



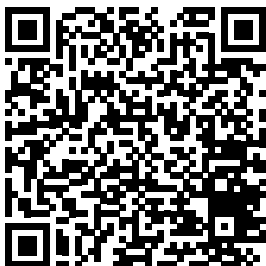
BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Governance Review Consultation (Stage 2)

Shortstown

Bedford Borough Council's proposal for increasing
the number of Parish Councillors

have
your
say...



SCAN ME

www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review

Introduction

Following a request from Shortstown Parish Council, Bedford Borough Council is conducting a Community Governance Review which seeks to increase the number of Parish Councillors on Shortstown Parish Council.

Bedford Borough Council, at a meeting of Full Council, has agreed to consult on a proposal to increase the number of Parish Councillors on Shortstown Parish Council from 12 to 15. The objective is to ensure local governance arrangements are fully representative of the community's needs.

The Borough Council is now seeking your views on these proposals before a final decision is taken later this year.

How to respond:



Online: Complete this survey directly at Bedford Borough Council Consultation Portal www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review



Paper copy: Return this completed form to: Electoral Services, Bedford Borough Council, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP



Closing Date: All responses must be received by **Friday 11 September 2026**.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a legal process conducted by Councils in England to evaluate and update the structure, boundaries and electoral arrangements for Town and Parish Councils. These reviews help ensure that the most local tier of government accurately reflects community identity, is effective and provides fair representation.

What is the specific change being proposed?

Shortstown Parish Council instigated this Community Governance Review as it believes current and anticipated growth in the Parish requires greater democratic representation.

In considering Shortstown Parish Council's request, and taking into account results of the first stage of public consultation into this matter, Bedford Borough Council is now proposing an increase in the number of Parish Councillors who can be elected or co-opted onto Shortstown Parish Council. This means that Shortstown Parish Council will be represented by 15 Parish Councillors instead of the current number of 12, adding three additional Councillors to its membership.

Why is this change being proposed?

Democratic Representation: The proposal ensures that Shortstown Parish Council comprises greater democratic representation, with more Councillors able to represent community interests, taking into account recent and anticipated growth in the Parish.

How will this affect me as a resident?

Voting at Parish elections: If the proposals are approved by the Borough Council, more people will be able to stand as Parish Councillors and represent the community. You will also be able to vote for more candidates at local elections.

Council Tax: Your Council Tax will not change as a consequence of increasing the number of Parish Councillors. Shortstown Parish Council does not pay allowances to its Parish Councillors, so there will not be any financial implications to you as a resident as a result of this change.

Why have I been contacted?

The Borough Council is required to undertake a public consultation on its proposals before making a final decision. As a resident who lives in the affected Parish, or a key stakeholder, you are invited to submit your views as part of the public consultation which will inform the Council's final decision.

Next Steps in the Process

Public Consultation: The public consultation is now live and responses must be submitted by 12 noon on Friday 11 September 2026. Please use the survey included as part of this document or via the online consultation portal to submit your response.

Final Decision: A final decision on the proposal will be made by the Council in October 2026. The Council's General Purposes Committee will consider the responses from this consultation process and make a recommendation to Full Council on 7 October 2026, where a final decision will be made.

Implementation: If approved a Reorganisation Order will be adopted and signed, coming into effect for the local council elections scheduled to be held on 6 May 2027.

How to find out more

Full information regarding the Community Governance Review, including the terms of reference, consultation documents and reports relating to the responses received to the consultation exercises undertaken can be viewed on the Council's website at: www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review



Please tell us what you think about the Council's final recommendation to increase the number of Parish Councillors on Shortstown Parish Council by three so that Shortstown Parish Council has 15 Parish Councillors instead of 12 Parish Councillors by 12 noon on Friday 11 September 2026.

Bedford Borough Council will consider all submissions received before coming to its final decision.

You can complete this survey by going online to or by completing a printed version and returning to Bedford Borough Council.



SCAN ME

Questionnaire

Q1. What is your full postcode? (eg. MK42 7XX)

Q2. Are you a resident in the affected area?

- ☐ Yes, I live in Shortstown
- ☐ No, but I own a business or represent an organisation here
- ☐ No, I live elsewhere in Bedford Borough

Q3. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

- ☐ Local Resident
- ☐ Parish / Town Councillor or Officer
- ☐ Borough Councillor
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Q4. Based on the information provided as part of this consultation document, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the number of Parish Councillors on Shortstown Parish Council should be increased, as is proposed by the Borough Council?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree or disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Q5. Please provide any comments or reasoning to support your choice

Q6. Do you believe these proposed changes will help provide effective and convenient local government for the residents of Shortstown?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

Q7. If you have any questions or would like to comment further regarding the Community Governance Review process for Shortstown, please use the space below.

- Q8. If you wish to be kept informed of progress relating to this Community Governance Review, or if you are content with being contacted regarding any comments or questions you may have submitted in your response, please supply your contact details. These will only be used to contact you in relation to this Community Governance Review and will not be used for any other purpose or passed onto anyone else**

Contact Details

Name:

Address:

Email address:

The Council would prefer to communicate with you by email where possible.

Thank you for responding.

This consultation closes on Friday 11 September 2026

Please note:

Bedford Borough Council is committed to protecting and handling personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation and has set out how it will do this whilst carrying out its duties and obligations, in its Data Protection Policy and its Privacy Notice.

Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please email or write to us at our address below.

Për Informacion

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Za Informacije

Per Informazione

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Bedford Borough Council

Borough Hall

Cauldwell Street

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MK42 9AP



Electoral.Registration@bedford.gov.uk



www.bedford.gov.uk