

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

ACOMB PARISH COUNCIL

Terms of Reference

'To consider the electoral arrangements of Acomb Parish Council with a view to increasing the number of Councillors from seven to nine.'

Community Governance Reviews

Principal Councils, like Northumberland County Council, have powers to conduct community governance reviews about such matters as the creation of parish council and their electoral arrangements. This includes looking at the existing electoral arrangements.

An essential feature of community governance reviews is consulting with local electors and other stakeholders in the area subject to review.

Background

Acomb Parish Council is concerned that the number of Parish Councillors has been seven for at least 30 years despite the increase in the number of houses in the Parish from approximately 450 to 600. The current electorate is 1,042. The Parish Council feels that an increase in the number of Councillors would allow the workload of existing Councillors to be spread out more evenly.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England Guidance on Community Governance Reviews states that there must be at least five members but does not provide a maximum number. The National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126 states that, typically, Parishes with an electorate of between 501 and 2,500 have between six and twelve Councillors. It adds that the minimum number of Councillors for any Parish should be seven with a maximum of 25.

The Parish Council has, therefore, asked Northumberland County Council to carry out a community governance review. If the proposal is adopted as a result of the review, it will lead to the number of Councillors representing Acomb Parish being increased to nine.

If an Order is made, the changes will come into force for the next ordinary elections of the Parish Council in May 2025

Timetable

1 July 2022	Issue press release and publish notices within the Parish
29 July 2022	Deadline for any comments/objections

November 2022

Report to Council informing it of the
outcome of the review

Late 2022

Making of the relevant order, subject to the
Council's decision

Contact

Comments to be submitted in writing by 29 July 2022 to

Lesley Bennett, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services,
Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF

E-mail: cgreviews@Northumberland.gov.uk