

Community Governance Review (CRG) 2024 Initial Discussion Paper

1. Background

- 1.1. On 16 November 2022 the Council received a report on the outcome and implementation of the LGBCE's Electoral Review of East Herts. This review resulted in changes to ward boundaries and names across East Herts at district council level, which came into effect at the local elections on 4 May 2023.
- 1.2. Although the LGBCE may make consequential changes to the warding arrangements of town and parish councils as part of an Electoral Review – and did so in this case in relation to the electoral arrangements for the town or parish councils of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Ware and Wareside - it is not empowered to change the external boundaries of parishes themselves. Rather it is East Herts Council using its powers as above under the 2007 Act that has responsibility for reviewing and making any changes to parish boundaries.
- 1.3. Council on 16 November 2022 agreed in principle to undertake the community governance reviews suggested and that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services should bring forward after the May 2023 local elections draft terms of reference for consideration by the Council.
- 1.4. A subsequent report went to council on 26 July 2023 recommending CGRs be undertaken for the area of the Rush Green Roundabout and Ware as a change of staff in the Electoral Services Team meant this review did not take place.
- 1.5. On 24 July 2024 Council agreed to restart the CGR process the setting up of a working group
- 1.6. All Parish and Town Councils were written via email on 7 May 2024 and 15 August 2024 asking them for any proposals they would like the working group to consider and take to Council on 16 October 2024 for inclusion in the forthcoming CGR.
- 1.7. The responses plus the CGRs raised in the 2023 Report are shown below.

Parish/Town Council	Submission	Other Parishes Affected	District Wards and County Divisions Affected	Other Information
Aston Parish Council	The setting up of separate community council for the new development at Hazel Park	None		
Bishop's Stortford Town Council	1. Extension of the town boundary to include the development(s) currently in Thorley Parish 2. Or the absorption of Thorley Parish into Bishop's Stortford	Thorley		Thorley Parish Council have suggested that they take over the development. See below
Brent Pelham/Meesden Parish Council	Asked not to be included	None		
Buntingford Town Council	Feel that a review would only be necessary if planning consent is given for the proposed development on the outside of the town.	Aspenden Cottered Wyddial		
Cottered Parish Council	Asked not to be included	None		
Datchworth Parish Council	Asked not to be included	None		
Great Amwell Parish Council	Change the boundary between Great Amwell and Stanstead St Margarets so it follows the B181	Stanstead St Margarets		See Stanstead Abbots below See Hertford Town Council below
Hertford Heath Parish Council	Asked not to be included			See Hertford Town Council below

Hertford Town Council	The LGBC suggested that a CGR could be used to move the whole of the Rush Green Roundabout into a single Parish or Town Council areas. This would then allow the area to be placed into a single district ward.	Hertford Heath Ware Great Amwell		The reason behind this was to place the whole roundabout in a single ward and county division so that issues such as littering could be dealt with more efficiently.
Hertingfordbury Parish Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To extend the parish boundary to include the village of Hertingfordbury 2. Move the boundary to exclude the development at Birchall Garden Suburb 3. If 1 is accepted increase the number of cllrs to 9 	Hertford		
Sawbridgeworth Town Council	No changes to the current structure			In the 2023 Report to Council suggested that Sawbridgeworth Town Council should be consulted on creating a ward structure for the town.
Stanstead Abbots Parish Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Merge with Stanstead St Margarets and possibly Great Amwell 2. Group with Stanstead St Margarets and possibly Great Amwell 	Stanstead St Margarets Great Amwell		
Tewin Parish Council	The LGBC report suggested there could be a rationale to un-ward the parish.			
Thorley Parish Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase from 6 to 8 cllrs 2. Change to the boundary between Thorley and Bishop's Stortford to 	Bishop's Stortford		See above Bishop's Stortford have suggested the moving on the boundary the other way see above

	<p>move the whole of the St James Park Development into the parish</p> <p>3. The LGBC report suggested there could be a rationale to un-ward the parish.</p>			
Ware Town Council	The LGBCE and Ware Town Council both suggest a realignment of the on the boundary with Wareside.and Thundridge	Thundridge Wareside		