

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE
1 FEBRUARY 2021**

Officer: Helen Ball – Town Clerk

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Purpose of Report

1. To update members on Shropshire Council’s plans to carry our Community Governance Reviews after the May 2021 elections
2. To consider making representations to Shropshire Council to undertake a Community Governance Review in Shrewsbury

Shropshire Council Plans

Shropshire Council has resolved to consider undertaking Community Governance Reviews throughout Shropshire following the next Local Government Elections, currently scheduled to be held in May 2021.

In view of the forthcoming pre-election period, representations are initially sought from Parish and Town Councils on changes that might be considered to be less controversial in nature. These should demonstrate some element of support from the Local Community and surrounding Parishes. Communication between Parishes to establish common ground is encouraged. It is anticipated that such reviews will commence soon after the elections.

The Council will be working with SALC to bring information to those parishes affected so that the process is fully understood and they have a timely opportunity to engage and consult with their communities and neighbouring councils.

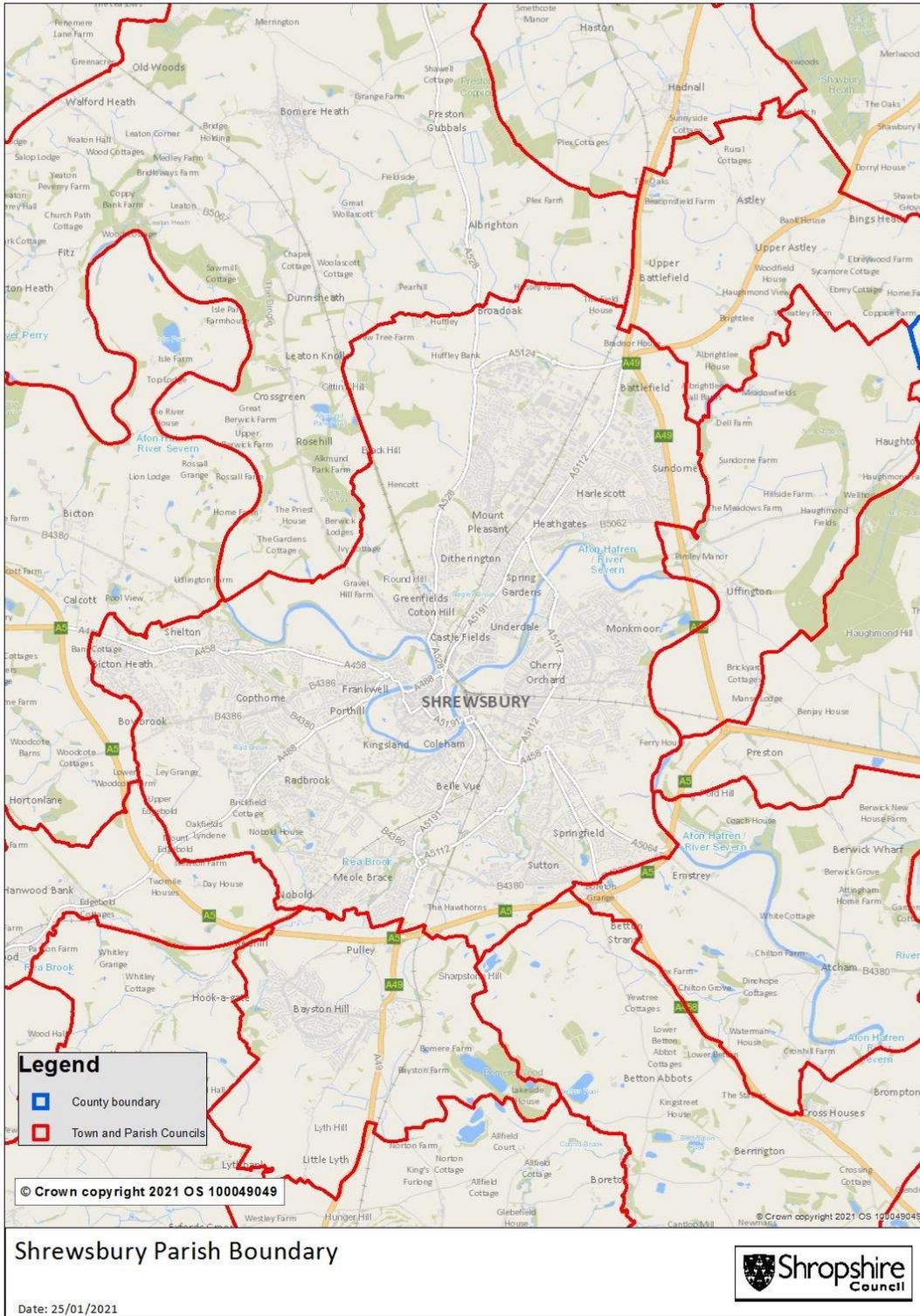
It is anticipated that a further exercise will run alongside this to identify areas which need to be reviewed but on which agreement may be more difficult to reach. Reviews for such areas will follow.

Any changes made are likely to be effective from the date of Local Government Elections which are scheduled to be held in May 2025. Representations and any enquiries should be made to democracy@shropshire.gov.uk by 12 March 2021.

Shrewsbury – A Case for a Governance Review

For many years the development boundary of Shrewsbury nestled comfortably within the parish boundary as can be seen by the map overleaf.

As can be seen the A5 and A49 meanders across the Parish Boundary and in place the Parish Boundary follows the route of the River Severn.



Over the last 10 years we have see the town’s development boundary expanding beyond our parish boundary. This has result in difficult conversations with neighbouring parishes, potential conflict where the Town Council supports development but parish councils haven’t and in the cases of the Shrewsbury Urban Extensions in the South and West the Town Council not being consulted as development sites are out with the parish boundary.

This situation is not uncommon as many other Market Towns around the county are seeing urban extensions into rural parishes.

There is a case to seek expansion of the outer boundary to basically follow the line of the A5/A49/proposed NWRR line. This would allow for better development planning for infrastructure, the ability to represent those residents who will inevitably see that they live in Shrewsbury and will wish to access Shrewsbury infrastructure.

Members may wish to consider whether internal ward boundaries need to be reviewed. The direction of development (to the east, south and west) will inevitably mean the number of residents per ward will no longer be equitable. Shrewsbury has the largest population per Councillor than any other Town or Parish Council across the Country.

It should be noted that representations are sort for the simple boundary reviews. Given that Shrewsbury is surrounded by 9 Parish Councils it's unlikely that a Community Governance Review will be undertaken earlier on.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1. That the report be noted;**
- 2. That the Council register its wish for a Community Governance Review in Shrewsbury.**