



Community Governance Review

Huish Episcopi and Langport Parishes

Draft Recommendations

September 2026

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	Thursday 2 July 2026
Consultation closes	Friday 28 August 2026
Results of consultation and recommendations considered by Constitution and Governance Committee	Thursday 24 September 2026
Consultations on draft recommendations closes	Monday 16 November 2026
Final recommendations considered by Committee	Thursday 3 December 2026 or Thursday 4 February 2027
Any Order prepared to include implementation date by	Friday 26 February 2027
Implementation (except for nominations for election)	Thursday 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 initial consultation period, online submissions were invited through the council's consultation portal, Citizenspace, 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. A total of 641 valid responses were received to the consultation.

Of the submissions received:

- 58.4% supported creation of a single new parish council.
- 41.6% opposed creation of a single new parish council.
- 73.7% of respondents expressing a view supported a council of 11 councillors.
- 61.5% of respondents expressing a view opposed warding arrangements.

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. Previously, a petition was received recommending the dissolution of the two parishes and the creation of a single parish comprising the same 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 and would not present the single parish as a cohesive entity.

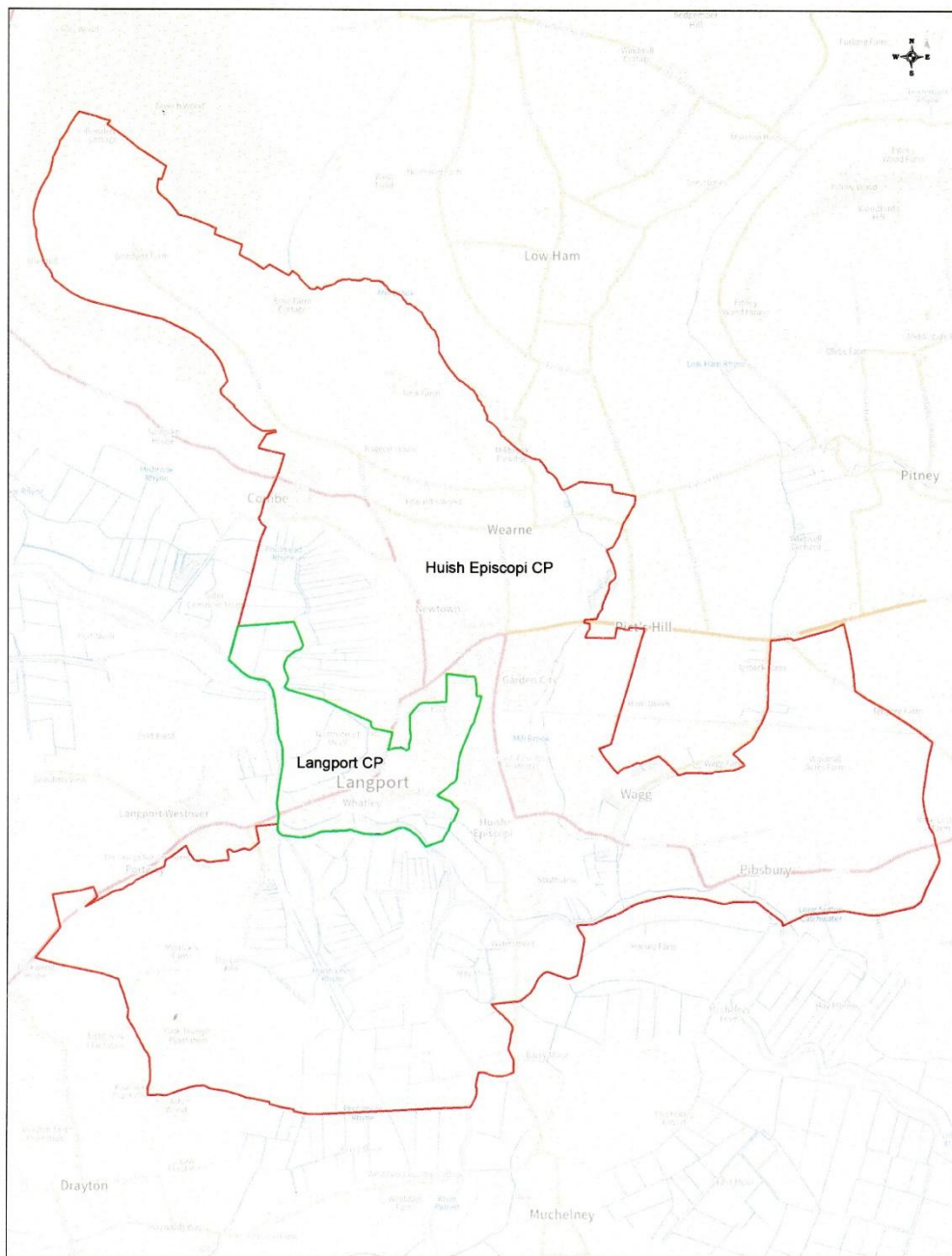
3.4 With regard to the number of councillors, the Committee took into account the consultation submissions and the guidance from the National Association of Local Councils to the effect that eleven parish councillors would be the most suitable level of representation for the local government electorate 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, 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 Monday 16 November 2026.

3.7 The Council's Constitution and Governance Committee will consider the proposal and comments at its meeting on either Thursday 3 December 2026, or Thursday 4 February 2027.



Langport and Huish Episcopi Parishes

Date: 05/02/2025

Scale: 1:24,000 @ A4

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