

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF ABBOTS LANGLEY PARISH**TERMS OF REFERENCE****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Three Rivers District Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 1.2 The Council is required to have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered when drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a Community Governance Review?

- 2.1 A CGR provides an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. It can take place for the whole or part of the District to consider one or more of the following:
 - (a) Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
 - (b) The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
 - (c) The electoral arrangements for parishes including:
 - o the ordinary year of election;
 - o the number of councillors to be elected; and
 - o the warding (if any) of the parish
 - (d) 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:
 - (d) Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
 - (e) Is effective and convenient
- 2.3 In doing so, the community governance review is required to take into account:
 - (a) The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and

(b) The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

3. Why undertake a Community Governance Review

3.1 Following an electoral review of Three River's county divisions by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, a number of changes were introduced in May 2016. This had a knock-on effect to some of the districts parish boundaries including Abbots Langley. The proposed changes from the order will impact as follows:

Abbots Langley Parish – Review of Ward Boundaries

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of the electoral arrangements for Hertfordshire County Council included a review of some parish electoral arrangements in Hertfordshire including Abbots Langley Parish Council. The final recommendation of the LGBCE review proposed that Abbots Langley Parish Council should return 15 parish councillors, as at present, representing seven wards: Abbots Langley (returning four members), Abbots Langley West (returning one member), Bedmond (returning one member), Hunton Bridge & Langleybury (returning one member), Hunton Park (returning one member), Leavesden (returning five members) and Primrose Hill (returning two members). These proposals were confirmed by the Hertfordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2015 (SI 2015-1873) to come into effect from the next parish elections in 2019. The proposed ward boundaries based on the electorate figures used for the Hertfordshire County review in some cases produce a level of electoral inequality greater than would normally be acceptable.

The current electorates for the proposed new 7 parish wards are:

Abbots Langley (4 councillors)	3,860 electors (PDs; DAD & DAE)
Abbots Langley West (1 councillor)	1,815 electors (PD; DAG)
Bedmond (1 councillor)	1,155 electors (PD; DAB)
Hunton Bridge & Langleybury (1 councillor)	397 electors (PD; DAFA)
Hunton Park (1 councillor)	787 electors (PD; DAFB)
Leavesden (5 councillors)	5,743 electors (PDs; DAH, DAI & DAJ)
Primrose Hill (2 councillors)	2008 electors (PD; DAA)

The total electorate for the parish will be 15,765. In applying the LGBCE's usual methodology the quota would be 1,051 (i.e. number of electors per councillor), and electoral areas should be no more than + or – 10% from the quota. It would therefore be appropriate to review those wards where a significant level of inequality exists.

4. Who will undertake the Review?

- 4.1 As the relevant principal authority, Three Rivers District 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, to be agreed by the LGBCE.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Council is required to consult the 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 the representations that are received into account. The Council will also 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.
- 5.2 Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, a full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people and other stakeholders. The Council will comply with the statutory consultative requirements by:
- (a) consulting local government electors for the area under review;
 - (b) consulting any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review;
 - (c) notifying and consulting Hertfordshire County Council; and
 - (d) take into account any representations received in connection with the review.
- 5.3 The Council will publicise the review by displaying a notice at the Council Offices and on the Council's website. The Council will also write to all parish councils or any other community or resident groups of which the Council is aware, District Councillors and the relevant County Councillors, the MP and Hertfordshire County Council.
- 5.4 Information about each stage of the review will be published on the Council's website with key documents available at:
- Three Rivers District Council Offices, Three Rivers House, Northway,
Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1RL
- (Opening hours: 8.45am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am to 4.30pm on Friday)

6. Indicative timetable for the Community Governance Review

6.1

Details	Dates
Commencement of CGR – Terms of Reference published	15 January 2019
Initial consultation stage	15 to 31 January 2019
Consideration of submissions received	4 February 2019
Draft recommendations published	8 February 2019
Consultation on draft recommendations	11 to 15 February 2019
Final recommendations prepared	18 February 2019
Final Recommendations considered and approved by full Council	26 February 2019
Community Governance Order made	1 March 2019
Any approved community governance arrangements come into force	2 May 2019

6.2 Any new community governance arrangements will come into force at the first elections to any new parish council following the making of the Order i.e. 2 May 2019.

7. Electorate Forecasts

- 7.1 The December 2018 Register has been used to produce parish ward electorate figures for this review.
- 7.2 When the Council comes to consider electoral arrangements for the parish councils in its area, it is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts.
- 7.3 Electorate forecasts have been prepared using information contained in the Local Plan to produce five-year forecasts.

8. Representations

- 8.1 Three Rivers District Council welcomes representations 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 within the Review.

8.2 Representations may be made in the following ways:

By Email: CGR@threerivers.gov.uk

By post: Electoral Services (CGR)
Three Rivers District Council
Three Rivers House
Northway
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 1RL