

Annex A

Community Governance Proposals Summary of responses and recommendations

1. Cirencester – Preston boundary change

Wards

- Cirencester, New Mills – Councillor Claire Bloomer
- Siddington and Cerney Rural – Councillor Mike Evely

Proposal

The proposal is to change the boundary between Preston parish and Cirencester Town to move 6 properties and land along Kingshill lane from Preston Parish into Cirencester Town, New Mills Ward.

Responses

Responses have been received from Cirencester Town Council and Preston Parish Council as follows:

Cirencester Town Council - Cirencester New Mills – Preston

With the development of 280 dwellings on land west of Kingshill Lane being approved by Cotswold District Council, a development which falls within the parish boundary, but disconnected from, Preston, it is appropriate that a community governance review be undertaken for the Cirencester boundary, within the New Mills ward, to be extended.

There is a definitive link with the town and as such this area, should fall within the parish boundary of Cirencester so that governance arrangements are aligned more appropriately.

The Town Council had previously recognised the importance of a green/rural buffer zone being maintained between Cirencester and Preston so that it's rural integrity and village identity could be protected; this is now no longer the case.

An amendment to the boundary would ensure that those living and working in this area are better placed to access local Councillor(s) and provide greater clarity and transparency in terms of governance arrangements.

Preston Parish Council

Thank you for your email regarding the Town Council's proposals under the current Community Governance Review. These were discussed at the Parish Council meeting last Thursday and Members felt that any change to the boundary now, is premature. You will be aware that several planning applications have been submitted for this site in recent years and whilst the Parish Council does not welcome such development, it is very concerned about the lack of infrastructure and especially the impact that increased traffic will bring.

The Parish Council has lobbied all involved with the planning decision process and employed planning consultants to help put over these concerns. Despite having been approved by CDC's Planning Committee, the most recent planning application, 24/02854/OUT, still has some way to go through the process and if the boundary were to be changed at this stage, the Parish Council would lose its planning consultee status and, therefore, any influence it might have. I am attaching the notes from a recent meeting with Gloucestershire Highways Officers explaining the Parish Council's concerns and improvements needed not only for the benefit of Preston residents but also the future residents of the development and the surrounding area.

In addition, Preston Parish Council have submitted the following comment:

Preston Parish Council would like to reiterate that they believe that any changes to the boundary should always result in the houses at Preston Forty being retained as part of Preston Parish. It is the fundamental understanding of the Council that the existing residents of Preston Forty wish to remain part of the Parish of Preston and part of Preston Village.

The recently permitted application at Kings Hill Meadow, currently in Preston, is yet to submit any reserved matters and so the exact layout is unknown - until there is clarity over the layout of the development, the Parish Council believes that any changes to the boundary should be deferred.

Recommendation

It is recommended that no changes be made to the boundary at this time.

2. Cirencester – Siddington boundary change

Wards affected

- Cirencester, Watermoor – Councillor Nick Bridges
- Siddington and Cerney Rural – Councillor Mike Every

Proposals

Two proposals were submitted for change to the boundary between Cirencester and Siddington:

Cirencester Town Council submitted a change to bring 253 properties from Siddington into Cirencester.

Siddington Parish Council submitted a change to bring 213 properties from Cirencester into Siddington.

Responses

90 responses were received to the consultation. The majority of respondents wished to remain in Siddington but did not specifically indicate a preference for either proposal. The remaining responses were split between proposal A, proposal B and retaining the status quo.

Recommendations

It is recommended that no changes be made to the boundary at this time.

3. Cutsdean Parish Council

Ward

- Bourton Vale – Councillor Len Wilkins

Proposal

Cutsdean Parish Council submitted a request to change from a Parish Council to a Parish Meeting.

There are currently 55 electors in the parish and therefore maintaining a parish council of 5 councillors is becoming difficult. Changing to a parish meeting will allow residents to be involved in decisions without the legal administration required for a parish council.

Responses

There were 6 responses to the consultation, including the County Councillor. Of these, 5 were in favour of the change and 1 against.

The district ward councillor has worked with the parish council over a number of months and supports their request.

Recommendation:

That the District Council dissolve Cutsdean Parish Council and create a Parish Meeting for the area. This change to come into effect no later than 1 October 2026 once all legal requirements have been put in place.

4. Fairford

Wards

- Fairford North – Councillor Michael Vann
- Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford South - Councillor Helene Mansilla and Councillor Tristan Wilkinson

Proposal

The town council has requested that the number of councillors be increased from 13 to 15. With an increase in the number of properties in the area both recently and proposed, they feel an increase in councillors will help spread the workload.

Population

The current population of Fairford is approximately 4,200 and is projected to increase to approximately 4,600 within the next 5 years.

Number of councillors

The number of councillors each council is dependent on the number of electors but there is no legislative scale. The District Council has previously used the following scale:

Electorate	Number of Councillors
not exceeding 200	5
201 -500	7
501 - 1000	9
1001 - 2000	11
2001 - 4000	13
over 4000	15

Fairford's request therefore falls into this scale for 15 councillors.

Responses

There were 33 responses of which 23 were in favour.

Recommendation

That the number of councillors for Fairford Town Council be increased from 13 to 15 with effect from the May 2027 elections.

5. Moreton-in-Marsh

Wards

- Moreton East – Councillor Angus Jenkinson
- Moreton West – Councillor Daryl Corps

Proposal

The Town Council asked for a change in their boundary with Batsford. This was in light of land identified in the SHEELA document which may be developed at a future date and would be better served by the Town Council rather than Batsford parish.

As part of the initial process of considering the proposal, advice was sought from the local plan team. Their advice was that it is a little early to consider this proposal and that the Town Council would be advised to wait before any changes are requested. Additionally, the District Council is undertaking a "feasibility study to understand whether strategic scale development in Moreton-in-Marsh is possible. This may find that strategic scale development is not feasible or viable.

This information was provided to the Town Council as part of the initial discussions for the Community Governance Review. After consideration, the Town Council requested that the proposal be considered as submitted.

Consultation

There were 117 responses of which the majority were against the proposals.

Recommendation

It is recommended that no changes be made to the boundary at this time.

6. Southrop

Ward

- Coln Valley – Councillor David Fowles

Proposal

Southrop Parish Council requested an increase from 5 councillors to 7.

Population

The current population of Southrop is 280 and is not projected to change in the next 5 years.

Number of councillors

The number of councillors each council is dependent on the number of electors but there is no legislative scale. The District Council has previously used the following scale:

Electorate	Number of Councillors
not exceeding 200	5
201 -500	7
501 - 1000	9
1001 - 2000	11
2001 - 4000	13
over 4000	15

Southrop's request therefore falls into this scale for 7 councillors.

Responses

There were 6 responses of which 5 were in favour.

Recommendation

That the number of councillors for Southrop Paish Council be increased from 5 to 7 with effect from the May 2027 elections.

7. Tetbury

Wards

- Tetbury East & Rural – Councillor Nikki Ind
- Tetbury Town – Councillor Ian Watson
- Tetbury with Upton – Councillor Laura Hall-Wilson

Proposal

Tetbury Town Council requested a change to create town council wards in line with the District Council wards.

The Town Council currently has 15 councillors who represent the town. The town council feels that having 3 wards each with 5 councillors will help share the workload more efficiently between the councillors. Each councillor will represent their own ward whilst having an overview of the whole town.

Responses

There were 80 responses of which 41 were in favour, 28 against and 11 gave no clear response either in favour or against.

Recommendation

That Tetbury Town Council be warded as follows with effect from the May 2027 election:

- Tetbury East Ward represented by 5 councillors
- Tetbury Town Ward represented by 6 councillors
- Tetbury West Ward represented by 4 councillors