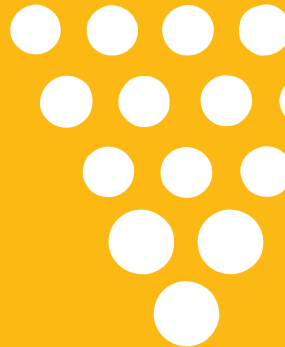




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Community governance review for Cornwall 2019



www.cornwall.gov.uk

Parish and Town Councils are the first tier of local government. They play a vital role in providing local services and involving people in their local community.

Cornwall has 213 civil parishes each with its own governance body. These include:

- a city council
- 28 town councils
- 167 parish councils
- a community council and
- 16 parish meetings

For convenience, they are generally referred to as “local councils” or “parish councils.”

Cornwall Council is currently undertaking a Community Governance Review for the whole of Cornwall. This provides an opportunity to review and make changes to governance arrangements at parish level. This is to ensure they are working as efficiently and effectively as they should be. It also ensures that they are reflective of the identity and interest of local communities. We will work closely with local councils and parish meetings and with the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) as part of this review.



What can the Community Governance Review change?

A Community Governance Review can make a number of changes to parish governance when there is clear evidence this would be an improvement:

- It can make changes to parish areas, including changes to boundaries between parishes, mergers of parishes or creating a new parish out of part of one or more existing parishes
- It can make changes to the number of parish councillors or introduce or change parish warding arrangements
- It can accommodate changing the name of a parish
- It can accommodate the grouping together of parishes under a common parish council.

Why has Cornwall Council decided to undertake a review now?

In 2018, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)'s review of Cornwall Council's electoral arrangements decided there will be 87 Cornwall Council electoral divisions from 2021. As part of this review, the Boundary Commission changed ward boundaries within 29 parishes. It makes sense to provide an opportunity to review wider governance arrangements in those parishes.

The last time a full review of community governance arrangements took place across most of Cornwall was in the 1970s. Since then many towns and villages have grown. Many of these developments have crossed parish boundaries or have created new communities with their own local identity.

The role of parish and town councils has also developed significantly since the 1970s. The Government sees Community Governance Reviews as an opportunity to ensure communities have effective community governance in place, with parish and town councils that can effectively make use of their new powers and responsibilities.

Cornwall Council has to ensure that community governance arrangements are:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and:
- Effective and convenient (this relates to the ability of parishes to provide services for its residents).

Any proposed governance arrangements will need to be considered in that light.



How does the Community Governance Review work?

Under the Local Government and Public Health Involvement Act, 2007 Cornwall Council is responsible for carrying out Community Governance Reviews. This is in accordance with government guidance. The conduct of the review will be overseen by the Council's Electoral Review Panel.

- In December 2018 we wrote to all town and parish councils to seek their initial views on whether a review was needed in their parish. We also attended the Cornwall Association of Local Councils conference on 16 February 2019 to talk about the process.
- In March we published the Terms of Reference and the timetable for the review on the Cornwall Council website. www.cornwall.gov.uk/governancereview
- Between the end of March and 17 July 2019, town and parish councils, local residents and other interested persons, groups or organisations, can provide a submission with evidence for any particular changes (including no

change) they want to make to the current governance arrangements. A submission form for this purpose is available on our website.

- The Council will consider all submissions received. The Electoral Review Panel will discuss them at their meetings in September and October and may ask those who made a submission to attend a meeting to answer further questions to help the Panel come to a view.
- In November 2019 Cornwall Council will publish its draft recommendations and undertake a 12 week public consultation to get feedback from local residents, town and parish councils and other interested groups or organisations.
- The feedback from the public consultation will inform the final recommendations. These are intended to be submitted by the Electoral Review Panel to Full Council for decision making in June 2020.

This timeline is intended to ensure the agreed changes can be implemented in good time so they can take effect at the 2021 local council elections.

“ The role of parish and town councils has developed significantly since the 1970s. ”



Malcolm Brown CC
Chair of the Electoral
Review Panel



Dick Cole CC
Vice-chair of the Electoral
Review Panel

Indicative Timetable for the Cornwall Community Governance Review 2019-2020

Stage	Action	Dates
Terms of Reference	Publish Terms of Reference and timetable for review and provide supporting datasets via the CGR website	25.03.2019
Stage 1	Initial submissions invited	26.03.2019 to 17.07.2019
Stage 2	Council considers submissions received and formulates draft recommendations	18.07.2019 to 26.11.2019
Stage 3	Draft recommendations published and comments sought through a public consultation	27.11.2019 to 10.03.2020
Stage 4	Council considers contributions received and formulates final recommendations. Consequential matters to be referred to Local Government Boundary Commission where required	11.03.2020 to June 2020
Final recommendations	Electoral Review Panel makes final recommendations to Full Council. Full Council makes final decision.	July 2020
Reorganisation order made	Re-organisation Order made	Sept 2020



The **Cornwall Association of Local Councils** is supporting Cornwall Council's Electoral Review Panel in delivering a Community Governance Review of the local council boundaries. For the first time in many years, the network of local councils and the residents of Cornwall are able to make suggestions for changes to the local arrangements.

The Association is acting as a resource for local councillors, councils and clerks, providing independent advice on the process and how to consult with residents and neighbouring parishes. If you have a local council question and you think we might be able to help please contact us - if we cannot answer the query we can direct you to someone who can.

Please contact :

Sarah Mason
County Executive Officer
Cornwall Association of Local Councils
Email: enquiries@cornwallalc.org.uk

Contact us

If you have any comments or queries please email:

CGRs@cornwall.gov.uk

Or call us on:

0300 123 1115

Please note information in this leaflet is correct at the time of writing but may be subject to change. Visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/governancereview for up to date information about the Community Governance Review.

More information

Please visit **www.cornwall.gov.uk/governancereview**

Our website has up to date information about the review, as well as a wealth of useful background information, relevant guidance and tools.

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

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Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

e: equality@cornwall.gov.uk

t: 0300 1234 100