



The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Guidance on community governance reviews



Undertaking community governance reviews

- 32 Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows principal councils to decide how to undertake a community governance review, provided that they comply with the duties in that Act which apply to councils undertaking reviews.
- 33 Principal councils will need to consult local people and take account of any representations received in connection with the review. When undertaking the review they must have regard to the need to secure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review, and the need to secure that community governance in that area is effective and convenient. Further information on making recommendations is in Chapter 3.
- 34 Under the 2007 Act principal councils are required to consult both those local government electors in the area under review, and others (including a local authority such as a county council) which appears to the principal council to have an interest in the review. In the case of a community governance review where a parish council already exists, as a local authority, it too should be consulted. Other bodies might include local businesses, local public and voluntary organisations - such as schools or health bodies. The principal council must take into account any representations it receives as part of a community governance review.
- 35 Principal councils must consider the wider picture of community governance in carrying out their reviews. In some areas there may be well established forms of community governance such as local residents' associations, or community forums which local people have set up and which help make a distinct contribution to the community. Some principal councils may also have set up area committees which perform a specific role in the local community.
- 36 In undertaking a review, section 93(5) requires principal councils to take these bodies into account. Potentially, as representatives of their community, these bodies may be considered as foundations for or stages towards the creation of democratically elected parishes (further information about other non-parish forms of community governance can be found in Chapter 4).