

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISH OF SHREWSBURY AND
ADJOINING PARISHES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Shropshire Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Parish of Shrewsbury and adjoining parishes. The area to be included in the review is the whole of the Parish of Shrewsbury and adjoining parishes.
- 1.2 The Council gave public notice of a Community Governance Review and published the Terms of Reference for the review of the Parish of Shrewsbury and adjoining parishes 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 Great Hanwood Parish Council has asked that the boundaries of the Parish are extended into the Pontesbury Parish to bring the school and adjacent residential properties along with the settlements of Cruckton and Cruckmeole into the Parish. The Parish Council requests that the number of Parish Councillors for the Parish should remain at 9, due the expanding nature of the village.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Parish of Shrewsbury is currently represented by 17 Councillors, each representing one ward. The wards are largely coterminous with the Shropshire Council

Division Boundaries with the exception of the divisions of Bicton Heath, which takes in part of the Parish of Bicton; Radbrook, which takes in part of the Parish of Great Hanwood; Oteley and Reabrook, which takes in part of the Parish of Atcham; and Sundorne, which takes in part of the Parish of Uffington.

2.2 In addition, a small part of the Parish of Berrington, north of the A5 road and adjacent to the Oteley and Reabrook Division, might benefit from moving to the Parish of Shrewsbury with an associated move from the Shropshire Council division of Severn Valley to Oteley and Reabrook.

2.3 The current and projected electorate figures for the wards in the Parish of Shrewsbury, and the Parishes of Bicton, Great Hanwood, Atcham, Sundorne and Berrington are set out in the tables below:

Shrewsbury

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Shrewsbury	17	58,928	62,204	1:3659

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Abbey	1	4,252	4,762	1: 4,762
Bagley	1	3,816	4,290	1: 4,290
Battlefield	1	3,123	3,361	1: 3,361
Belle Vue	1	3,465	3,541	1: 3,541
Bowbrook	1	3,483	3,725	1: 3,725
Castlefields & Ditherington	1	3,400	3,584	1: 3,584
Column	1	3,135	3,357	1: 3,357
Copthorne	1	3,942	3,945	1: 3,945
Harlescott	1	3,300	3,349	1: 3,349
Meole	1	3,394	3,675	1: 3,675
Monkmoor	1	3,366	3,377	1: 3,377
Porthill	1	3,691	3,834	1: 3,834
Quarry & Coton Hill	1	3,304	3,362	1: 3,362
Radbrook	1	3,508	4,030	1: 4,030
Sundorne	1	3,477	3,480	1: 3,480
Sutton & Reabrook	1	2,858	3,082	1: 3,082

Underdale	1	3,414	3,449	1: 3,449
-----------	---	-------	-------	----------

Atcham

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Atcham Parish	7	442	513	1:73
Atcham Rural	3	198	208	1: 69
Hendrick Crescent	4	244	305	1: 76

Berrington

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Berrington Parish	9	1067	1082	1:120

Bicton

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Bicton Parish	9	995	1347	1:150
Bicton Rural	6	859	873	1: 146
Bicton Urban	3	136	474	1: 158

Great Hanwood

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Great Hanwood Parish	9	962	968	1:108
Hanwood Bank & Hanwood	8	959	965	1: 121
Upper Edgebold	1	3	3	1: 3

Uffington

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
--------------	-----------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------------

		(October 2023)		
Uffington Parish	5	141	275	1:55
Pimley Manor	2	46	75	1: 38
Uffington Rural	3	195	200	1: 67

- 2.4 The current Shropshire Council division boundaries were made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England during its recent review and necessitated the boundaries crossing several Parishes. Unless they are amended by order following a Community Governance Review, the new boundaries may not provide for effective and convenient local governance or reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 2.5 To avoid this situation arising at the next ordinary elections due to be held in May 2025, Shropshire Council is undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parish of Shrewsbury and the adjoining Parishes under the provisions of Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as well as the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Act by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission (Revised March 2010).
- 2.6 The review also provides an opportunity to consider whether the historic electoral boundaries for Shrewsbury and the adjoining parishes remain appropriate, after taking account of recent residential development in the town, as well as that proposed by 2029 and beyond. The provision of more obvious and appropriate external boundaries for the town and the surrounding parishes, such as using the A5/A49 have been considered in the interests of community identity and community cohesion. In accordance with statutory guidance the review is seeking to establish boundaries which follow the line of permanent or established physical features, rather than the ancient field boundaries which mean little to today's residents, where possible

- 2.7 The Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 set out the objective of the review to consider whether there should be any changes to the boundaries of Shrewsbury and the adjoining parishes,
- 2.8 During the preparing of these draft recommendations, the Council has taken account of the comments received from Great Hanwood Parish Council.
- 2.9 Public comment at the end of the first stage of this process has been limited.

3.0 PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

- 3.1 It is proposed that the boundary of the Parish of Shrewsbury be amended as follows:
- 3.1.1 the Bicton Urban ward (hatched and coloured yellow on the plan attached) of Bicton Parish be moved into the Bowbrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
- 3.1.2 the Upper Edgebold ward (hatched and marked in green on the plan attached) of Great Hanwood Parish be moved into the Radbrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
- 3.1.3 the Hendrick Crescent ward (hatched and marked in red on the plan attached) of Atcham Parish be moved into the Sutton and Reabrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish ;
- 3.1.4 the area of land north of the A5 (Hatched blue and marked in red on the plan attached) currently in the Berrington Parish be moved into the Sutton and Reabrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
- 3.1.5 the Pimley Manor ward (hatched and marked in blue on the plan attached) of Uffington Parish be moved into the Sundorne ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
- 3.2 It is further proposed that the names of the following wards of the Parish of Shrewsbury be amended to match the Shropshire Council electoral divisions:
- 3.2.1 the Bowbrook ward be renamed Bicton Heath
- 3.2.2 the Sutton and Reabrook ward be renamed Oteley and Reabrook
- 3.2.3 the Sundorne ward be renamed Sundorne and Old Heath

3.3 The current and projected electorate figures for the proposed wards in the Parish of Shrewsbury, and the unwarded revised Parishes of Bicton, Great Hanwood, Atcham, Uffington and Berrington are set out in the tables below:

Shrewsbury

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Abbey	1	4,252	4,762	1: 4,762
Bagley	1	3,816	4,290	1: 4,290
Battlefield	1	3,123	3,361	1: 3,361
Belle Vue	1	3,465	3,541	1: 3,541
Bowbrook	1	3,619	4,200	1: 4,200
Castlefields & Ditherington	1	3,400	3,584	1: 3,584
Column	1	3,135	3,357	1: 3,357
Copthorne	1	3,942	3,945	1: 3,945
Harlescott	1	3,300	3,349	1: 3,349
Meole	1	3,394	3,675	1: 3,675
Monkmoor	1	3,366	3,377	1: 3,377
Porthill	1	3,691	3,834	1: 3,834
Quarry & Coton Hill	1	3,304	3,362	1: 3,362
Radbrook	1	3,511	4,033	1: 4,033
Sundorne	1	3,523	3,555	1: 3,555
Sutton & Reabrook	1	3,199	3,484	1: 3,484
Underdale	1	3,414	3,449	1: 3,449

Atcham

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Atcham Parish	5	198	208	1:42

Berrington

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Berrington Parish	9	970	985	1:109

Bicton

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Bicton Parish	9	859	873	1:97

Great Hanwood

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Great Hanwood Parish	9	959	965	1:107

Uffington

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Uffington Parish	5	195	200	1:40

3.4 The draft recommendation will move some electors from the division of Severn Valley into Oteley and Reabrook. The table above shows that the overall number of electors for Oteley and Reabrook will remain within 10% of the average. Severn Valley will reduce by 97 electors to XX and also remain within 10%.

4.0 PARISH COUNCIL SIZE:

4.1 The law requires that when considering whether to establish a pattern of wards for the purposes for elections, the Council must first consider whether it is desirable for any part of the parish to be separately represented on the Parish/Town Council. Secondly,

it is necessary to consider whether the number or distribution of electors within the parish/town would make a single election of councillors impracticable.

4.2 There is little guidance on the appropriate number of councillors required to represent a parish, other than there not being any less than five councillors. Where there is no maximum number and no rules on the allocation of councillors, in recent years the Council has used the National Association of Local Councils' formula as a guide

4.3 The Aston Business School has also published research on the appropriate levels of representation.

4.4 **Shrewsbury**

In urban settlements such as Shrewsbury, there is a very strong case for dividing the parish into electoral wards, as community identity and community interests tend to focus on a locality or neighbourhood. This can be an existing housing estate, a shopping centre or some community facility. Where there is evidence that different parts of a town have had their own sense of identity historically this supports the establishment or retention of electoral wards. There is no proposal to amend the boundaries of the internal wards or numbers of Councillors for the Parish of Shrewsbury.

4.5 **Bicton**

It is proposed that the Parish of Bicton should be unwarded and represented by 9 Councillors, as at present.

4.6 **Great Hanwood**

It is proposed that the Parish of Great Hanwood should be unwarded and represented by 9 Councillors, as at present.

4.7 **Atcham**

It is proposed that the Parish of Atcham should be unwarded and represented by 5 Councillors, a reduction from 7 Councillors.

4.8 **Uffington**

It is proposed that the Parish of Uffington should be unwarded and represented by 5 Councillors, as at present.

4.9 **Berrington**

It is proposed that the Parish of Berrington should be unwarded and represented by 9 Councillors, as at present.

5.0 **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

5.1 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

5.2 These draft proposals set out Shropshire Councils initial recommendations for the future of Community Governance for Shrewsbury and the surrounding parishes. The Council will now allow a further period, in accordance with the above timetable for public consultation.

5.3 Final Proposals will be made in response to the outcome of these consultations and they may wholly change the Draft Proposals to encompass the broadly held views of the residents of the affected areas, insofar as they are compatible with the legal tests and principles referred to throughout this document.

5.4 There will then be a short period after the final proposals are published before the Shropshire Council approves the recommendations and then seeks the consent of the LGBCE to make the formal Order. This period will allow further time for any final submissions and arguments to be made covering matters which did not arise during earlier stages of the review.

5.5 A period for comments on the draft proposals has now opened and this lasts until 10 May 2024.

6.0 HOW TO CONTACT US

6.1 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.