

DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

TERMS OF REFERENCE

What is a Community Governance Review?

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Derbyshire Dales District Council has the legal powers to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

A Community Governance Review (CGR) can be a review of the whole, or part of the District to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of any new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes such as the ordinary year of election, council size, the number of councillors to be elected and parish warding; and
- Grouping of parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

A Community Governance Review must reflect the identities and interests of the communities of that area and be effective and convenient. Therefore a CGR must take into account;

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion;
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

Introduction

In January 2022 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published the results of its electoral review of the Derbyshire Dales.

The electoral review examined and proposed new electoral arrangements for the District by determining:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division

When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

In their final report the LGBCE recommended that the Derbyshire Dales should be represented by 34 councillors with 21 wards. They also recommended that the boundaries of 17 wards should change, with just 3 remaining the same.

In most cases the proposed ward boundaries are conterminous with existing Parish/Town Council boundaries however in the Civil Parish of Matlock changes were made to facilitate the creation of the two new District Council Wards of Matlock West and Matlock East and Tansley. The changes can be summarised as follows:

- An increase the number of Town Council Wards to 8 by creating a new Cuckoostone Ward
- Maintaining the size of Matlock Town Council at 11 Councillors by reducing the number of Councillors for the Hurst Farm Ward to 1 and allocating 1 Councillor to the new Ward.

As things stand these changes will be implemented at the Parish and Town Council Elections in May 2023

Reasons for this Community Governance Review.

As part of an electoral review, the Commission are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different district council wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. This has resulted in the changes to the warding arrangements for the Matlock Town Council described above.

However the recommendations of the LBCE were based upon a forecast of the 2026 electorate which anticipated a significant increase in the electorate in the new Ward of Cuckoostone. As the anticipated new development that would facilitate this increase has not yet taken we approach the May 2023 Town Council elections with the following disparities in the ratio of electors per Councillor:

Parish Ward	Current Electorate	Current No of Cllrs (11)	Electors per Cllr	Deviation from average
Chesterfield Road East	1026	2	513	-28%
Cuckoostone	208	1	208	-70%
Hurst Farm	1054	1	1054	+48%
Matlock Green	779	1	779	+9%
Matlock Bank & Sheriff Fields	1570	2	785	+10%
North of Jackson Road	1113	1	1113	+56%
Riber & Starkholmes	649	1	649	-9%
Smedley Street	1434	2	717	+1%

Terms of Reference for Community Governance Review of Matlock Town Council.

The purpose of this review is to address the significant variances away from the average number of electors per councillor.

Criteria

The review will take account of the following criteria:

- The identities and interests of the community
- The effective and convenient governance of the area
- What, if any the proposed community governance arrangements might have on community cohesion
- Whether the size (area), the population and boundaries proposed for local governance make sense on the ground and contribute to the above criteria.

Aim

The aim of the Review is to achieve

- Improved local democracy
- Greater community engagement
- Better local service delivery

Consultees

- Derbyshire County Council
- Matlock Town Council
- Electors affected by the proposed changes
- Other interested bodies
- Political Groups
- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

Proposals to be consulted on

The Council is therefore seeking the views of local residents and stakeholders on the following proposals:

- To increase the size of Matlock Town Council to 12 Councillors.
- To reduce the number of wards to 7 by merging the wards of Chesterfield Road East and Cuckoostone to form a new two Councillor ward of Chesterfield Road East and Cuckoostone.
- To increase the number of Councillors to represent the Hurst Farm Ward to two.
- To increase the number of Councillors to represent the North of Jackson Road Ward to two.

These changes will improve the ratio of electors per Councillor as follows:

Parish Ward	Current Electorate	No of Cllrs	Electors per Cllr	Deviation from average
Chesterfield Road East & Cuckoostone	1234	2	617	-5%
Hurst Farm	1054	2	527	-19%
Matlock Green	779	1	779	+19%
Matlock Bank & Sheriff Fields	1570	2	785	+20%
North of Jackson Road	1113	2	556	-15%
Riber & Starkholmes	649	1	649	-9%
Smedley Street	1434	2	717	+10%

This means that no Town Council Ward would have a deviation away from the average of more than + or – 20%. Bearing in mind each 1% change represents 7 electors it would be difficult to achieve a lower level of variation without making changes that would split existing ward boundaries and the communities within them.

The Town Council has already been consulted on these proposals and has indicated that it supports this approach.

Implementation

Any changes arising from the review would be implemented at the next full election for Parish and Town Councils within the Derbyshire Dales which will take place in May 2023.

Who will undertake the Community Governance Review?

As a principal council, Derbyshire Dales District Council is responsible for undertaking any Community Governance Review in its electoral area. Any proposals arising from this review will need to be approved at a meeting of the District Council before a Community Governance Order is made.

Who to contact in respect of the review?

Any representations on the proposals set out in the Community Governance Review should be addressed to

Director of Corporate & Customer Services
 Derbyshire Dales District Council
 Town Hall
 Bank Road
 Matlock
 DE4 3NN

or by email to electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Consultation

The Council has drawn up and published this Terms of Reference document, which provides the aims of the review, the legislation that guides the process, and the points that the Council views as important in this process.

Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, the Council will take full account of the views of the local people and will comply with the statutory consultative requirements by:

- Consulting local government electors for the affected area
- Consulting any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review;
- Notifying and consulting with the County Council and the Town Council affected by the review
- Taking into account any representations received in connection with the review
- Notifying consultees of the outcome of the review; and
- Publishing all decisions taken and the reasons for such decisions.

Information about each stage of the review will be published on the Council's website with key documents available to view at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk and at Town Hall, Bank Road, Matlock DE4 3NN.

We will also publicise the review on our website and on our social media platforms to engage residents, community groups and stakeholders.

Review Timetable

A Community Governance Review must normally be completed within a 12 month period from the day on which it commences. It starts when the Council publishes the Terms of Reference and ends when it publishes the recommendations made in the review.

The timetable is attached as appendix 1.

Additional considerations

If you decide to respond to this consultation you may also wish to consider making representations on:

(i) Parish Areas

You might have alternative suggestions regarding creation of a new or joint Parish Councils, alteration of existing Parish Boundaries or the abolition of existing parishes.

(ii) Names & Styles

You may have suggestions on the name of Parishes or their wards that reflect the area they cover.

In the 2007 Act there is provision for alternative parish styles to include Community Councils, Neighbourhood Councils and Village Councils as well as the more usual Parish or Town Council.

(iii) Electoral Arrangements

Electoral arrangements are the way in which a council is constituted for the parish they comprise:

- The ordinary year in which elections are held
- The number of councillors to be elected to the council
- The division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purposes of electing councillors
- The number, name and boundaries of any wards
- The number of councillors to be elected for each ward

(iv) Consequential Matters

A Reorganisation of Community Governance Order may cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the order including:

- The transfer and management or custody of property
- The setting of precepts for any new parishes
- Provision for the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities; and
- Provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters

APPENDIX 1 –TIMETABLE

Stage	Action	Timescale	Planned date
Commencement	Approval of Terms of Reference delegated to Director of Corporate and Customer Services.		Wednesday 1 February 2023
Stage 1	Terms of reference published and stakeholders notified with definition of remit of review and initial proposals.	Three weeks	Friday 3 February 2023
	Closing date for initial representations.		Friday 24 February 2023
Stage 2	Consideration of initial responses and any revisions proposals published	Two weeks	Thursday 28 February 2023
	Closing date for stage 2 representations		Wednesday 8 March 2023
Stage 4	Final proposals considered by Council.		Thursday 16 March 2023
	Publication of Re-organisation Order according to statutory guidelines.		Monday 20 March 2023