

Community Governance review - Draft recommendations

Project: Community Governance Review

Consultation Period: 17 March 2025 – 16 May 2025

Responses: 73 (of which 3 unallocated to an area)

Summary

Hart is conducting this review to ensure the arrangements for towns and parishes are as effective and appropriate as possible. Councils are advised to conduct a review every 10-15 years and a Community Governance Review is due.

The review is a legal process where we review how people are represented democratically.

The review will consider town and parish councils and will also consider electoral arrangements including number of councillors. Further information on what can be considered can be found on the webpage [Community Governance Review | Hart District Council](#) along with the timetable for the review.

Feedback was invited on current arrangements during a public consultation from 17 March 2025 to 16 May 2025. 73 responses were received. The consultation was published on the:

- Council's web site
- Social media
- All Councillors including Hart District Councillors, and Hampshire County Councillors in the Hart area.
- Councillor Connect
- The MPs for North East Hampshire and the Aldershot Constituency
- All Town and Parish Council (who could then promote locally)
- Here for Hart distribution list

Following the consultation draft recommendations have been made. In preparing these draft proposals, the Council has been mindful of the initial submissions that have been received. The submissions can be viewed within the Initial Submissions 2025 document which also show the questions that were asked. The Council also has the role of balancing these submissions against the requirements and duties that are placed upon it in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. In particular, the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance within its area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient.

Draft recommendations

Town/Parish	No of Responses	Recommendations
Blackwater and Hawley	2	<p>No Change</p> <p>The suggestion of moving Frogmore and Darby Green from Yateley into the Blackwater and Hawley parish has been noted.</p> <p>To keep the boundaries coterminous this change will not be made at this time. Following reorganisation the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) will be reviewing all new unitary areas, at this point this suggestion can be considered. In the meantime, Hart would encourage consultation with residents who would be affected to seek their views.</p>
Bramshill	0	No Change
Church Crookham	1	No Change
Crondall	0	No Change
Crookham Village	0	No Change
Dogmersfield	0	No Change
Elvetham Heath	1	<p>Increase the number of councillors to 9 (from 7)</p> <p>A submission was received to increase the number of councillors. This is in line with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) recommended number of councillors.</p> <p>Current arrangements: Elvetham Heath East – 3 councillors (1:510) Elvetham Heath West – 4 councillors (1:525)</p> <p>Proposed arrangements: Elvetham Heath East – 4 councillors (1:383) Elvetham Heath West – 5 councillors (1:420)</p>
Eversley	2	No Change
Ewshot	1	No Change
Fleet	8	<p>Reduce the number of councillors to 15 (from 18)</p> <p>Fleet Town Council currently has 18 councillors with an electorate of around 18,500. Some of the representations made refer to reducing the number of councillors (6 submissions), this does vary in number but the main suggestion is to reduce to between 12 and 15. The NALC suggestion for this electorate would be 22 councillors therefore the submissions made were not in line with NALCs recommended number of councillors. Considering the representations made the draft recommendation is to reduce the number to 15.</p> <p>Current arrangements: Ancells – 2 councillors (1:1046)</p>

		<p>Calthorpe – 3 councillors (1:1085) Fleet Central – 4 councillors (1:1072) Courtmoor – 3 councillors (1:922) Pondtail – 3 councillors (1:1073)</p> <p>Proposed arrangements: Ancells – 2 councillors (1:1046) No Change Calthorpe – 3 councillors (1:1085) No Change Fleet Central – 4 councillors (1:1341) Reduced by 1 Courtmoor – 3 councillors (1:1230) Reduced by 1 Pondtail – 3 councillors (1:1430) Reduced by 1</p> <p>The ratios are not as balanced as before so please do comment on the distribution.</p>
Greywell	0	No Change
Hartley Wintney	0	No Change
Heckfield	0	No Change
Hook	1	<p>Increase the number of councillors to 14 (from 12) Hook to be warded: Hook East and Hook West</p> <p>A submission was received to increase the number of councillors. This is in line with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) recommended number of councillors.</p> <p>Hook to be warded into Hook East and Hook West. With an electorate of over 7,000 councillors would then be able to be more representative of their area and if a by-election was called this would be more economical for the parish. The wards to following the current polling district boundary.</p> <p>Current arrangements: Hook – 12 councillors (1:602)</p> <p>Proposed arrangements: Hook East – 7 councillors (1:534) Hook West – 7 councillors (1:474)</p>
Long Sutton	2	No Change
Mattingley	0	No Change
Odiham	2	<p>Increase the number of councillors to 11 (from 10)</p> <p>A submission was received to increase the number of councillors to 12. The recommendation is to increase to 11 in line with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) recommended number of councillors.</p> <p>Current arrangements: Odiham – 6 councillors (1:372) North Warnborough – 3 councillors (1:340) RAF Station – 1 councillor (1:635)</p>

		<p>Proposed arrangements:</p> <p>Odiham – 7 councillors (1:319)</p> <p>North Warnborough – 3 councillors (1:340) no change</p> <p>RAF Station – 1 councillor (1:635) no change</p>
Rotherwick	0	No Change
South Warnborough	22	<p>No Change</p> <p>5 of the submissions made referenced the number of councillors. Either increasing, decreasing or staying the same. The minimum number of councillors recommended by NALC is 5 which is the number the parish have, the recommendation is this number stays the same.</p>
Winchfield	1	No Change
Yateley	25	<p>No Change</p> <p>The suggestion of moving Frogmore and Darby Green from Yateley into the Blackwater and Hawley parish has been noted.</p> <p>To keep the boundaries coterminous this change will not be made at this time. Following reorganisation the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) will be reviewing all new unitary areas, at this point this suggestion can be considered. In the meantime, Hart would encourage consultation with residents who would be affected to seek their views.</p>

Second Stage Consultation

Further consultation will commence on the 16 June 2025 for responses on the draft recommendations with final recommendations to be submitted to Full Council later in the year. Residents and other persons or organisations wishing to make representations on the draft recommendations may do so by completing the questionnaire on our website.