

Community Governance Review

Parishes of Allesley and Keresley

Terms of Reference

Community Governance Review – Parishes of Allesley and Keresley

Introduction

Coventry City Council has received a valid petition from local electors requesting a Community Governance Review (CGR) of Allesley Parish.

The petition proposes that the built-up areas of Pickford Green & Eastern Green, Brownshill Green (Hawkes End), Brownshill Green (Browns Lane) and Brownshill Green (Tamworth Road) be removed from Allesley Parish.

One of the areas in the petition is adjacent to Keresley parish (Tamworth Road) and as the Council has not conducted a CGR in the last 10-15 years as required by the guidance which we have to have regard to, so the CGR has been extended to the area to include Keresley parish.

The Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Legal Framework

In undertaking this review the Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended)
- the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010
- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008
- Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008

What is a Community Governance Review (CGR)?

A CGR is a review of the whole or part of the City area to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- Constituting, retaining or dissolving parish councils
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election, council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and

- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping

Reason for the Community Governance review?

The reasons for the review are:

- As a result of a valid petition which asks Coventry City Council to change the Allesley Parish Council boundary to remove the built-up areas of Eastern Green, Pickford Green and Brownhill Green from the parish.
- The petition area is adjacent to Keresley parish and therefore may have some implications for this parish.
- Also as a significant period has elapsed since the last review.
- There is also some large scale new developments in these two parishes which can be considered as part of the review. The Council will take account of committed residential development and forecast electorate growth when considering future governance arrangements, to ensure recommendations remain effective beyond the immediate review period.

Considerations of a Community Governance Review

Section 93 of the 2007 Act requires the Council to consider the need to secure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- a) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- b) effective and convenient.

In doing so the review will take into account:

- a) the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- b) the size, population and boundaries of the local community.

The review cannot take into account the external boundaries of the City or the City ward boundaries it only extends to parishes.

In conducting the review, the Council will have due regard to its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and will seek to ensure that all sectors of the community have an opportunity to participate in the review process.

Scope of this Review

Coventry City Council has resolved to undertake a CGR to consider the requests in the petition and to establish if the electoral arrangements for both Allesley and Keresley parishes are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by the electorate.

This review seeks to ascertain the most appropriate boundary alignment and

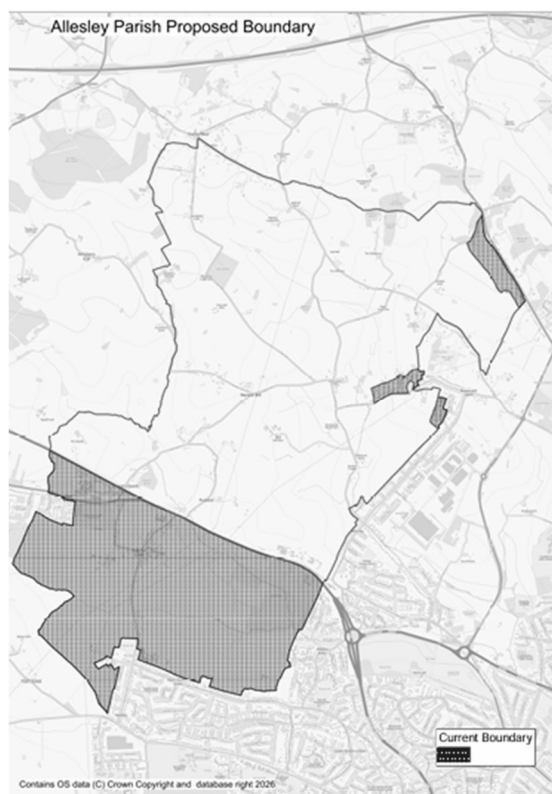
governance arrangements for the parishes.

The current electorate and property numbers, as of 1st August 2026, for the parishes are below together with maps of the current parish boundaries.

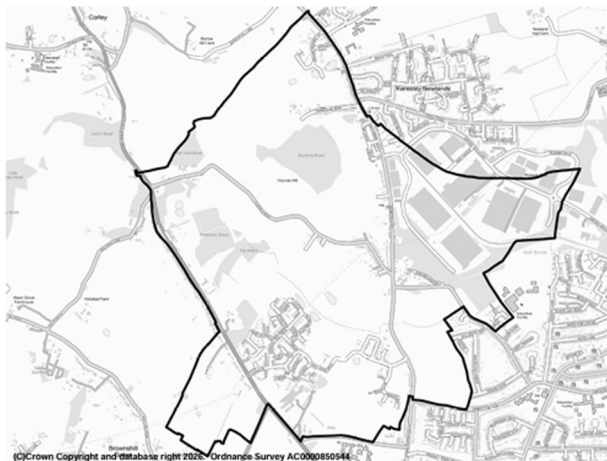
Parish	Electorate	Properties
Allesley	1137	1363
Keresley	1839	2524

In conducting this review, the Council will consider the electorate forecasts for the next five years based on the planned large developments within the Parishes.

Allesley Parish Map (4 areas in red are the subject of the petition)



Keresley Parish Map



Who will undertake the community governance review?

The review will be carried out by Coventry City Council.

The review will be overseen by the Council, with all formal decisions required by the legislation being made by the Council in line with the Council's constitution.

The review will comply with the legislative and procedural requirements set out in the 2007 Act, as well as statutory guidance. This includes guidance produced jointly by The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and issued under section 100 of the 2007 Act. This review will follow the approach set out in these Terms of Reference, including the following indicative timetable

Timetable for review

Date	Action
8 September 2026	Council to approve Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review
9 September – 9 October 2026	Formal initial Community Governance Review consultation – with residents and other consultees as noted below
w/c 12 October 2026	Consideration of responses and drafting of recommendations
9 November – 10 December 2026	Further public consultation on Draft Recommendations
w/c 13 December 2026	Formulation of final recommendations
12 January 2027	Final recommendations to be considered by Full Council
February 2027	Reorganisation Order made
May 2027	Parish council elections to be held under any new arrangements that may be decided.

This document is being published on our website at: www.coventry.gov.uk and a printed copy may be viewed at the Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RR during normal business hours.

Consultation

The Council has now drawn up and now publishes this Terms of Reference document. This document lays out the aims of the review, the legislation that guides it and some of the policies that the Council considers important in the review.

In coming to its recommendations in a Review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult with local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review and to take representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the LGPIHA 2007.

The Council will consult in an appropriate manner within the review area ensuring that those affected are given the opportunity to respond. In accordance with the LGPIHA 2007, representations received in connection with the Review will be taken into account and consultees will be informed of the outcome of the Review.

The Council will consider all the representations and then publish draft proposals and the reasons behind them. There will then be a further period of time for people to comment on the draft proposals before the final proposals are agreed.

Before publishing final recommendations, in line with legislative requirements, the Council will take full account of the views of local people. The Council will comply with legislative requirements by,

- a) consulting local government electors for the area under review;
- b) publish information on the Council's website;
- c) consult any other person or body which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review
- d) inform Allesley Parish and Keresley Parish Councils
- e) inform relevant City Councillors;
- f) take into account any representations received in connection with the review.
- g) the Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representations during the initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.

When taking account of written representations the Council is bound to have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review is:

- a) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area;
- b) effective and convenient.

In order to ensure that this review is conducted transparently, as soon as practicable the Council will publish its recommendations and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them.

This will consist of two phases of consultation. The first seeks the initial views in relation to the petition proposals and to establish if the electoral arrangements for both Allesley and Keresley parishes are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by the electorate. and desires of local residents, groups and stakeholders, and will form the basis of the draft recommendations. The second phase will seek views upon those draft recommendations, to allow final recommendations to be formed.

Consultation and awareness raising will consist of various communication methods, such as leaflet drops, media posts (digital and printed), and each will explain how residents and stakeholders can submit their views.

The present structure of parishes and their electoral arrangements in the review area

Present structure of parish governance in the area

Currently Allesley Parish Council consists of polling districts Ag, Ac and Sc. Ag and Ac are in Bablake Ward and Sc is in Woodlands Ward, this is following the Local Government Boundary Review (LGBR) which was implemented at the elections in May 2026. Prior to that all of Allesley Parish was in Bablake Ward. Keresley Parish Council is within the Bablake Ward and consists of one polling district Ae. The remainder of Bablake Ward and Woodlands Ward are unparished.

1. Allesley Parish Council are set to have 8 Councillors following the LGBR, 2 for Allesley Ward and 6 for Eastern Green Ward, serving an electorate of 1,137. This equates to a ratio of 142 electors to one Councillor, the LGBCE based their recommendation on the forecasted electorate as at 2029. This is due to developments in the Eastern Green area which are either under construction or not yet started.
2. Keresley Parish Council currently has five elected Councillors, serving an electorate of 1,839. This equates to a ratio of 368 electors to one Councillor.

The value of local councils

Local parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at a local level and we want to ensure that local governance in the area of the existing Council continues to be robust, representative and enabled to meet the challenges that lie before it.

Parish councils have a key role to play in representing the views and promoting the needs of the borough's local communities and neighbourhoods and every opportunity should be afforded to them to express such views to the new unitary authority prior to any decisions taken which might affect local circumstances.

Other (non-parish) forms of community governance

The Council is required by law to consider other forms of community governance. There may be other arrangements for community representation or community engagement in an area, including area committees, neighbourhood management programmes, tenant management organisations, area or community forums, residents' and tenants' associations or community associations, which may be more appropriate to some areas than parish councils.

The Council will be mindful of such other forms of community governance in its consideration of whether parish governance is most appropriate. However, the Council also notes that what sets parish councils apart from other kinds of governance is the fact that they are a democratically elected tier of local government with directly elected representatives, independent of other council tiers and budgets, and possessing specific powers for which they are democratically accountable.

Parish boundaries

The Council considers that 'natural' settlements, or settlements as they are defined in the Local Development Framework, should not in normal circumstances be partitioned by parish boundaries. The Council considers that the boundaries between parishes should where possible either reflect the 'no-man's land' between communities represented by areas of low population or by identifiable physical barriers. These physical barriers might include natural boundaries such as rivers or man-made features such as railways or roads. In the event of emparishment the council will endeavour to select boundaries that are, and are likely to remain, easily identifiable as well as taking into account any local ties which might be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries.

Electoral arrangements and councillor representation

An important part of the Review will be to consider the 'Electoral Arrangements' and this will cover how a council is constituted for any parish established by this review, comprising the following:

- The ordinary year in which elections are held;
- The number of Councillors to be elected to the council;
- The division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing Councillors;
- The number and boundaries of any such wards;
- The number of Councillors to be elected for any such wards; and
- The name of any such wards.

The Local Government Act 1972 states that ordinary election of Parish Councillors shall take place every fourth year. However, parish elections may be held in other years to coincide with the cycle for the principal Council, so that the costs of elections can be shared. If the Review finds that it will be appropriate to hold an

election for Parish Councillors, for a newly formed parish, at an earlier date than the next scheduled ordinary elections, the terms of office of any newly elected Parish Councillors will be so reduced as to enable the electoral cycle to revert to the normal cycle in the area at the next ordinary elections.

The number of Parish Councillors for each parish council must not be less than five. There is no maximum number and there are no rules relating to the allocation of Councillors. There are, however, guidelines produced both by the National Association of Local Councils and by the Aston Business School and the Council will be mindful of these during the review. The Government's guidance is that "each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities."

Consequential Matters

A Reorganisation Order may cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the Order. These may include:

- The transfer and management or custody of property;
- The setting of precepts for new parishes;
- Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities;
- Provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.

In these matters the Council will be guided by the 2007 Act and the Regulations that have been issued under it, including the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 and the Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008

Regulations regarding the transfer of property, rights and liabilities require that any apportionments shall use the population of the area as estimated by the Proper Officer of the Council as an appropriate proportion. The Regulations regarding the establishment of a precept for a new parish require the Council to calculate the first anticipated precept for a newly constituted parish council and for the amount of that precept to be included in the Reorganisation Order.

How to contact us

If you would like to say how you view potential future arrangements under these Terms of Reference, please respond to the online consultations on the Coventry City Council website:

The survey will also be available in other formats, please email electoral.services@coventry.gov.uk or call 024 7683 3034