CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF CHURTON conducted under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

FINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE

9 July 2025
Updated and revised dates: 7 October 2025

1 INTRODUCTION

Churton Parish Council has contacted Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding a parish boundary anomaly and requested that Cheshire West and Chester Council undertakes a review to address it.

A resident has written, via Churton Parish Clerk, to the Boundary Commission expressing concern that the most relevant part of Marsh Lane, Churton, lays within the parish of Farndon and not Churton. However, resident feels that Marsh Lane and the properties along it, identify more with Churton Village than they do with Farndon and have more local interest with Churton.

2 WHAT IS COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE?

In the context of Community Governance Reviews, the provisions of the 2007 Act, are intended to improve the development and co-ordination of support for citizens and community groups so that they can make the best use of empowerment opportunities. The Government (through the 2007 Act and the Localism Act 2011) and the Council (through its Borough Plan) both recognise the importance of active communities taking pride in their neighbourhoods and the role parish councils play in relation to this.

3 WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW?

A Community Governance Review provides the opportunity for councils to review the whole or part of an area to consider one or more of the following:

- the creation, merger, alteration or abolition of parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes (i.e. parish, community, neighbourhood or village);

- 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
- the grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping of parishes.
- Redrawing of parish boundaries to fix any boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries

4 WHY UNDERTAKE A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW?

A Community Governance Review provides an opportunity for principal authorities to review and make changes to community governance within their area. Such reviews can be undertaken when:

- there have been changes in population
- reaction to specific issue
- changes to ward boundaries
- a petition has been received

It is also good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a community governance review every 10-15 years.

The Government has emphasised that recommendations made in Community Governance Reviews should bring about improvements to community engagement, cohesive communities and local democracy

5 WHO WILL UNDERTAKE THIS REVIEW?

Under the provisions of the 2007 Act, Cheshire West and Chester Council is responsible for undertaking any Community Governance Review within its area, as the principal authority. The Council has established a Community Governance Review Committee with delegated authority to make recommendations to the Council on the outcomes of each Community Governance Review. Council will be required to approve the final recommendations before a Community Governance Order is made.

In addition, the Committee will:

(i) Agree the terms of reference for each Community Governance Review;
(ii) Determine a detailed timetable and consultation programme for each Community Governance Review;

(iii) Progress each review in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and The Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010;

(iv) Consider all options for future community governance of the area under review, taking into account current community representation and community engagement arrangements and electorate and demographic forecasts;

(v) Determine appropriate electoral arrangements for the area under review, where necessary; and

(vi) Consider any consequential matters arising from the review which are required to give effect to any subsequent Community Governance Order, e.g. the transfer and management or custody of property, the setting of precepts for new parishes, provision for the transfer of any functions, rights, liabilities, staff, etc.

6 SCOPE OF THIS COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The review will focus on the parish boundary of Farndon (north of the parish) which currently incorporates three properties on Marsh Lane - see attached map. The review will not consider any other boundary.

For boundaries to be redrawn, any new boundary would need to follow a natural or existing boundaries such as roads, field perimeter or bridleways etc.

This Community Governance Review will:

- Undertake several public consultations with the residents of Marsh Lane, Farndon and Churton Parish Councils and relevant ward councillors
- Will publish the Terms of Reference for the review on the Council's website.
- Undertake the public consultation in line with the Council's Consultation Compact.
- Take full account of the views of those consulted.

The Community Governance Review will not consider:

- The boundaries of UK parliamentary constituencies; and
- The boundaries and names of Cheshire West and Chester Council wards.
- The boundaries of any other parish councils.

PARISH PRECEPTS

Below are the details of the precepts for both Churton and Farndon Parish Council for 2025/25, along with the Band D annual payments.

Parish Council	Annual Precept 2025/26	Band D property (Annual Payment to residents) 2025/25
Churton Parish Council	£6,300	£39.80
Farndon Parish Council	£42,000	£42.91

7 CONSULTATION

The 2007 Act requires that the Council consults the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review. The Council must take representations into account by judging them against criteria laid out in the Act.

The timetable for the review provides for a number opportunities for local residents and Councillors to express their views on any proposals.

The Council, through the Community Governance Review Committee, will conduct the review transparently with decisions being made in public and reasons given for those decisions. This is in line with Government's guidance on conducting Community Governance Reviews. Meetings of the Community Governance Review Committee will take place in public and information will be available on the Council's website. The Council is keen to conduct meaningful consultation that leads to effective proposals.

The Council proposes to use the following mechanisms to keep consultees informed:

- Council website
- Direct communication, via letters, to all residents and councillors in the area under review
- Online consultation

The Community Governance Review Committee will be asked to agree the following timeframe for the review to be conducted. The Committee will endeavour to keep to the dates listed below. However, if changes to dates are required, these will be published on the Council's website. A Community Governance Review is a lengthy process but the regulations require that they are concluded within a 12 month period following publication of the terms of reference.

TIMELINE:

Stage	Action	Dates	
Stage 1	Community Governance Review Committee to meet to consider the Terms of Reference	June 2025	CWAC
	Publish Terms of Reference	July 2025	CWAC
	Prepare and publish stage 1 consultation	July 2025	CWAC
	Initial Public Consultation – 6 weeks	7 October – 21 November 2025	CWAC
Stage 2	Review responses Prepare draft recommendations and stage 2 consultation	December 2025	CWAC
	Consultation - Draft Recommendations – 6 weeks	January 2026 – February 2026	CWAC
	Review responses	February 2026	CWAC
Stage 3	Develop Final recommendations	February 2026	CWAC
	Consultation on Final proposals - 6 weeks	March – April 2026	CWAC
	Review responses	May 2026	CWAC
	Community Governance Review Committee	June 2026	CWAC
Stage 4	Council resolves to agree the final recommendations	October 2026	CWAC
	Order laid	November 2026	CWAC
	Electoral Register amendments	February 2027	CWAC
Stage 5	Implementation of changes	February 2027	CWAC

8 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

If a boundary is to be redrawn, it will commence from May 2027 to coincide with the next local elections scheduled for May 2027.

9 PROGRESSING THE REVIEW

Residents and key stakeholders who have a clear interest in this review, or are impacted by its outcome as a resident, are encouraged to respond to the consultations.

There will be several opportunities throughout the review to contribute. The Consultation will involve an online form, along with a paper copy.

10 STAKEHOLDERS

The Council will ensure that those effected by the area under review will be provided with opportunities to engage and have their say.

Stakeholders will include:

- Ward Councillor for Farndon and Churton – Cllr Adrian Waddelove
- Three residents affected by potential boundary change
- Churton Parish Council - clerk@churtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Farndon Parish Council - farndonparishclerk@gmail.com
- MP for Chester South and Eddisbury – Aphra Brandreth.

11 HOW TO CONTACT US

Should you wish to submit a written representation regarding this review, please address to:

Andrea Thwaite
Cheshire West and Chester Council,
The Portal, Wellington Road,
Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 0BA

Alternatively, your submission may be emailed to:

democraticservices@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

quoting ‘Community Governance Review – Churton in the subject field.

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please contact:

Andrea Thwaite
Email: andrea.thwaite@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Tel: 01244 972283

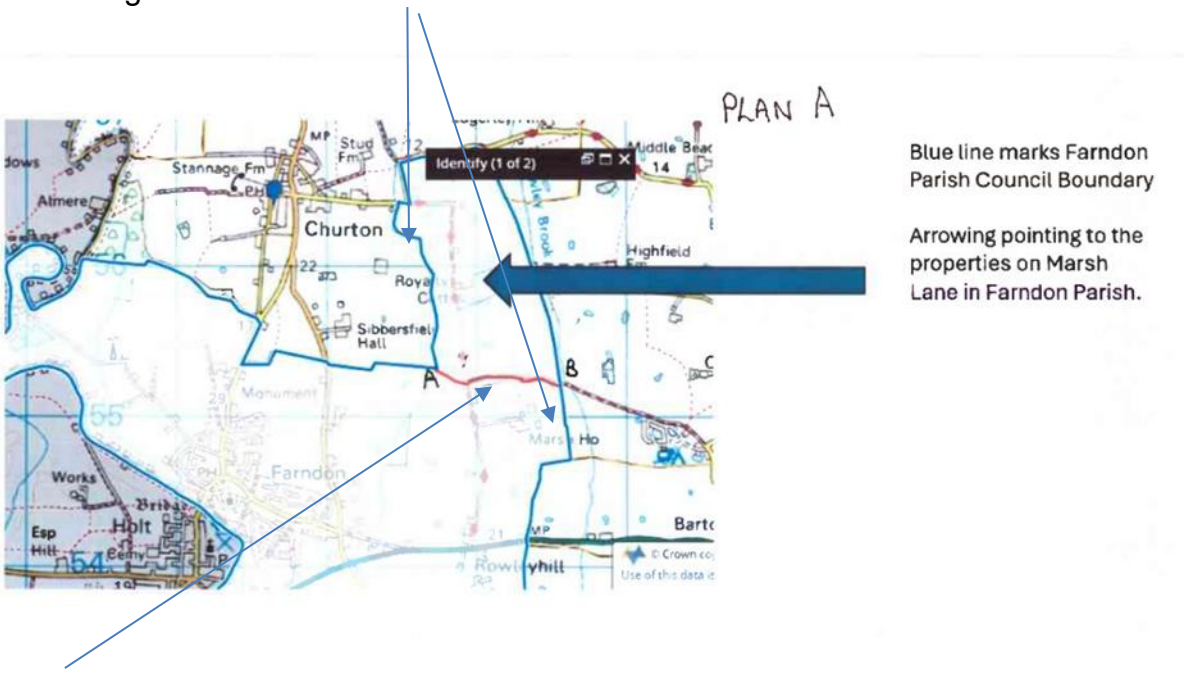
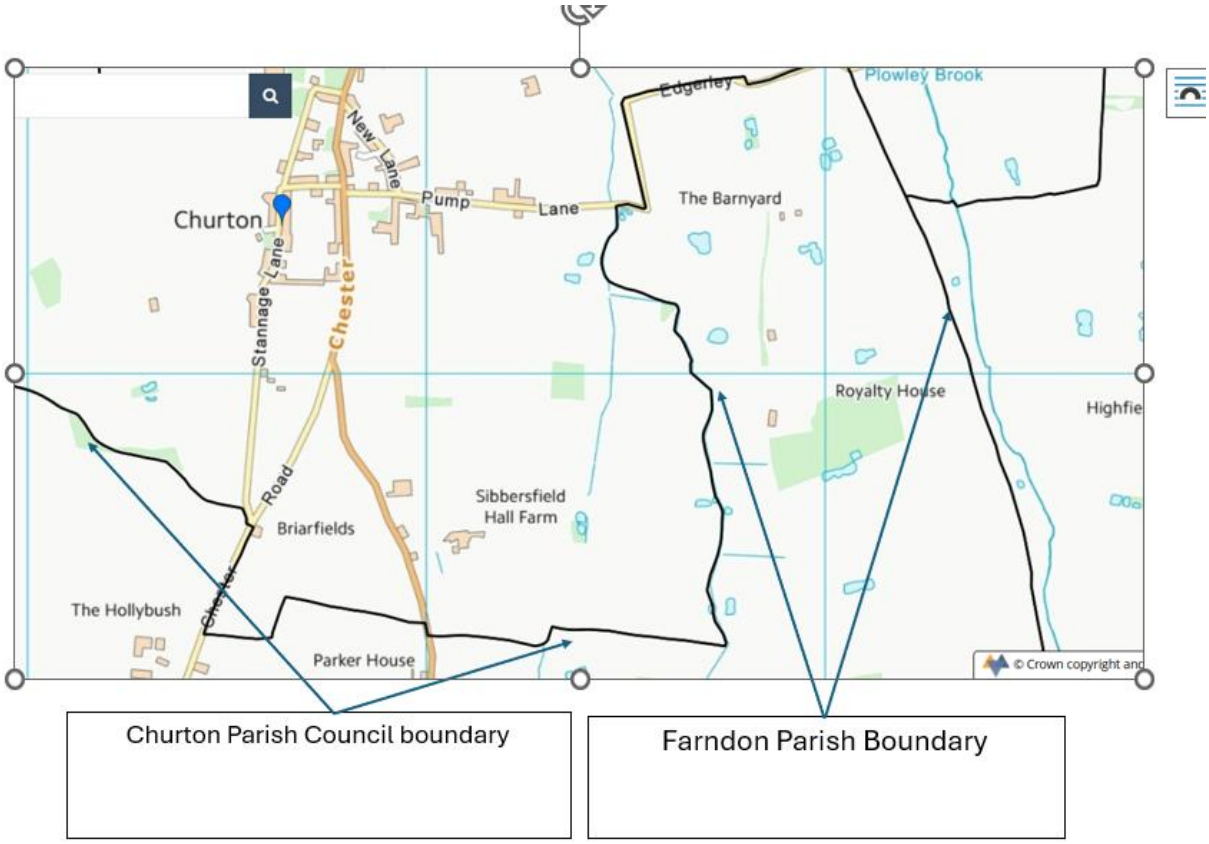
These terms of reference will be published on the Cheshire West and Chester Council website: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance and will be available for inspection at the address above.

Date of Publication: October 2025

** The 2007 Act transferred powers to principal councils which previously, under the Local Government Act 1997, had been shared with the Electoral Commission’s Boundary Committee for England. The Council is required to have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010. This Guidance has been considered in drawing up the Terms of Reference.

Appendix 1

A - Existing Boundaries of Churton Parish Council and Farndon Parish Council.



B – proposed redrawing of Churton Parish Council and Farndon Parish Council Boundary.