

Stratford-on-Avon District Council



Community Governance Review for The Wolfords Joint Parish Council

Terms of Reference

INTRODUCTION

The Wolfords Joint Parish Council has made an application to Stratford-on-Avon District Council requesting a Community Governance Review is undertaken in regard to current warding arrangements for Little Wolford Ward, ahead of the Ordinary Parish Elections to be held in 2027*.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a legal process where Stratford-on-Avon District Council (the Council) can create or abolish parish councils and review and change parish arrangements, such as the number of parish council seats, warding and boundaries.

The Council must ensure that community governance in the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community within that area and is effective and convenient. It is important that recommendations made through a review should result in enhanced community engagement, more cohesive communities, improved local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

The CGR will be conducted under the following legal framework:

- Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- Local Government Act 1972 (relevant provisions)
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (DCLG & LGBCE, 2010)
- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008
- Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008

The Council is required to publish these Terms of Reference under Section 81 of the 2007 Act.

REASON FOR THE CGR

The Joint Parish Council came into being on 4 May 2023 to oversee the governing arrangements for the parishes of Great Wolford and Little Wolford, following a Reorganisation Order. The Order allocated:

- 4 councillors to Great Wolford Ward; and
- 1 councillor to Little Wolford Ward.

The allocation, however, due to the latest electoral figures shows an imbalance of electors per councillor in each ward, as set out in the table below:

Ward	Electors	Councillors	Electors per Councillor
Great Wolford	159	4	39
Little Wolford	88	1	88

These electorate figures are extracted from the January 2026 Electoral Register.

The Joint Parish Council therefore wishes to seek a second seat for the Little Wolford Ward, which would result in 44 electors per councillor (rather than 88 electors currently) to ensure fairer and proportionate representation between the two parish wards at the next Ordinary Parish Election in 2027*.

In summary, Great Wolford Ward would retain four parish councillors with Little Wolford Ward increasing its number to two (with six seats being within the criteria set out in the National Association of Local Council's Guidance, for the electorate total of the two parishes).

WHO UNDERTAKES THE CGR?

The Council is the statutory authority responsible for carrying out the CGR. The Council's Audit and Standards Committee will consider the Terms of Reference and make recommendations to Council. Once approved, this will enable the consultation period to commence. Once the consultation period has concluded, Council will make the final decision on the CGR, taking into account any representations received.

If Council resolve to approve the application, any changes to the Joint Parish Council's warding arrangements will be made by a Reorganisation Order (see Timetable below).

CONSULTATION AND PUBLICITY

The Council to:

- Agree the Terms of Reference, setting out the scope of the CGR, the timetable and the consultation methods.
- Consult any other person or body which is considered by the Council to have an interest in the CGR, inviting them to submit their views.
- Inform and consult the relevant District and County Councillors.
- Consult with Warwickshire County Council.

The Consultation Period will commence on **Thursday 7 May 2026** with the deadline for comments to be received by **Friday 12 June 2026**.

Information in regard to the CGR will be published via:

- Council's website;
- Council's noticeboard;
- Council's press releases;
- The Wolford's Joint Parish Council website;
- The Wolford's Joint Parish Council noticeboard.

An email address will be provided at CGR@stratford-dc.gov.uk for consultation comments, or alternatively, these can be submitted in writing to:

The Electoral Services Team
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Elizabeth House
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6HX

TIMETABLE FOR THE CGR	DATE
Report to Audit and Standards Committee with Draft Terms of Reference	23 March 2026
Report to Council with recommended Terms of Reference	20 April 2026
CGR consultation period starts	7 May 2026
CGR consultation period ends	12 June 2026
Council makes final decision on the CGR, and if approved, authorises the making of the Reorganisation Order with the decision published	13 July 2026
Reorganisation Order made with a copy placed at offices of the Council and on its website	Post 13 August 2026
Elections of Councillors for The Wolfords Joint Parish Council	6 May 2027*
* Or the next ordinary parish council elections in place of 6 May 2027 prescribed under a structural changes order for the Council area due to local government reorganisation.	