

# **NOTICE OF COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR PENDLE 2021-22**

Parish and Town Councils play a vital role in engaging with local people and helping to shape their communities.

Pendle has 5 town councils, 13 parish councils and 1 parish meeting

Pendle Council is about to commence a Community Governance Review. This provides an opportunity to review and make changes to governance arrangements at parish level. It also ensures that they are reflective of the identity and interest of local communities and are working effectively.

## **What can the Community Governance Review change?**

A Community Governance Review can make a number of changes to parish governance when there is clear evidence to do so:

- It can make changes to parish areas – including:
  - changes to boundaries between parishes
  - mergers of two or more parishes
  - creating a new parish out of part of one or more existing parishes
- It can make changes to electoral arrangements within parish areas – including:
  - changes to the number of parish councillors
  - introducing or changing parish warding arrangements
- It can change the name of a parish
- It can group together a number of parishes under a common parish council.

## **Why has Pendle Council decided to undertake a review now?**

- In 2019, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review of Pendle Council's electoral arrangements decided there will be 12 Borough electoral wards from May 2021. As part of that review, changes to wards of some parishes were introduced by the Commission. It makes sense to take the opportunity to review these and the wider governance arrangements in those parishes.
- It is some years since a full review of community governance in Pendle has taken place.
- The role of parish and town councils has developed significantly in recent years. Many have taken on services and facilities from Pendle Council. A review is an opportunity to ensure effective community governance is in place, so that parish and town councils can make full use of their powers and responsibilities.

Pendle Council has a legal duty to ensure that community governance arrangements are:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in the area

- Effective and convenient (this relates to the ability of parishes to provide services for its residents).

Any proposed changes will need to be considered in that light.

### **How does the Community Governance Review work?**

Between now and the end of April **we are asking town and parish councils, local residents, groups and organisations, to give us their suggestions for changes (including no change) they would like to see considered in the review.**

We will publish details of all suggestions received. A Working Group of Pendle councillors will consider them and put forward a set of draft recommendations for public consultation as appropriate.

The Working Group will then consider the detailed results of the public consultation and make final recommendations to a meeting of Pendle Council. Following the decisions of the Council we will make the necessary legal Order and take the other steps required to implement them.

### **Indicative Timetable for the Review**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Commencement of Review	Give public notice and notify parish and town councils.	February –April 2021
Terms of Reference	Publish Terms of Reference for the review in the light of initial representations received.	May 2021
Draft recommendations	Publish draft recommendations and seek comments through public consultation.	June – August 2021
Final recommendations	Final recommendations submitted to Council for final decision.	October 2021
Next steps	Legal Order made for changes agreed by Council and other necessary steps taken.	November 2021 onwards

## How to contact us

Please e-mail [philip.mousdale@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:philip.mousdale@pendle.gov.uk) or write to

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The deadline for initial suggestions for the review is **30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.

Philip Mousdale  
Corporate Director