

Community Governance Review Terms of Reference

1. Introduction and Purpose

- 1.1 Gloucester City Council (“the council”) is undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the whole of Gloucester City local authority area in accordance with [Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#) and the [associated statutory guidance](#).

2. What is a Community Governance Review?

- 2.1 A CGR is a review of the whole or part of the borough area to consider one or more of the following:
- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
 - 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 any division of parishes;
 - Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.
- 2.2 The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient. In doing so the community governance review is required to take into account:
- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
 - The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

3. Reason for the Review

- 3.1 The CGR is being undertaken in the context of local government reorganisation and the associated need to consider whether community governance arrangements across Gloucester City will reflect community identity and provide effective and convenient local governance in a unitary council/councils landscape.
- 3.2 Parish councils can play an important role in terms of community empowerment; and, in the context of local government reorganisation in Gloucestershire, parish councils may help to address a loss of local representation when county, borough and district councils are replaced with unitary authorities.
- 3.3 The purpose of the CGR is to establish if there is support for parishing the unparished part of Gloucester and what the preferred arrangements might be for the whole of the local authority area. The CGR will also seek views on whether parish or town council arrangements might be the preferred option for

the continuation of Gloucester's civic traditions, including the historic offices of Mayor and Sheriff,.

- 3.4 The council will take into account any other recommendations/representations that it receives as part of the review which fit with the parameters of a community governance review.

4. Who will undertake the review?

- 4.1 As the relevant principal authority, Gloucester City Council is responsible for conducting any CGR within its electoral area. The council will oversee the review and produce draft and final recommendations; Full Council will approve the final recommendations before a Community Governance Order (Order) is made.

5. Timetable

- 5.1 The timetable below is indicative, with some approval dates to be determined, and be subject to change.

Date	Action
w/c 12 May 2026	General Purposes Committee recommends the Terms of Reference to full council for approval.
16 July 2026	Full council approves the Terms of Reference, signifying the start of the review.
3 August-13 September 2026	First round of public consultation
w/c 2 November 2026	General Purposes Committee approves the draft recommendations.
9 November-6 December 2026	Second round of public consultation
w/c 11 January 2027	General Purposes Committee recommends the final recommendations to full council for approval.
28 January 2027	Full council approves the final recommendations.
By February 2027	Reorganisation Order made.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The council is required to consult the local government electors and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 6.2 The council will consult with local government electors by inviting submissions and seeking views on draft proposals. The council will identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at all stages of the consultation, including Gloucestershire County Council, Quedgeley Town Council, City Councillors, Members of Parliament representing Gloucester.

- 6.3 The council also invites comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations.
- 6.4 Information about the CGR will be published on the council's website at www.gloucester.gov.uk.
- 6.5 Representations are welcomed during the specified consultation stages as set out in the timetable from any person or body who may wish to comment or make proposals on any aspect of the matters included in the Review.
- 6.6 Representations may be made in the following ways:

[Online consultation form](#)

By email: democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk

By post: Democratic and Electoral Services (CGR), Gloucester City council, Eastgate Management Suite, Eastgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1PA

7. Consequential matters following a review

- 7.1 When all the required consultation has been undertaken and the CGR is completed the council may make a Reorganisation Order to bring into effect any decision that it may make. Such an Order may include:
- The transfer and management or custody of property;
 - The setting of precepts for new parishes; and
 - Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities.
- 7.2 In these matters, the Council will be guided by Regulations that have been issued following the 2007 Act.
- 7.3 If the council decides to take no action as a result of the CGR then it will not be necessary to make an Order.

8. Publication and Review

- 8.1 Date of publication of these Terms of Reference: 3 August 2026
- 8.2 Modifications (if any) will be published as soon as practicable after they have been made.