

Cheshire West and Chester Council,
The Portal, Wellington Road,
Ellesmere Port,
CH65 0BA
Tel: 01244 977076
15 July 2026

Email: DemocraticServices@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Dear Helsby Stakeholder,

Community Governance Review – Helsby Parish Council Membership

As you are aware, Cheshire West and Chester Council is currently undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR) of Helsby Parish Council membership (number of seats on the Parish Council). This review is now in its final stages to inform stakeholders of the Community Governance Review's recommendations from 23 April 2026.

Consultation Findings

At its last meeting on 23 April 2026 the Community Governance Review Committee considered the findings from the second phase of consultation on the proposed reduction in the size of Helsby Parish Council.

The Committee noted that:

- The consultation showed broad support for reducing the membership from 15 to 12 councillors.
- Most respondents supported retaining the existing three-ward structure.
- The proposal was driven by ongoing difficulties in recruiting parish councillors.
- One respondent raised concerns regarding future development pressures.

Although the response was low, respondents broadly supported the reduction of Parish Councillors. The Committee noted that some respondents raised concerns about the potential growth of Helsby Village in the future and whether this could impact on the reduction of Parish Councillors. The Committee considered this and agreed that should this happen in the future, the numbers could be reviewed again.

Recommendations

As part of the review, the Council has now agreed and published final recommendations, which include:

1. The electoral arrangements, in that, the membership of Helsby Parish Council be reduced from 15 Councillors (split over 3 wards) to 12 Councillors (split over 3 wards).
2. The name of the parish remains unchanged. The boundaries and style of the parish council remain unchanged
3. The Parish Council shall not be abolished or merged as part of a Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council Order (Reorganisation of Community Governance) the membership of Helsby Parish Council should be reduced from 15 to 12. This would be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from May 2027.
4. The recommendations relating to creation of new electoral arrangements for Helsby Parish Council shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in May 2027.

In line with the statutory requirements for Community Governance Reviews and the Council's consultation best practice, it is standard to undertake three stages of consultation with those who may be affected by any proposals or recommendations. We are now inviting feedback from the Member of Parliament, Borough Councillors and Parish Council as phase three of this consultation. This will be your final chance to comment on the review.

If approved, the new electoral arrangements for Helsby Parish Council will take effect from the next scheduled local elections on 6 May 2027.

If you have any final comments, concerns or objections to the final recommendations, please email:
democraticservices@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk by 30 September 2026.

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this review and for sharing your views. Your feedback is an important part of shaping local governance arrangements that best reflect the needs of our communities.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A C Thwaite

**Andrea Thwaite – Democratic Services
Cheshire West and Chester Council**