



Community Governance Review 2025

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) will be carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) over the coming months, conducting a consultation and inviting submissions, starting at the end of June. A CGR is a way to make sure that, at parish level, governance arrangements are working as efficiently and effectively as they should be.

This is achieved by asking the public, parish councils and any interested parties whether they feel their communities are suitably represented and whether parish councils would like to see any changes made to their current governance arrangements.

The aim of a review is to consider and bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy, more efficient, effective, and convenient delivery of local services and to ensure electors are treated equitably and fairly

A CGR can:

- Create, merge, alter or abolish parishes.
- Change electoral arrangements for parishes including the ordinary year of an election, number of parish councillors and changes to parish wards.
- Convert a parish council to a parish meeting.
- Change the name or the style of a new parish/town council or parish meeting.
- Group parishes together under a common parish – generally only used for very small parishes where there are parish meetings rather than parish councils.
- Amend boundary anomalies

A CGR cannot:

- Change the number of district or county councillors.
- Change a district (external) or county council ward boundaries.
- Change the amount of money that a parish council raises through your council tax (known as 'precept').
- Change individual parish councillors.
- Create a unitary authority.

A CGR must:

- Reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area.
- Be effective and convenient.
- Take into account the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion.
- Take into account the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

The Parish Council would welcome any suggestions or comments in advance of the Review, by email to clerk@studhamparishcouncil.gov.uk or by post to: Clerk to Studham Parish Council, 146 London Road, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 3EX