

From: Democratic Services (WODC)
Sent: 23 September 2026 11:33 AM
To: Town Clerk
Subject: Community Governance Review - Witney area

Dear Town Clerk, Witney Town Council

I write further to West Oxfordshire District Council ("The Council")'s meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2026 at which it was resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) focused on the civic boundaries of Carterton, Chipping Norton and Witney. The CGR will consider boundaries around these towns where development has taken place or is taking place outside of the town council boundaries. Resolution 7 on the paper was to initiate the first phase of the process, to invite proposals from the three Town Councils and their surrounding parishes and that is the purpose of this email to you.

The Terms of Reference agreed by Full Council for the review are attached to this email, and contain the rationale, scope, process and indicative timetable for the review. The full report to Council can be found on our website ([link here](#)) and may be useful to further elaborate on these points and provide useful background. It is important to note that the Council is currently in the process of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), though this is currently paused. Therefore, the timetable is subject to change as LGR will remain the overriding governance priority and draw on resources and officer time in the coming months and years.

This email is an invitation to submit your proposals for boundary changes for the Witney area. If you do not wish to see any changes to boundaries this should also be stated in writing along with your rationale for this position to ensure that your views are represented. In the case of Witney Town Council, we acknowledge that you have previously sent detailed proposals in your letter dated 5 January 2026. The proposals submitted were for the northern and western growth areas around Witney in the direction of Curbridge and Minster Lovell parishes to the west and Hailey and South Leigh and High Cogges parishes to the north. If these proposals for boundary changes remain your final position, we should be grateful if you would confirm that this is the case. If you wish to change your position, please submit your responses to this consultation by 31 December 2026.

We encourage your proposals to be evidence based and as previously submitted, they should include maps of the proposed changes. The report to Council detailed the key considerations for making any changes in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("The Act") and the supporting guidance issued by the Boundary Commission. Section 93 (4) of The Act states that any changes to boundaries should be made to secure community governance in the area under review. Securing community governance is defined as ensuring that boundaries reflect the identities and interests of the community and provide effective and convenient local governance for the residents. The report also stated that the Council considers it premature to consider unbuilt planned settlements on which planning permission has not been secured and building has not commenced, such as some of those allocated in the emerging Local Plan. However, the report notes that such areas may be considered in a future community governance

review. In accordance with section 93 (3), local government electors for the area under review will be consulted in a second stage once initial proposals have been established.

Should you need any assistance mapping your proposals please do let us know. The Ordnance Survey website allows existing parish boundaries to be overlaid on maps of the district: [Election Maps](#). We will be in touch shortly to provide current maps of parishes, councillor numbers and electorate data.

Should you have any questions please do contact our Democratic Services Team.

Otherwise, we look forward to hearing from you by 31 December 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Mathew Taylor – on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council

