BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Electoral Matters Committee

11 November 2026

Community Governance Review – Finstall Parish

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, Director of Governance and Assurance (and Monitoring Officer)
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 Council Priority		Sustainability
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Electoral Matters Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:

1) **The draft recommendation of the review become the final recommendation, namely "the area west of the railway line be removed from Finstall Parish and become unparished".**

2) **Subject to approval of recommendation 3 below, that a Polling District, TAB1, be created which will be in place until a related alteration is made.**

The Electoral Matters Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that:

3) **An Order for the Reorganisation of Community Governance in Finstall under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, be made by the Council.**

4) **Authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services to finalise the Order and the consequential arrangements, and to seek a related**

alteration for other associated electoral boundaries from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The report sets out the final position regarding the Community Governance Review (CGR) for Finstall Parish and on the basis of these asks for a final recommendation to be agreed and a reorganisation order to be created.

2.2 Finstall Parish Council asked Bromsgrove District Council if they would review the parish boundaries of Finstall Parish. The decision to go ahead with the CGR for Finstall was made at the Electoral Matters Committee's meeting held on 7 December 2025.

2.3 The review initially covered two possible changes requested by the Parish Council:

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. The change affects 22 electors who have no contact with the rest of Finstall Parish.

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. This change relates to a whole polling district (TAE – Gambolds). The area is currently unparished so would just be a matter of moving the parish boundary to incorporate that polling district.

2.4 The Terms of Reference were agreed by this Committee at its meeting held on 2 February 2026.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 A first consultation was held in Spring 2026 which was primarily through an online form which asked electors the following:

- If and how they were affected by the review;
- If they agreed with the area west of the railway line moving out of the Parish of Finstall;

- If they agreed with the unparished area of the railway line moving into the Parish of Finstall; and
- If they would like to make any further comments regarding the review

The consultation form was anonymous, but electors were asked for a postcode so officers could gauge where responses were coming from.

3.2 The consultation results were considered by this Committee in June 2026 where over two thirds of respondents agreed with moving the area west of the railway line out of the Parish of Finstall.

3.3 The majority of respondents disagreed with moving the unparished area east of the railway line into the Parish of Finstall. Common concerns centred on the perceived lack of clear benefits and the potential impact on the parish. Several responses also questioned the underlying rationale for the proposed change.

3.4 The Committee decided to defer determining its draft recommendations while the Council's Local Governance Working Group considered the results of its public engagement exercise on the wider future governance arrangements for Bromsgrove.

3.5 The results of the public engagement exercise did not raise any material changes to the results of the initial consultation so at the meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee held on 24 September 2026 the draft recommendation **"***the area west of the railway line be removed from Finstall Parish and become unparished*" was agreed.

3.6 Consultation on the draft recommendation was carried out in late October/early November which included writing to all directly affected electors within the area to become unparished, informing other interested parties and including the consultation on the relevant webpage of the Council's website.

3.7 Results of the consultation in Appendix 1 (to follow) indicate that those that had a preference agreed with the draft recommendation.

3.8 Due to no large representation against the draft recommendation it is suggested that the draft recommendation in paragraph 3.5 become the final recommendation (Appendix 2 which also includes a map). This then concludes the review.

3.9 If this is agreed by the Committee, Council will need to create a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order.

3.10 For Electoral purposes, it should be noted that a related alteration is required to change other associated electoral boundaries from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Until this is completed it is suggested that a new polling district that covers the affected area be created. Officers suggest that this be designated as "TAB1 – Field View".

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications.

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 Department 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 (Section 100 (4) of the 2007 Act) and must give consideration to the views of local people in reaching its decision.

5.2 Section 93 of the 2007 Act sets out the Council's duties in undertaking a CGR. 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.

5.3 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

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

Relevant Council Priority

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

Climate Change Implications

6.3 In the longer-term, electors would not have to travel as far to vote. This would have a beneficial impact on carbon emissions.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4 Electoral equality was taken into consideration as part of the CGR.

Community Impact Implications

6.5 There are no implications for community safety or health and wellbeing.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Results of Second Consultation (to follow)

Appendix 2: Final recommendation and map

Background papers:

- DCLG Guidance

- Relevant Statutory provisions:
  - The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
  - Local Government Act 1972
  - Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor May - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling	28/10/2026
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Claire Felton - Director of Governance and Assurance (and Monitoring Officer)	
Financial Services	James Walton - Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer	
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings – Principal Solicitor (Governance)	28/10/2026