

Frequently asked questions

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

What is community governance?

Community Governance is the way in which local communities are represented and governed at local authority level and through the involvement of other statutory and voluntary agencies and community groups and by the efforts of local people themselves. It is also about the way in which individuals and groups within the community are listened to and able to influence decisions that affect them.

What is a community governance review?

A community governance review (also known as a parishing review) is the process used to consider whether existing parish and town council arrangements should be changed in any way, including:-

- The creation of a parish or town council
- The establishment of a separate parish or town for an existing parish
- The name of a parish or town council
- The alteration of boundaries of existing parish and town areas
- Changes to the electoral arrangements (for example changing the number of councillors) of a parish or town council
- Whether a parish should be grouped under a common Parish Council or de-grouped
- The dissolution of a parish or town council

Who undertakes community governance reviews?

As the principal authority, South Gloucestershire Council is responsible for undertaking community governance reviews within its electoral area.

Who is being consulted?

The consultation is publicly available to all residents and businesses. We will also consult with local councillors, community groups and associations, parish councils and MP's in the review areas. Every household located in the areas affected by the proposals will be written to and invited to respond.

What are the criteria by which options for the future will be judged?

Government guidance indicates that characteristics of good community governance to be considered in assessing the options when undertaking a review include:

- Effective engagement with the local community at neighbourhood level
- A sense of civic pride and civic values
- Strong leadership
- A strong, inclusive community and voluntary sector
- A sense of place with a positive feeling for people and local distinctiveness
- The ability of local authorities to deliver quality services economically and efficiently in an area that is of a size that is viable as an administrative unit of local government

Can alternative suggestions be made?

Yes, we want to hear your views and these will be considered before any decisions are taken. We must also work within the governments guidelines by ensuring boundaries recognise natural communities and where possible we will use natural and physical features as boundaries, such as rivers, railways and major roads.

When will any agreed changes take effect?

If changes are agreed in any of the areas under review, they would take effect at the district and parish elections in May 2023.

What is a Parish or Town Council?

A Parish or Town Council is made up of members who are democratically elected every four years. It will have regular meetings to discuss issues which affect the area. Members of the public can attend the meetings. The Parish or Town council will have a Chairperson. The Parish or Town Council will have a Clerk (usually this is a paid role) who implements decisions, provides independent advice and administrative support.

What can a Parish or Town Council do?

Parish and Town Councils represent the interests of its community by providing services to meet local needs and improving the quality of life and community well-being. They are consulted on planning applications in their area and depending on their size may be responsible for the provision of allotments, street lighting, managing cemeteries, managing village halls, maintenance of roadside verges and supporting local crime initiatives.

How are Parish and Town Councils funded?

Parish and Town Councils are funded by a precept. The precept is raised through a separate charge which is added to your Council Tax bill and collected by South Gloucestershire Council on behalf of the parish or town council. The parish or town council will decide how much funding they need in order to provide services and facilities for the benefit of the community. The amount you pay will depend on the size to the parish

or town council, the number of properties across which it is spread and the Council Tax Banding of your property.

If new parish or town councils are created, South Gloucestershire Council may decide on the precept required for the first year.

Will the proposed changes make any difference to my council tax?

If you live in an area where a new parish or town council is proposed then yes, the changes may make a difference to your council tax. This is because parish and town councils are funded by a precept which is a sum of money collected as part of your council tax.

If you live in an area which is currently unparished, charges called 'special expenses' are added to your council tax, to pay for the services provided by South Gloucestershire Council, which in other areas may be provided by a parish or town council. If new parish and town council areas are created, it is likely that a review of special expenses would take place.

The creation of any new parish or town council or a merger with an existing parish or town area would give rise to funding considerations. The council tax you pay may decrease or increase, depending on the services the parish or town council wanted to provide.

Stoke Lodge and The Common Parish Council, is the newest parish in South Gloucestershire and was created in 2015 from an area which was previously part of Patchway Town Council. Residents living within Stoke Lodge and The Common Parish Council now pay less council tax than when they were part of Patchway Town Council.

A table has been included below to illustrate the parish and town council precepts for Council Tax Band D properties in SGC for 2021/22.

2021/22 Council Tax for South Gloucestershire Purposes
(excluding Avon Fire Authority and Avon and Somerset
Police and Crime Commissioner

	Basic Band D Tax	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Total Band D Council Tax
Acton Turville	£1,599.51	£34.95	£2.61	£1,637.07
Almondsbury	£1,599.51	£65.41	£1.95	£1,666.87
Alveston	£1,599.51	£43.12	£4.56	£1,647.19
Aust	£1,599.51	£23.56	£0.19	£1,623.26
Bitton	£1,599.51	£28.38	£22.94	£1,650.83
Bradley Stoke	£1,599.51	£116.94	£19.08	£1,735.53
Charfield	£1,599.51	£53.68	£25.36	£1,678.55
Cold Ashton	£1,599.51	£32.04		£1,631.55
Cromhall	£1,599.51	£71.29	£1.04	£1,671.84
Dodington	£1,599.51	£118.09	£49.19	£1,766.79
Downend and Bromley Heath	£1,599.51	£66.37	£18.37	£1,684.25
Doynton	£1,599.51	£32.51		£1,632.02
Dyrham & Hinton	£1,599.51	£57.33	£5.29	£1,662.13
Emersons Green	£1,599.51	£39.59	£17.74	£1,656.84
Falfield	£1,599.51	£24.75	£2.04	£1,626.30
Filton	£1,599.51	£318.29	£8.16	£1,925.96
Frampton Cotterell	£1,599.51	£133.19	£12.00	£1,744.70
Great Badminton	£1,599.51	£24.77		£1,624.28
Hanham	£1,599.51	£26.51	£33.27	£1,659.29
Hanham Abbots	£1,599.51	£29.38	£25.87	£1,654.76
Hawkesbury	£1,599.51	£43.60	£7.24	£1,650.35

Hill	£1,599.51	£16.43		£1,615.94
Horton	£1,599.51	£21.46	£13.79	£1,634.76
Iron Acton	£1,599.51	£94.42	£1.37	£1,695.30
Little Sodbury	£1,599.51	£9.86		£1,609.37
Marshfield	£1,599.51	£88.64	£14.16	£1,702.31
Oldbury on Severn	£1,599.51	£45.16	£0.24	£1,644.91
Oldland	£1,599.51	£33.30	£36.32	£1,669.13
Olveston	£1,599.51	£74.39	£5.18	£1,679.08
Patchway	£1,599.51	£182.99	£12.96	£1,795.46
Pilning & Severn Beach	£1,599.51	£60.60	£31.12	£1,691.23
Pucklechurch	£1,599.51	£88.81	£22.62	£1,710.94
Rangeworthy	£1,599.51	£39.90	£4.09	£1,643.50
Rockhampton	£1,599.51	£37.61	£3.84	£1,640.96
Siston	£1,599.51	£25.14	£60.03	£1,684.68
Sodbury	£1,599.51	£128.22	£20.57	£1,748.30
Stoke Gifford	£1,599.51	£75.67	£15.46	£1,690.64
Stoke Lodge and The Common	£1,599.51	£83.12	£13.59	£1,696.22
Thornbury	£1,599.51	£147.45	£16.91	£1,763.87
Tormarton	£1,599.51	£42.12	£2.49	£1,644.12
Tortworth	£1,599.51	£3.34		£1,602.85
Tytherington	£1,599.51	£82.16	£8.66	£1,690.33
Westerleigh	£1,599.51	£58.46	£4.47	£1,662.44
Wick & Abson	£1,599.51	£110.28	£3.16	£1,712.95
Wickwar	£1,599.51	£59.50	£14.66	£1,673.67
Winterbourne	£1,599.51	£48.91	£8.43	£1,656.85
Yate	£1,599.51	£182.37	£28.83	£1,810.71
Unparished Areas	£1,599.51		£30.44	£1,629.95

Are Parish and Town Councillors paid an allowance?

Parish and town councillors are not usually paid an allowance, but may incur costs which can be reimbursed.

Will the proposals change the current school catchment areas?

No, these will remain the same and are set by South Gloucestershire Council.