

**SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISHES OF
LUDLOW AND LUDFORD**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PARISH AND PARISH COUNCILS) (ENGLAND)
REGULATIONS 2008**

DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Shropshire Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Parishes of Ludlow and Ludford. The area to be included in the review is the whole of the Parishes of Ludlow and Ludford.
- 1.2 The Council gave public notice of a Community Governance Review and published the Terms of Reference for the review of the Parishes of Ludlow and Ludford in December 2023. Copies of the Terms of Reference were sent by e-mail to the Town and Parish Councils and to other stakeholders in the area. Information on the effect of the review was also available for inspection at the Councils offices at Shirehall, Shrewsbury and on the Council's website.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference were intended to prompt local consideration and initiate discussion in order that the Council could take account of local feeling when preparing its Draft Proposal Document. All concerned were invited to submit their comments in writing by 26 January 2024.
- 1.4 Ludlow Town Council has suggested that the Rockgreen Ward of Ludford Parish should transfer into the Parish of Ludlow together with a large part of the Ludford Rural Ward. The Rockgreen ward would be amalgamated into the current Hayton Ward and a new "Sheet Ward" of the Town Council would be created. This would retain a small Ludford Parish centred around the village of Ludford. The growth of Ludlow outside of its boundaries into Ludford is referred to as is the existence of the Town's Park and Ride service operating from a site within the Parish of Ludford.
- 1.5 Two of the Shropshire Councillors for the Ludlow area have expressed their support for the proposal of Ludlow Town Council, noting that the communities within Ludford do not have a single identity and no direct road link exists between the three main distinct settlements.

1.6 A former Ludlow Town Councillor has suggested that the two Parishes should be amalgamated to ensure that the residents of the Ludford Parish contribute equally to the services that they use which are currently funded solely by the residents within the Parish of Ludlow.

1.7 Ludford Parish Council has indicated support for the retention of the current Parish Boundaries. They rely on the historic nature of the Parish and the particular community identity of the village of Ludford and surrounding Parish with its close links to the Ludford Manor Estate. With particular regard to the Rock Green Parish Ward, the Parish Council note the lack of a bridge to provide a safe pedestrian route across the busy A49 road and a renewed sense of community with new housing developments and the opening of a large supermarket.

1.8 Two residents of the Rock Green ward of the Parish have expressed their satisfaction that the current arrangements provide effective and convenient governance for the hamlet of Rock Green, situated on the outskirts of Ludlow.

2. **What Happens Next**

2.1 An initial timetable for this review was outlined in the Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 but has been extended to allow for a longer period of consultation as follows:-

Stage	What happens?	Timescales
Commencement	Terms of Reference are published	14 December 2023
Stage one	Initial Submissions are invited	15 December 2023 to 26 January 2024
Stage two	Consideration of submissions received – Draft Recommendations are prepared	27 January 2024 to 20 March 2024
Stage three	Draft Recommendations are published – consultations on them	21 March 2024 to 10 May 2024
Stage four	Considerations of submissions received – final recommendations are prepared	11 May 2024 to 31 May 2024
	Final recommendations are published – concluding review	End June 2024

	Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order	July 2024

3.0 **Draft Recommendations**

3.1 Having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, associated Guidance on Community Reviews produced jointly by the department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and to the responses that have been received during the initial consultation period, it is recommended that there should be no change to the current community governance arrangements:

Ludlow

	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Ludlow	15	7,970	8,378	1: 559

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Bringewood	2	978	1,286	1: 643
Clee View	2	1,295	1,303	1: 652
Corve	2	949	1,021	1: 511
Gallows Bank	3	1,814	1,812	1: 604
Hayton	2	947	949	1: 475
Rockspring	2	976	979	1: 490
Whitcliffe	2	1,011	1,028	1: 514

Ludford

	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Ludford	7	744	1,106	1: 158

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Rockgreen	2	132	132	1: 66

Ludford Rural	5	612	1,106	1: 221
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- 3.2 At this stage of the review, it is not considered to have been established that the changes proposed by Ludlow Town Council and supported by two of the Shropshire Councillors for Ludlow would better reflect the identities of local communities.
- 3.4 There is no evidence to suggest that the proposed changes would improve the ability of individuals and organisations to participate and influence matters in the area in which they are situated. Both Ludlow Town Council and Ludford Parish Council are fully functioning and appear to have little difficulty in attracting candidates or engaging with residents.
- 3.5 Consultees, other stakeholders and the public now have until 10 May 2024, in accordance with the above timetable, in which to submit further comments and formal representations.
- 3.7 Shropshire Councils final proposals will be made in response to the outcome of these further consultations and they may wholly change the draft proposals to encompass the broadly held views of the residents of the affected area, insofar as these are compatible with the appropriate legal tests and principles.
- 3.8 There will then be a short period after the final proposals are published before the Council approves the recommendations. This will allow further time for any final submissions and/or arguments to be made covering matters which did not arise during earlier stages of the review.

4. **How to contact us**

- 4.1 Comments should be submitted to the Democratic Services Section of Shropshire Council by e-mail at communitygovernance@shropshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us at the following address:

Democratic and Electoral Services
Shropshire Council
The Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury

SY2 6ND

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please the above contact details.