

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Electoral Matters Committee 8 January 2026

Community Governance Review – Finstall Parish

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| Relevant Portfolio Holder | | Councillor May, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | | Yes |
| Relevant Assistant Director | | Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services |
| Report Author | Job Title: Electoral Services Manager, Darren Whitney Contact email: darren.whitney@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881650 | |
| Wards Affected | | Tardebigge |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted | | Yes |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s) | | N/A |
| Non-Key Decision | | |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. | | |
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to RESOLVE

- 1) To agree the Terms of Reference, with any amendments, for the Community Governance Review (appendix 1);**
- 2) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Members of the Committee, to make minor amendments to the Terms of Reference, including the timetable for the review, if required.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report sets out Terms of Reference including a timetable for a Community Governance Review in Finstall Parish.
- 2.2 Finstall Parish Council asked Bromsgrove District Council if they will review the parish boundaries of Finstall Parish.

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- 2.3 Officers met with the clerk and members of the parish council in January 2024 to discuss a potential CGR.
- 2.4 At its meeting on the 6 February 2024 the parish council agreed to the following suggestions in regard to boundary changes:
 - a) Field View House: to support re-drawing of the parish boundary so that it runs alongside the railway line to the south of Field View House, thereby placing Field View House to the north of the parish boundary and to support the same for the district and county boundaries.
 - b) Rutherford Road area (otherwise known as Hazelcroft): to seek to move the parish boundary northwards to run alongside the railway line, to incorporate Hazelcroft within Finstall parish.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 The first change relates to an area in Tardebigge Ward, this would mean a recommendation to change the ward boundary in the current Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review for Bromsgrove.

The change affects 22 electors who have no contact with the rest of Finstall Parish.
- 3.2 The second change relates to a whole polling district (TAE – Gambolds) which already sits within the Tardebigge Ward. The area is currently unparished so would just be a matter of moving the parish boundary to incorporate that polling district.
- 3.3 Electoral Matters Committee agreed the request to hold a CGR at the meeting held 23 February 2024 (minute 22/23).
- 3.4 The CGR was put on hold due to the LGBCE Bromsgrove review, which itself was put on hold due to Local Government Reorganisation. In light of this the LGBCE confirmed that a CGR could go ahead.
- 3.5 The decision to go ahead with the CGR for Finstall was made at the Electoral Committee's meeting held on 7 December 2025.
- 3.6 Officers are asking that the Committee confirms Terms of Reference including the timetable. The Committee is also asked to decide what form of consultation is applicable for this CGR.

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4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Subject to the Committee's final decisions, there may be some minor financial implications for a consultation exercise which would be found within existing budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A CGR must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Part 4) and the associated Dept. of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) Regulations 2008 and the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The authority must have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State (s100 (4) of the 2007 Act) and must give consideration to the views of local people in reaching its decision.

5.2 The Terms of Reference of the Review are set out in Appendix 1.

5.3 Section 93 of the 2007 Act sets out the council's duties in undertaking a community governance review. In relation to deciding what recommendations to make, it provides that the council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

- a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- b) is effective and convenient.

Section 93 (6) provides that the council must "take into account" any representations received in connection with the review as one element of these considerations.

5.4 Section 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 states that there is a duty on principal councils to promote understanding among local people, which extends to parish councils.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

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6.1 The change in in paragraph 2.4 a) would mean moving the parish, district and divisional boundaries which would mean a more sensible electoral boundary if and when it becomes part of a new Unitary Council.

Relevant Council Priority

6.2 Work on CGRs supports all of the Council's current priorities.

Climate Change Implications

6.3 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4 In conducting a review the Council will ensure that electoral equality is taken into consideration.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 It would be beneficial that the CGR be completed in 2026 so that the changes, if any, can be introduced at the May elections in 2027.

7.2 Amendments to the timetable for the review may have to be made due to Local Government Reorganisation in that event it would be requested that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with members of the Committee to make minor changes to the Terms of Reference, including the timetable. Any such changes would be publicised.

7.3 There are risks linked to public engagement. A CGR requires extensive consultation, which may create expectations that changes will be made.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

Background papers:

- DCLG Guidance
- Relevant Statutory provisions

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

| Department | Name and Job Title | Date |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Portfolio Holder | | |
| Lead Director / Assistant Director | | |
| Financial Services | | |
| Legal Services | | |