



Community Governance Review

Huish Episcopi and Langport Parishes

Draft Recommendations

June 2025

1. Background to the Review

1.1. A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a review of whole or part of a principal council's area for the purpose of making recommendations with regard to creating, merging or abolishing parishes and the naming and electoral arrangements of parishes. Where a parish of over 1,000 electors is created it must have a parish council. A parish council may be called a Town, Community, Neighbourhood or Village Council.

The review is undertaken:

- In accordance with the legislation in Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007:
- Having regard to guidance published by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England; and
- Complying with the terms of reference that the council has adopted for the review

1.2. A review is often undertaken when there have been changes in population or reaction to specific new issues to ensure that community governance for the area continues to be effective and convenient and reflects the identities and interests of the community. The aim of the review is to bring about improved community engagement, communities that are more unified, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

1.3. The review offers two opportunities for residents to have their say. The first period of consultation has already been undertaken, which forms the basis of these draft recommendations.

Event	Date
Council approve Terms of Reference and Timetable	10 February 2025
Consultation with relevant stakeholders closes	11 April 2025
Recommendations considered by Constitution and Governance Committee	9 May 2025
Consultations on draft recommendations commence	13 June 2025
Consultations on draft recommendations close	8 August 2025
Final recommendations considered by Committee	11 September 2025
Order prepared to include implementation date by	1 December 2025
Implementation	1 April 2027

1.4. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the statutory criteria.

1.5. Following the resolution of the Constitution and Governance Committee to commence a review, the terms of reference were published on the Somerset Council website and the stage 1 consultation undertaken.

1.6. During the consultation period, written representations on the community governance review petition were invited via e-mail to cgr@somerset.gov.uk or by post to CGR- Electoral Services, Somerset Council, County Hall The Crescent, Somerset TA1 4DY.

2. Assessment of Submissions

2.1. Of the thirteen comments received, eleven were in favour of the proposal for the parishes to be combined and two are against (one of which is signed by seven electors). Two refer to warding; and both are opposed. One refers to the number of councillors and is of the view that eleven would be the correct number of councillors. The Committee also took into account that the community governance review had been triggered by petitions that had been signed by the requisite number of signatories (187) from each of the parishes concerned.

3. Statutory Criteria

3.1. Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) requires that the Council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance in an area under review

- reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area
- is effective and convenient

3.2. In deciding what recommendations to make the Constitution and Governance Committee had to take into account any other arrangements for community representation or community engagement that already exist in an area. Clearly, there are two existing Councils, Huish Episcopi Parish Council and Langport Town Council. However, the case was made to Somerset Council that the criteria set out in paragraph 3.1 above would be satisfied better by a single parish council representing the whole area.

3.3. The Committee also had to consider whether, if the decision was to recommend a single parish, there should be a warding scheme. It concluded that warding would not reflect the identities and interests of the community as effectively as an unwarded parish.

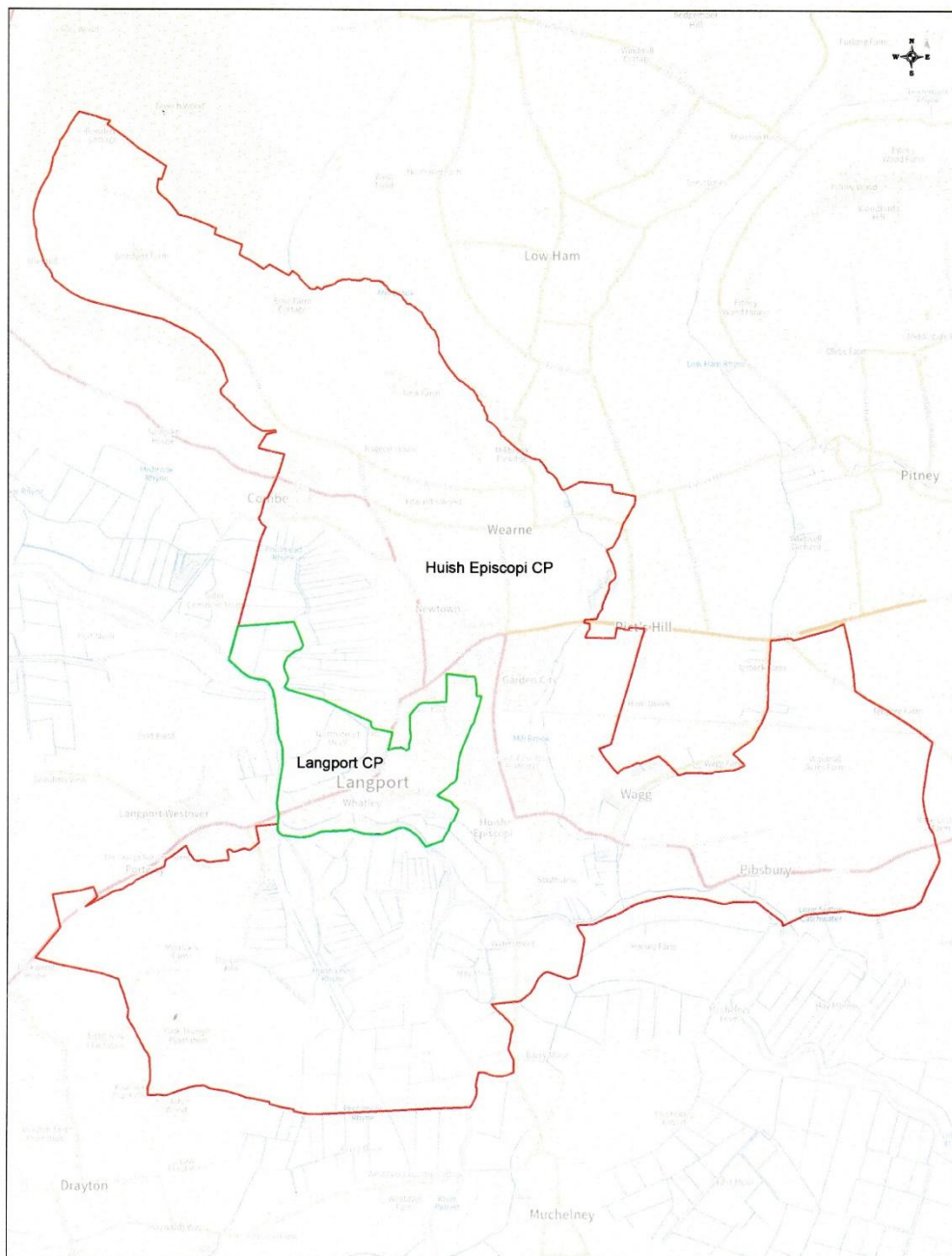
3.4 With regard to the number of councillors, the Committee took into account the consultation submissions and the guidance from the National Association of Local Councils to the effect that eleven parish councillors would be the most suitable level of representation for the local government electorate of 2,981.

3.5 The Constitution and Governance Committee has decided that the second stage of consultations will be on the following recommendations:

- a) the parishes of Huish Episcopi and Langport be dissolved**
- b) a new parish of Huish Episcopi and Langport be created on the current boundaries as shown on the map attached below**
- c) a parish council for the new parish be created with eleven members**
- d) the new parish council for Huish Episcopi and Langport be without a warding scheme**

3.6 Comments on the recommendations can be made on the somerset Council website at [Community Governance Review - Huish Episcopi and Langport Parishes - Somerset Council - Citizen Space](#), via e-mail to cgr@somerset.gov.uk or by post to CGR- Electoral Services, Somerset Council, County Hall The Crescent, Somerset TA1 4DY no later than Friday 8 August 2025.

3.7 The Council's Constitution and Governance Committee will consider the proposal and comments at its meeting on 11 September 2025.



Langport and Huish Episcopi Parishes

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