



SOMERSET COUNCIL

Community Governance Review of Ansford and Castle Cary Parishes

Introduction

Somerset Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review of Ansford and Castle Cary 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 is undertaking a review of the parishes of Ansford and Castle Cary following receipt of petitions signed by electors from each parish requesting the abolition of Ansford Parish Council and Castle Cary Town Langport Town Council and the creation of a single Ansford and Castle Cary Parish Council to cover the same geographical area as the two parishes.

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

As an alternative to the terms of the petition, Somerset Council considered amending the boundary between the parishes to use natural and man-made features to give the parishes clear and identifiable boundaries.

The Council has undertaken the initial period of consultation, and determined a draft proposal that:

- There should not be any change to the two parishes other than amending the boundaries as shown on the accompanying maps
- The revised parish boundaries be established with effect from 1 April 2027

Representations

Somerset Council welcomes comments on this draft proposal.