

Winchester Community Governance Review Consultation

Report

January 2026



Winchester
City Council



Research, consultation and evaluation
for the public and charitable sectors.

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Winchester Community Governance Review Consultation – Report

Executive Summary

Introduction and background

1. Winchester City Council conducted a Community Governance Review (CGR) stage one consultation about the creation of a parish council for the unparished Winchester town area, and potential inclusion of surrounding parishes and areas.
2. The CGR and consultation followed recent announcements from Government of its intention to create new, larger unitary councils across Hampshire in 2028, which would be responsible for the services currently delivered by a county council and a district council. A CGR could result in the creation of a new parish council for the Winchester town area, which is currently ‘unparished’, meaning its residents are not currently represented by a parish council or parish meeting, unlike everywhere else across the Winchester district.
3. Winchester City Council commissioned independent organisation Public Perspectives to support the consultation process and report the results of the consultation. This report and the associated analysis of the feedback received through the consultation will inform draft recommendations, which will be subject to further consultation prior to a formal decision being made by the council.

Approach

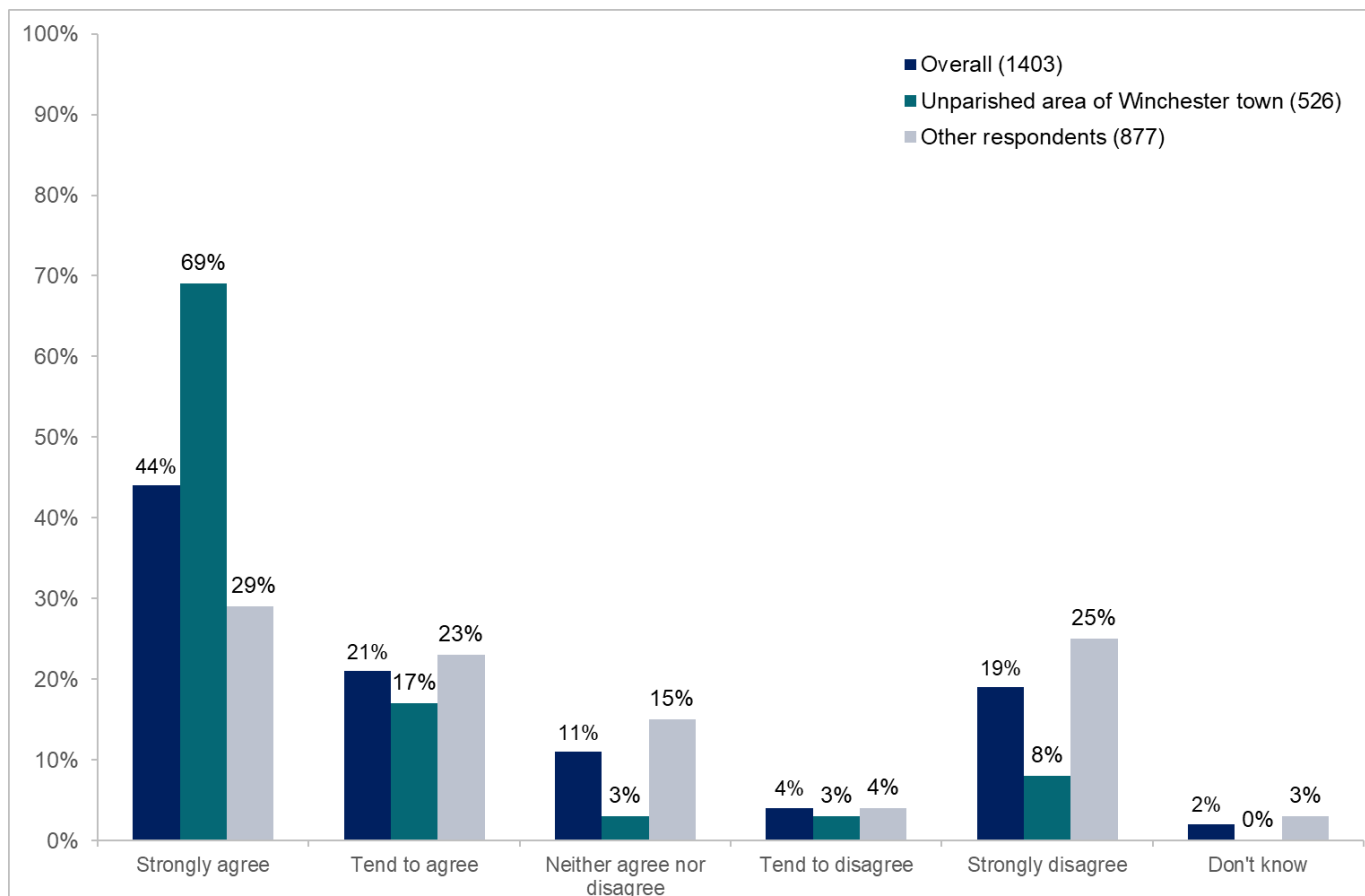
4. The consultation took place between Monday 3 November 2025 and Monday 22 December 2025 – a 7-week period.
5. The main method of response was via an open-access online consultation questionnaire available to all interested residents and stakeholders. In addition, paper copies were available at the City Offices reception and could also be requested, and written responses submitted. E-mail and telephone support was also available.
6. The consultation was promoted extensively through the council’s website, communication channels, such as the council’s e-newsletter, and promotional/marketing activity, including press releases and adverts in local newspapers, social media posts and adverts, and a leaflet drop via Royal Mail to 30,542 households in the target areas and beyond. There was also direct promotion to, and engagement with, all Council Members, council staff and other identified stakeholders such as businesses, community organisations, Hampshire County Council and affected parish councils, who were asked to respond to and promote the consultation. In addition, there were also four drop-in sessions held to promote and discuss the consultation and support residents and other stakeholders to respond.
7. In total, 1,415 responded to the consultation questionnaire, including 9 paper/postal responses. In addition, Littleton and Harestock Parish Council and Headbourne Worthy Parish Council provided formal written responses (other parish councils responded via the consultation questionnaire).

Key findings

Proposal for a new local parish council for the Winchester town area

8. There is **support for the creation of a new local parish council for Winchester town, especially amongst respondents that live in the area**. Overall, 65% of respondents agree with the creation of a new local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town, including 44% that strongly agree, while 23% disagree.
9. 86% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree with the creation of a new local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town, including 69% that strongly agree. Just 11% disagree. This compares with 52% of other respondents that agree and 29% disagree.
10. Support was driven primarily by a desire for **stronger local representation and a more direct democratic voice for residents of Winchester town**. Many felt that existing governance arrangements are too distant and that a parish council would be more accessible, accountable, and responsive to local concerns, especially in light of the potential local government reorganisation and associated creation of a larger unitary council. Relatedly, some respondents said that creating a new parish council would help **safeguard Winchester's City status and mayoralty**.

Figure 1: Level of agreement with the creation of a new parish council for Winchester town



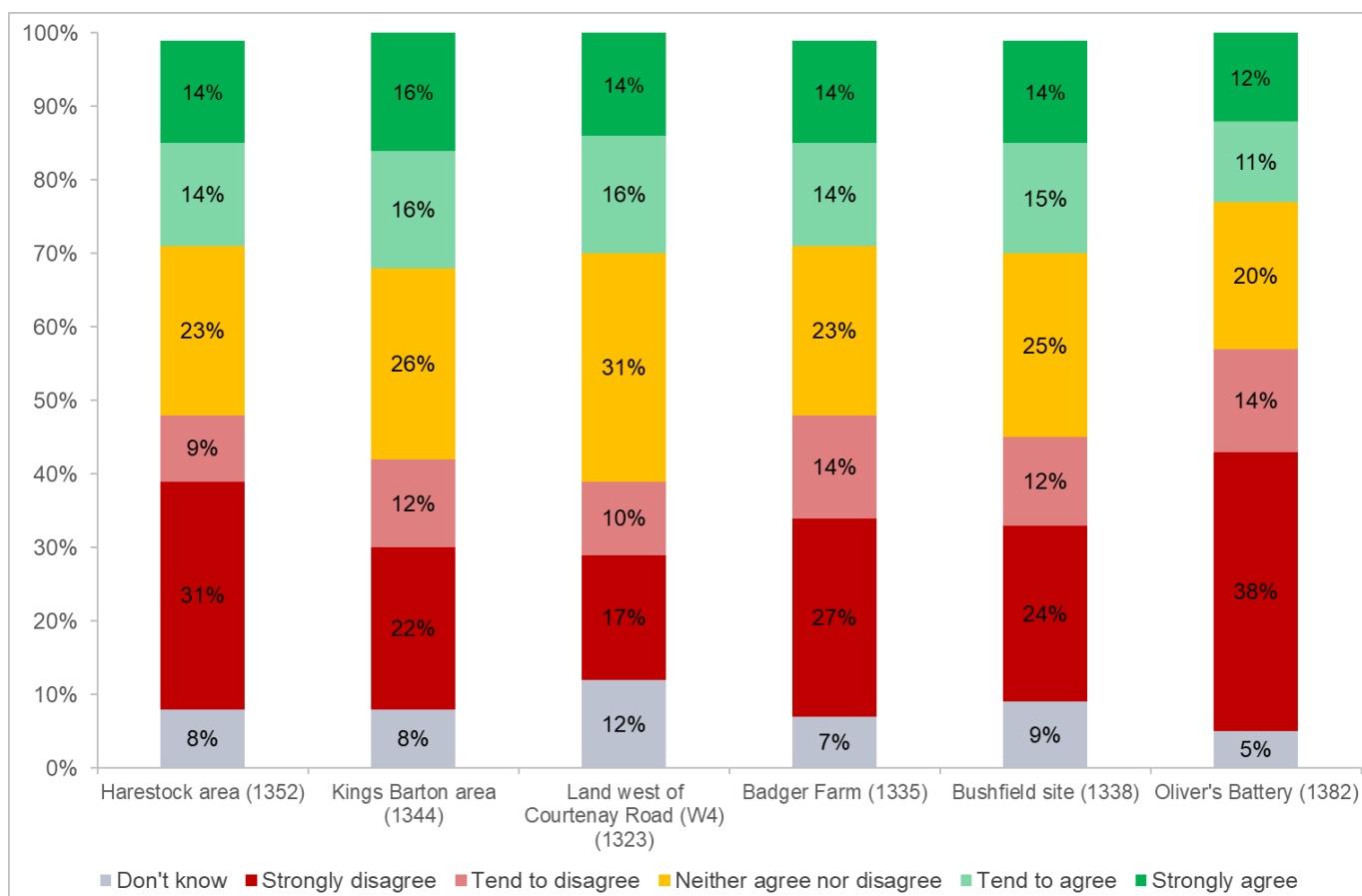
Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents.

Note: Not all respondents answered all questions, and consequently the number of respondents for any given question may not add-up to the total of 1,415 respondents to the consultation. This is the case for all graphs/figures in this report.

Exploring potential boundary change options

11. There is **more opposition than support about the inclusion of surrounding parishes and areas in a new parish council for Winchester town**, and this opposition is greater amongst respondents that live in those areas and their respective parish councils. This opposition tends to exist because parishes are established and consider themselves distinct to Winchester town and responsive to local needs. There is also concern about loss of representation, community voice and local influence, including in development and planning, as well as the viability of remaining parishes where part of an existing parish could join a new Winchester town parish council. Similarly, some respondents opposed changes to boundaries or governance in surrounding parishes or areas in principle, considering them unnecessary, disruptive, costly, or unjustified.
12. The exception is **Kings Barton (and land west of Courtenay Road)**, where views are **more nuanced** because the situation is more complicated. This is in part because three options were proposed – remaining within the existing parish, joining a new Winchester town parish or forming a new separate parish. In addition, the area is still under development and in its infancy, with character and identity still being established and with less ties to existing governance arrangements.

Figure 2: Level of agreement with surrounding parishes and areas joining a new parish council for Winchester town



Numbers in brackets are the numbers of overall respondents.

Winchester Community Governance Review Consultation

Main report

Section 1: Introduction

Introduction and background

- 1.1. Winchester City Council conducted a Community Governance Review (CGR)¹ stage one consultation² about the creation of a parish council for the unparished Winchester town area, and potential inclusion of surrounding parishes and areas.
- 1.2. The CGR and consultation followed recent announcements from Government of its intention to create new, larger unitary councils across Hampshire in 2028, which would be responsible for the services currently delivered by a county council and a district council. A CGR could result in the creation of a new parish council for the Winchester town area, which is currently 'unparished' (and consequently would lack local representation if larger unitary councils were established), meaning its residents are not currently represented by a parish council or parish meeting, unlike everywhere else across the Winchester district.
- 1.3. Winchester City Council commissioned independent organisation Public Perspectives to support the consultation process and report the results of the consultation. This report and the associated analysis of the feedback received through the consultation will inform draft recommendations, which will be subject to further consultation prior to a formal decision being made by the council.

Approach

- 1.4. The consultation took place between Monday 3 November 2025 and Monday 22 December 2025 – a 7-week period.
- 1.5. The main method of response was via an open-access online consultation questionnaire available to all interested residents and stakeholders (the questionnaire is included in the appendix to this report). In addition, paper copies were available at the City Offices reception and could also be requested, and written responses submitted. E-mail and telephone support was also available.
- 1.6. The consultation was promoted extensively through the council's website, communication channels, such as the council's e-newsletter, and promotional/marketing activity, including press releases and adverts in local newspapers, social media posts and adverts, and a leaflet drop via Royal Mail to 30,542 households in the target areas and beyond. There was

¹ A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a way to make changes to local council arrangements so communities are suitably represented. The review can consider a number of issues, such as creating, changing or merging parish or town council boundaries. A CGR is a legal process that gives residents and organisations an opportunity to share their views on what they feel is the most suitable way for their community to be represented.

² A Community Governance Review has more than one stage of consultation. This staged approach allows for a structured process where residents' and stakeholders' initial thoughts shape potential solutions (stage one), resulting in specific draft recommendations that are subject to further consultation prior to a formal decision being made.

also direct promotion to, and engagement with, all Council Members, council staff and other identified stakeholders such as businesses, community organisations, Hampshire County Council and affected parish councils, who were asked to respond to and promote the consultation.

- 1.7. In addition, 60 households in the Barton Farm area were directly sent a letter promoting the consultation. These households are part of the unparished St. Barnabas Ward in Winchester town, but also part of the Kings Barton development area, which itself is part of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area. Consequently, the CGR has specific implications for these households and therefore extra effort was made to promote the consultation to them. Based on a review of postcodes, 17 responses were received from these households.
- 1.8. There were also four drop-in sessions held to promote and discuss the consultation and support residents and other stakeholders to respond:
 - Wednesday 12 November, Guildhall Winchester: 3.00pm-7.00pm.
 - Tuesday 18 November, Badger Farm Community Centre: 3.00pm-7.00pm.
 - Wednesday 26 November, Community Lounge, Henry Beaufort School: 5.00pm-8.00pm.
 - Saturday 29 November, Guildhall Winchester: 10.00am-2.00pm.
- 1.9. The following table highlights where respondents heard about the consultation:

Figure 1.1: Sources of hearing about the consultation

Source	% of respondents
Council e-mail or newsletter	41%
Poster or flyer	30%
Via a local councillor	13%
Via a local organisation	11%
Council website	10%
Direct e-mail or letter	10%
Other council communication or event	6%
Council social media	6%
Other social media	5%
A relative or a friend	5%
An advert in a local newspaper	2%
Other (mainly via local parish council)	4%
Don't know	1%

Number of respondents: 1,381. Note: Respondents could select more than one answer, consequently responses add up to over 100%. Question asked: How did you hear about this consultation?

- 1.10. In total, 1,415 responded to the consultation questionnaire, including 9 paper/postal responses.³ There were also two written responses from residents and one from local organisation, Chesil Theatre. In addition, Littleton and Harestock Parish Council and Headbourne Worthy Parish Council provided formal written responses (other parish councils responded via the consultation questionnaire).

³ This represents a high number of responses in both absolute terms and also relative to other similar consultations, providing confidence in the results.

- 1.11. The following table summarises the background of respondents to the consultation questionnaire:

Figure 1.2: Background of respondents

Background	No. of respondents	% of respondents
A resident living in the Winchester district	1,369	97%
Someone who works in the Winchester district	108	8%
Someone who studies in the Winchester district	4	0%
A voluntary or community organisation	17	1%
A parish council or parish meeting	6	0%
Another public sector organisation	3	0%
A local councillor	18	1%
A business operating in the Winchester district	13	1%
Other	21	1%

Note: Respondents could select more than one answer, consequently responses add up to over 100%.

Question asked: Are you responding as . . . ?

- 1.12. The following table shows the geographic location of residents that responded to the questionnaire, as well as those that work or study in Winchester district, organised by the areas targeted through the CGR:

Figure 1.3: Geographical location of respondents

Location	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Unparished area of Winchester town	529	38%
Harestock	170	12%
Littleton	79	6%
Kings Barton	39	3%
Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area (exc. Kings Barton)	43	3%
Badger Farm	64	5%
Oliver's Battery	311	23%
Elsewhere within the Winchester district	114	8%
Outside of the Winchester district	20	1%
Don't know	9	1%

Question asked: Which area do you live in?

- 1.13. There is a spread of responses across different demographic groups, albeit an over-representation of older residents especially.⁴ The following table summarises the demographic background of respondents:

⁴ There was consideration to 're-weight' the data in line with population demographics, for example around age. However, this is an open-access consultation, which typically reflects levels of interest in the subject matter rather than being wholly representative of the wider population. That said, all results have been analysed by different population groups including age groups and geographical areas to identify differences in opinion by types of respondents and areas.

Figure 1.4: Demographic profile of respondents

Sex	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Female	582	43%
Male	715	53%
Another term	2	0%
Prefer not to say	59	4%
Age		
Under 18	1	0%
18-24	7	1%
25-34	55	4%
35-44	106	8%
45-54	175	13%
55-64	260	19%
65-74	336	25%
75-84	308	23%
85+	61	4%
Prefer not to say	57	4%
Ethnic background		
White	1,187	88%
Non-White	41	3%
Prefer not to say	125	9%
Religion		
Christian	682	50%
Other religion	39	3%
No religion	467	35%
Prefer not to say	165	12%
Disability		
Yes	91	7%
No	1,147	85%
Prefer not to say	112	8%
Employment status		
Employed/self-employed	531	39%
Not employed/self-employed	57	4%
Retired	703	52%
Prefer not to say	71	5%
Housing situation		
Owner-occupier	1,219	90%
Privately renting	38	3%
Renting from the council or housing association	27	2%
Other	18	1%
Prefer not to say	60	4%

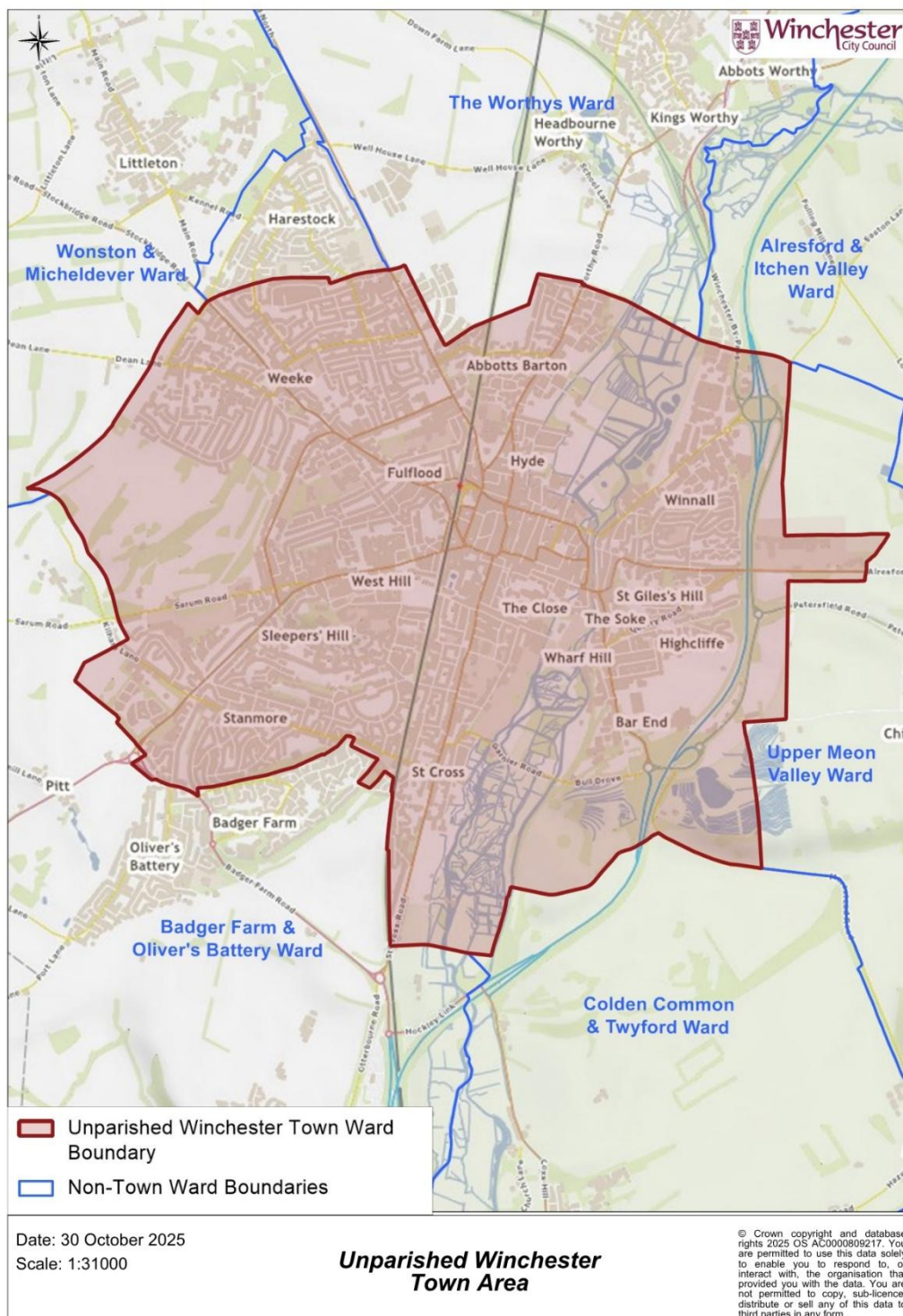
Reporting

- 1.14. The remainder of this report presents the key findings from the consultation. The results have been analysed against all demographic and key variables/questions to identify any important differences in opinion between different groups, especially by geography when considering options relating to specific areas.
- 1.15. In addition, the open-ended comments received in the questionnaire have been reviewed and key themes presented in the report.
- 1.16. The report is organised in-keeping with the structure of the consultation questionnaire, as follows:
 - Section 2: Proposal for a new local parish council for the Winchester town area
 - Section 3: Exploring potential boundary change options

Section 2: Proposal for a new local parish council for the Winchester town area

Introduction

- 2.1. This section presents findings about proposals to create a new local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town, including potential benefits and concerns.
- 2.2. The following map provides context in understanding the findings of the subsequent questions:

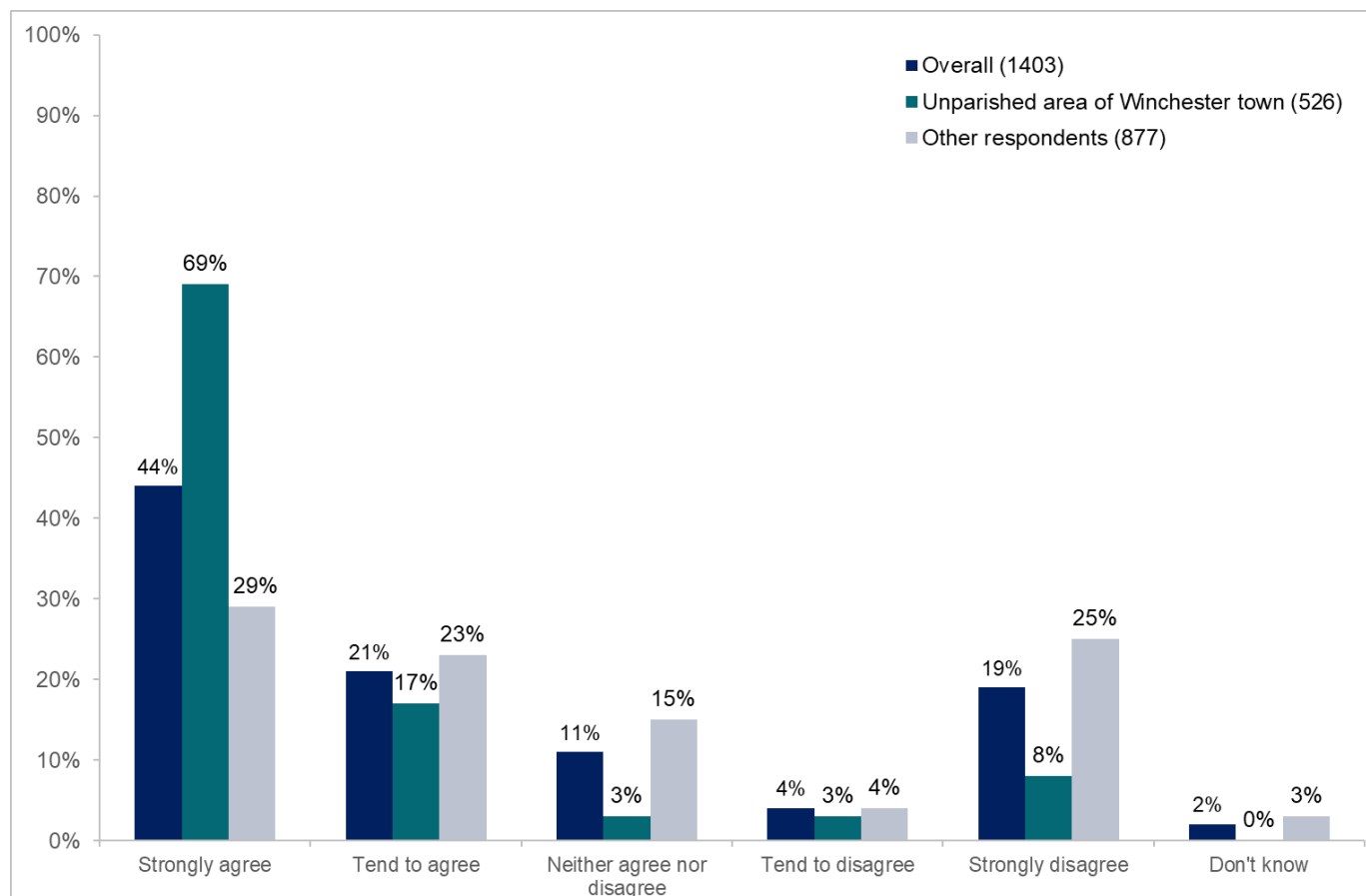


To what extent do you agree or disagree with the creation of a new local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town?

Two-thirds of respondents agree with the creation of a new local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town, especially respondents living in the town itself

- 2.3. Overall, 65% of respondents agree with the creation of a new local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town, including 44% that strongly agree.
- 2.4. 11% neither agree nor disagree and 23% disagree, including 19% that strongly disagree.
- 2.5. 86% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree with the creation of a new local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town, including 69% that strongly agree. Just 11% disagree and 3% neither agree nor disagree. This compares with 52% of other respondents that agree, 15% neither agree nor disagree and 29% disagree.
- 2.6. Whilst there is some variation by different demographic groups, the level of agreement is broadly consistent across all respondents.
- 2.7. Cathedral Streets, Orams Arbour and St. Thomas Street Residents' Associations (Winchester Town residents' associations) support the creation of a parish council for the town to ensure its historic status and representation, especially in light of local government reorganisation.

Figure 2.1: Level of agreement with the creation of a new local parish council for Winchester town



Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents.

Note: Not all respondents answered all questions, and consequently the number of respondents for any given question may not add-up to the total of 1,415 respondents to the consultation. This is the case for all graphs/figures in this report.

- 2.8. Respondents were asked to explain their answers, with 867 or 61% providing a response. Among **respondents who agreed** with the proposal, support was driven primarily by a desire for **stronger local representation and a more direct democratic voice** for residents of **Winchester town** (cited by approximately 20% of all respondents).⁵ Many felt that existing governance arrangements are too distant and that a parish council would be more accessible, accountable, and responsive to local concerns, especially in light of the potential local government reorganisation and associated creation of a larger unitary council. Relatedly, some respondents said that creating a new parish council would help **safeguard Winchester's City status and mayoralty**.
- 2.9. Most voluntary and community organisations that responded, including local residents' associations, agree with the creation of a parish council for Winchester Town. This includes the City of Winchester Trust, along with some other respondents, who noted that a parish council will have a **role in local planning and development**, including creating a strategic plan for the town and being a statutory consultee for all planning applications within the area.
- 2.10. A theme of **fairness and parity** also emerged (cited by approximately 15%), with respondents arguing that Winchester town should have the same level of local governance as neighbouring parished areas, rather than being disadvantaged by its current unparished status.
- 2.11. In addition, respondents highlighted the benefits of **greater local control** (cited by approximately 5%) and **supporting community cohesion** (also cited by approximately 5%), suggesting that a parish council could strengthen community identity, encourage civic engagement, and ensure decisions are made closer to the people they affect. Some also believed a parish council would improve the **focus and responsiveness of local services to town-specific issues** (cited by approximately 5%). While cost was mentioned by a smaller number of supporters (approximately 2-3%), it was generally viewed as **proportionate and acceptable** in light of the anticipated democratic, community, and local decision-making benefits.
- 2.12. Among respondents who **neither agreed nor disagreed** with creating a local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town, neutrality was most commonly driven by **uncertainty and a lack of clear information** about what a parish council would do, how it would differ from existing arrangements, and what the costs would be (cited by approximately 10% of all respondents). Similarly, some neutral respondents expressed a **balanced view**, recognising potential benefits such as improved local representation while also questioning the added value, cost or risk of duplication (c5%). Others adopted a **conditional or wait-and-see position**, indicating their view could change depending on the council's powers, structure, and value for money (c2-3%), while a smaller number felt the proposal would have **limited personal impact** (c5%).
- 2.13. Respondents that **disagreed** most commonly cited **concerns about additional costs and higher council tax** (cited by approximately 10% of all respondents), viewing a new parish council as poor value for money and an unnecessary extra tier of governance. Many also felt it would **duplicate existing councils and add bureaucracy** (cited by approximately 10%), with scepticism about what tangible benefits it would deliver in practice. These concerns were **particularly pronounced amongst respondents living outside the unparished area**, who were more likely to **question the relevance of a Winchester town parish council to them personally** (cited by approximately 5%).

⁵ The themes and findings from open-ended questions are presented including approximated percentages/numbers of respondents (rounded up or down). This is to help provide an indication of relative importance of the themes/findings. These should be treated as such (i.e. approximations) rather than conclusive percentages, given the qualitative nature of the data. Please also note that respondents often cited multiple points and therefore the approximated percentages often add-up to over the stated number of respondents.

What do you think are the potential benefits, if any, of creating a parish council representing the unparished area of Winchester town?

Creating a parish council is seen as strengthening local representation, ensuring fairness and parity with parished areas, supporting community identity, and enabling responsive and locally focused decision-making, especially in light of local government reorganisation and the potential move to larger unitary councils

2.14. 1,060 or 75% of respondents provided comments about the potential benefits of creating a parish council representing the unparished area of Winchester town, with the key themes as follows, reflecting similar points made by those that agree with creating a parish council in the preceding question:

- **Stronger local representation and democratic accountability** (cited by approximately 30% of all respondents): The most frequently cited benefit was improved local representation, especially in light of local government reorganisation and the potential move to larger unitary councils. Respondents felt a parish council would give residents of Winchester town a clearer, more direct voice in decisions affecting their immediate area. Many emphasised greater accessibility to councillors, improved accountability, and decision-making that is closer to residents' lived experience than existing governance arrangements.
- **Fairness and parity with parished areas** (cited by approximately 20%): A common theme focused on equity, with respondents highlighting that surrounding areas already benefit from parish councils. Creating one for Winchester town was seen as correcting an imbalance, ensuring residents have access to the same level of local governance, representation, and influence as those living in neighbouring parished communities, especially in light of local government reorganisation.
- **Supporting community identity, cohesion, and civic engagement** (cited by approximately 15%): Several respondents felt a parish council could help foster a stronger sense of community identity and belonging within Winchester town. This included encouraging local participation, volunteering, and engagement in civic life, as well as providing a focal point for community activities, events, and shared priorities.
- **Responsive and locally focused services** (cited by approximately 10%): Another common perceived benefit was the potential for greater responsiveness to local issues. Respondents suggested a parish council could better identify, prioritise, and act on town-specific concerns, particularly smaller-scale matters that may not receive sufficient attention from higher-tier councils.
- **Greater local influence over priorities and spending** (cited by approximately 10%): Similarly, some respondents highlighted the benefit of having greater influence over local priorities, including how funding is allocated at neighbourhood level as well as development and planning matters. This theme reflected a desire for more control over what is invested in Winchester town and reassurance that local needs would be reflected in spending decisions.
- **Protection of civic identity, including city status and mayoralty** (cited by approximately 5%): A smaller but distinct theme focused on the role a parish (or town) council could play in safeguarding Winchester's civic identity, including ceremonial functions, city status, and the continuation of a mayoral role.
- **Improved communication and coordination** (cited by approximately 2-3%): A few respondents felt a parish council could act as a clear point of contact between residents

and other councils, improving communication, coordination, and understanding of who is responsible for local issues.

- 2.15. A small but distinct group of respondents (approximately 5%) stated unequivocally that there are no benefits to creating a parish council, reflecting previously noted scepticism about cost, duplication, and added bureaucracy.
- 2.16. Another group of respondents (approximately 5%) expressed uncertainty about the benefits, stating they were “not sure” or did not know enough about what a parish council would do, reflecting caution and a lack of information rather than outright opposition.

What concerns, if any, do you have about creating a parish council representing the unparished area of Winchester town?

Concerns focus mainly on increased costs and council tax, duplication and bureaucracy, unclear powers and value for money, and risks of complexity, ineffective or politicised local governance

- 2.17. 993 or 70% of respondents provided a response to the question regarding concerns about creating a parish council representing the unparished area of Winchester town. The key themes are as follows, reflecting similar points made by those that disagree with creating a parish council in the preceding question:
- **Increased cost and higher council tax** (cited by approximately 30% of all respondents): The most frequently raised concern related to cost, particularly the introduction of a parish precept and the potential impact on council tax bills.⁶ Respondents commonly questioned whether the benefits would justify the extra expense, often referencing value for money and cost-of-living pressures. This concern was raised by both supporters and opponents of the proposal, though expressed most strongly by those who disagreed.
 - **Duplication of roles and unnecessary bureaucracy** (cited by approximately 25%): Several respondents were concerned that a parish council would duplicate the roles of existing councils, adding another layer of governance without clear additional benefit. These comments often referred to fears of increased bureaucracy, inefficiency, and confusion over responsibilities between councils.
 - **Unclear powers, role, and added value** (cited by approximately 15%): Some respondents said they were unsure what a parish council would actually do in practice. Concerns focused on the lack of clarity about powers, influence, and decision-making authority, leading to scepticism about whether it would make a meaningful difference for residents.
 - **Risk of poor value for money or ineffective governance** (cited by approximately 10%): Associated with points around cost, some respondents expressed concern that a parish council could be ineffective, symbolic rather than impactful, or poorly run. These comments often questioned governance quality, capacity, and whether elected parish

⁶ These respondents did not tend to be aware or note that Winchester Town is currently served by the Winchester Town Forum, which is a consultative and advisory body that deals with issues affecting the unparished Winchester town area. Its membership is made up of the city councillors who represent the unparished area and it is not a parish council. However, it does have a budget and residents currently living within the Winchester town area pay a ‘Special Expenses’ annual fee, which replaces the precept paid to a parish council.

councillors would have sufficient skills, accountability, or influence to deliver improvements.

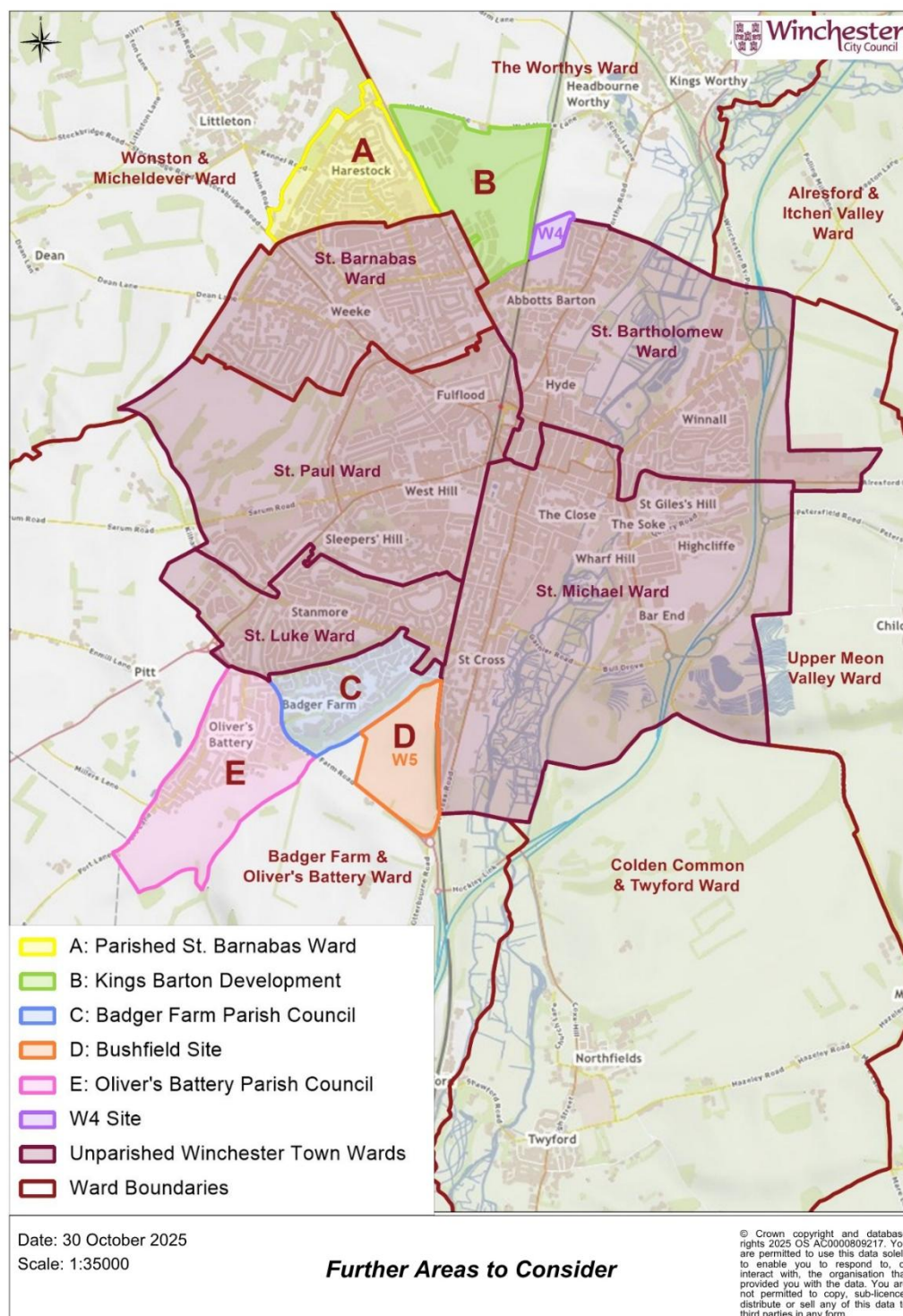
- **Governance complexity and public confusion** (cited by approximately 5%): Some respondents raised concerns that introducing a parish council could confuse residents about who is responsible for what, making governance harder to navigate, and blur lines of accountability across different tiers of local government.
- **Risk of politicisation or dominance by a small group** (cited by approximately 5%): A smaller but notable theme focused on fears that a parish council could be dominated by a narrow or politically motivated group, potentially limiting inclusivity and therefore not benefiting all parts of Winchester town or the local community.

2.18. A minority of respondents (approximately 10%) explicitly stated that they had no concerns, or that any concerns are minor and outweighed by the potential benefits. These responses tended to come from those supportive of creating a new parish council for Winchester town.

Section 3: Exploring potential boundary change options

Introduction

- 3.1. This section presents findings about potential boundary changes relating to areas and parishes neighbouring the potential new local parish council area for Winchester town.
- 3.2. The following map provides context in understanding the findings of the subsequent questions:



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of the boundary to include the southern part of Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area (Area A) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

AREA A (YELLOW): Parished area of St Barnabas Ward

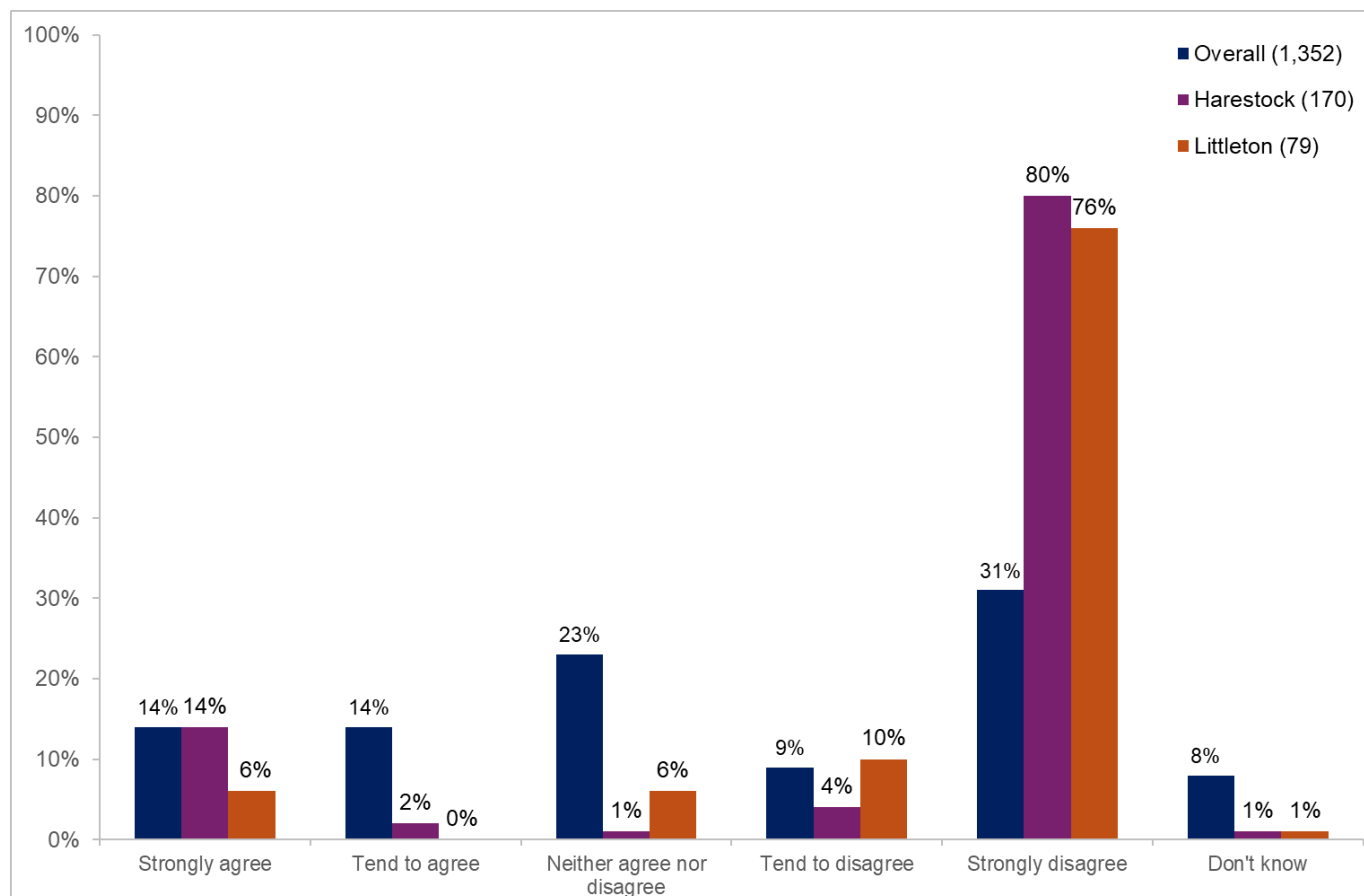
This area is currently part of the Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area, and if included, would mean all of the current St Barnabas ward area would become part of a new parish council for the Winchester town area (instead of the Harestock area remaining within the existing Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area). On the other hand, this area would no longer be part of the existing Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area, which would therefore become smaller.

More respondents disagree than agree with the potential inclusion of Harestock within a new parish council for Winchester town, especially those that live in Harestock and the existing parish itself

- 3.3. Overall, 28% of respondents agree with the potential boundary change, while 40% disagree, including 31% that strongly disagree. 23% neither agree nor disagree.
- 3.4. 84% of respondents that live in Harestock disagree, including 80% that strongly disagree (16% agree). Likewise, 86% of respondents that live in Littleton disagree, including 76% that strongly disagree (6% agree).
- 3.5. In contrast, 45% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree (22% disagree) and 55% that live in the non-Harestock part of St. Barnabas ward agree (17% disagree).⁷
- 3.6. Littleton and Harestock Parish Council's formal response **supports the creation of a Winchester town council in principle but opposes the inclusion of Harestock within it**. The Parish Council argues that transferring Harestock would not reflect residents' wishes or deliver benefits, citing extensive engagement, including local events and surveys showing large majorities in both Littleton and Harestock favour remaining within the existing parish. It emphasises the advantages of the current arrangements, including low precept costs, strong local decision-making, responsiveness, community cohesion, and political and practical independence, and raises concerns that joining a larger Winchester parish could increase costs and dilute local voice.

⁷ This latter figure is based on postcode information provided by respondents, of which 95% could be matched to ward and parish boundaries.

Figure 3.1: Level of agreement with the potential change of the boundary to include the southern part of Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area in a new parish council for the Winchester town area



Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents.

- 3.7. Respondents were asked to explain their answers, with 810 or 57% providing a response. Respondents who **agreed** with including the southern part of Littleton and Harestock in a new parish council for Winchester town most commonly cited strong **functional and community links with the town** (cited by approximately 10% of all respondents), arguing the area already operates as part of Winchester in terms of services, travel, and daily life. Several felt the change would **improve representation by better reflecting residents' identity and needs** (c10%), and **create clearer and more coherent boundaries including with the rest of St. Barnabas Ward** (c5%). Others supported the proposal as a **forward-looking response to urban growth** (c5%), believing it would **strengthen the effectiveness and representativeness** of a future Winchester parish council (c5%).
- 3.8. Most respondents who **neither agreed nor disagreed** felt that this was a **decision for local residents and had no strong views either way** (c10% of all respondents), **held mixed/balanced views** (c5%) and/or **felt they lacked sufficient information** (c5%) about the implications of the boundary change.
- 3.9. Respondents who **disagreed** with including the southern part of Littleton and Harestock in a new parish council for Winchester town most commonly cited **strong attachment to Littleton and Harestock, its more rural identity and close practical ties** compared with Winchester town (cited by approximately 15% of all respondents). Several **opposed changing established boundaries in principle** and wanted to protect existing parish arrangements (c10%), and raised concerns about **higher costs** (c10%) and **loss of local representation and community voice** (c5%).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of boundaries to include the Kings Barton area (Area B) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

AREA B (GREEN): Kings Barton Development and W4 Site (PURPLE): Land west of Courtenay Road (W4)

Kings Barton is an area north of the city, creating 2,000 new homes. W4 is land west of Courtenay Road and is an area that has been allocated for new homes, but is not yet developed. Both these areas could be considered as part of the potential new parish council for the Winchester town area, they could have their own parish council, or remain as they are, as part of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area.

Views are polarised about including the Kings Barton area in a new parish council for Winchester town, although those that live in the area tend to disagree including the existing parish council of Headbourne Worthy

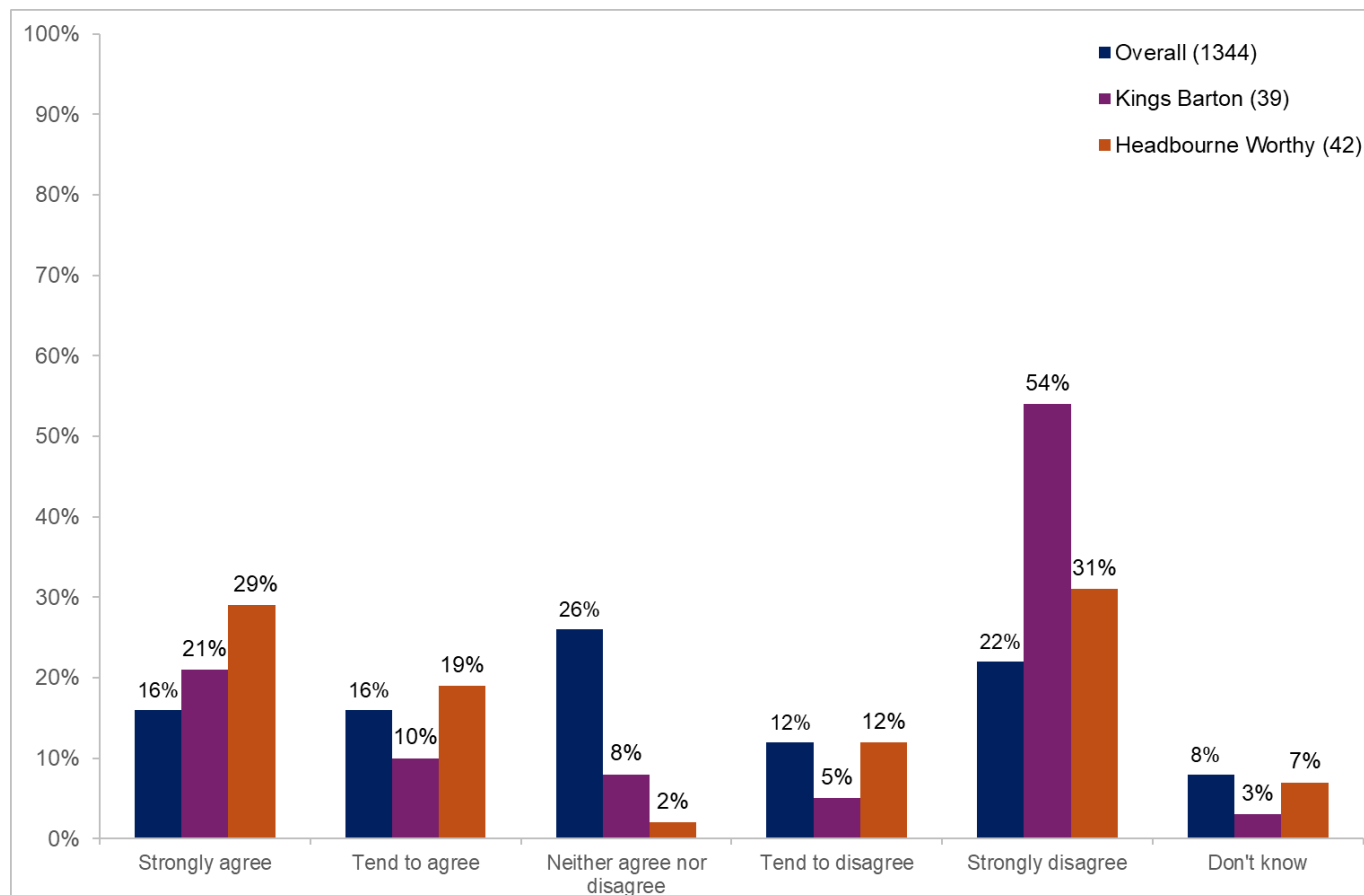
- 3.10. Overall, 32% of respondents agree with including the Kings Barton area in a new parish council for Winchester town, while 34% disagree, including 22% that strongly disagree. 26% neither agree nor disagree.
- 3.11. 59% of respondents that live in the Kings Barton area disagree, including 54% that strongly disagree (31% agree). 43% of respondents that live in the wider Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area disagree compared with 48% that agree.⁸
- 3.12. In contrast, 48% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree and 26% disagree with including the Kings Barton area in a new parish council for Winchester town with support greatest in the unparished parts of nearby Winchester town wards of St. Barnabas and St. Bartholomew (55% agree and 21% disagree).
- 3.13. Headbourne Worthy Parish Council (HWPC) **supports the creation of a new parish for Winchester Town but only for areas that are currently unparished, explicitly excluding Kings Barton.**⁹ HWPC argues that Kings Barton should remain aligned with the rest of its existing community - either within Headbourne Worthy (with appropriate warding and representation) or another parish of its choosing - rather than being absorbed into a new Winchester Town parish. The council raises concerns about financial safeguards (particularly the ring-fencing of commuted sums from developers), capacity and expertise of a new town council to engage with the development of Kings Barton, and the risk of diluting Kings Barton's emerging distinct identity. HWPC also expresses reservations about the long-term viability of the parish council in the event of Kings Barton not being part of the parish due to a small remaining population relative to the costs and responsibilities of the parish council. Instead, HWPC suggests that multiple distinct communities can function effectively within a single Headbourne Worthy parish through measures such as renaming, increased councillor numbers, and warding.
- 3.14. Similarly, Kings Barton Residents' Association opposes Kings Barton joining a parish council for Winchester Town with concerns that it would lose control over all the issues

⁸ However, note the relatively small number of respondents from these areas.

⁹ HWPC also believes it is essential that the unparished area of Kings Barton should join the rest of Kings Barton in whatever parish the rest of Kings Barton wishes to be in (a similar view is shared by Kings Barton Residents' Association). This represents some 60 households in the Barton Farm area. Based on postcode analysis, some 17 respondents from this area responded of which 53% disagree with including the Kings Barton area in a new parish council for Winchester town, including 47% that strongly disagree, and 30% agree.

affecting the area including the sports area and Community Centre, as well as local spending decisions.

Figure 3.2: Level of agreement with the potential change of boundaries to include the Kings Barton area in a new parish council for the Winchester town area



Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents. Please note: Whilst Kings Barton is currently part of the Headbourne Worthy Parish, the figures for Headbourne Worthy exclude Kings Barton respondents, which are presented as a separate group in the chart. This is the case for all similar charts in this report.

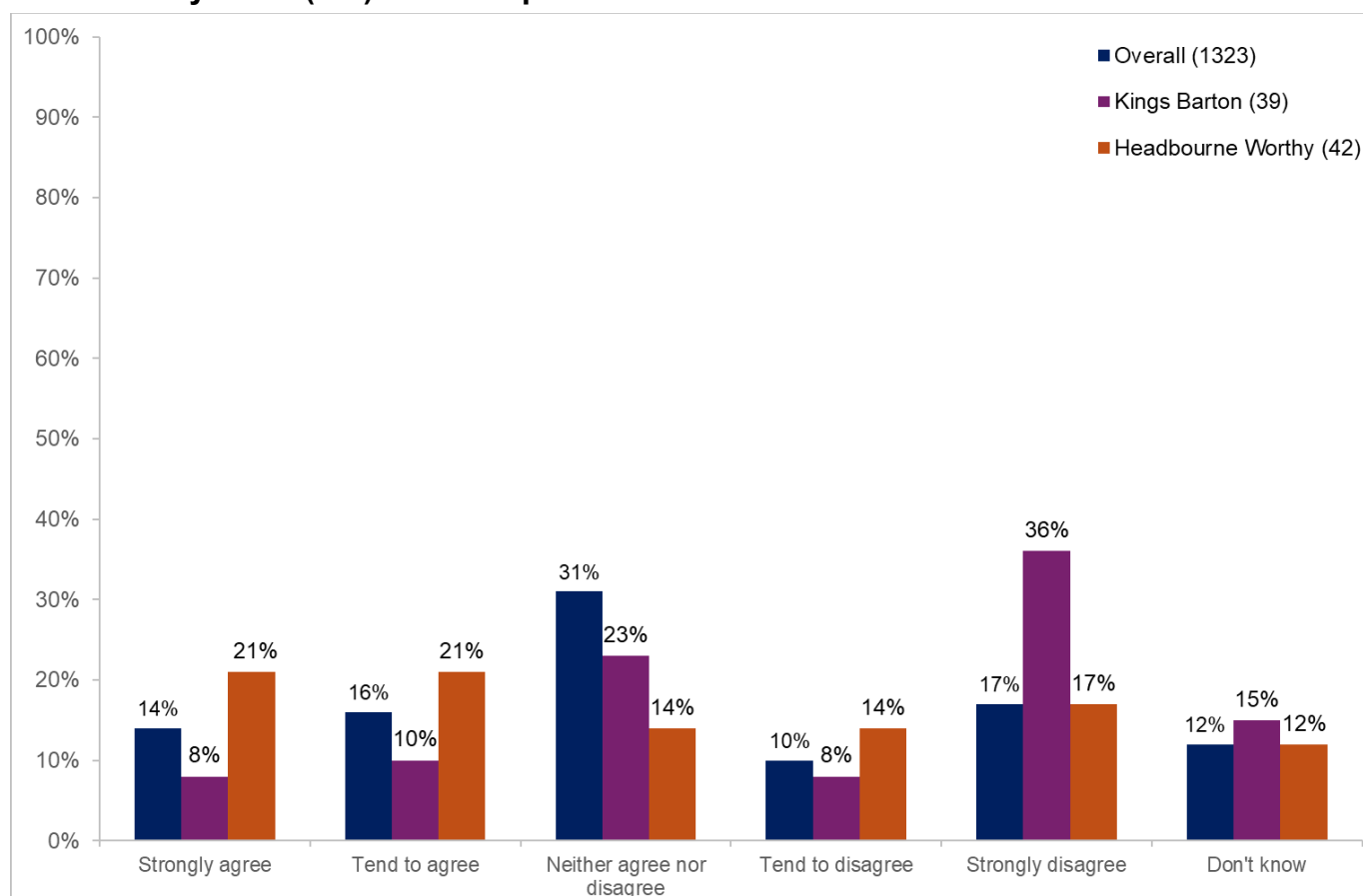
- 3.15. Respondents were asked to explain their answers, with 725 or 51% providing a response. Respondents who **agreed** that the Kings Barton area should become part of a new parish council for Winchester town most commonly said they felt it would **provide logical and coherent boundaries that better reflect how the area and communities would function in practice** (cited by approximately 15% of all respondents). Some others said they supported it as a forward-looking approach that **aligns with future housing and urban growth in the area** (c10%).
- 3.16. Respondents who **neither agreed nor disagreed** felt that this was a **decision for local residents** leading them to reserve judgement rather than take a firm position (c10% of all respondents), **held mixed/balanced views** (c10%) and/or **felt they lacked sufficient information** (c5%) about the implications of the boundary change.
- 3.17. Respondents who **disagreed** most commonly **opposed changing existing boundaries** (cited by approximately 10% of all respondents), preferring to retain current arrangements they felt already work well and **avoiding any unnecessary change or costs** (c10%). Some respondents were concerned that changes could **weaken local representation or dilute community voice** in the Kings Barton area (c10%), as well as **undermine the viability of the existing Headbourne Worth parish council** (c5%).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of boundaries to include land west of Courtenay Road (W4) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

Views are mixed on including land west of Courtenay Road (W4) in a new Winchester town parish, with many respondents neutral or undecided, while Headbourne Worthy Parish Council considers it should align with Kings Barton under existing parish arrangements

- 3.18. Overall, 30% of respondents agree with including land west of Courtenay Road (W4) in a new parish council for Winchester town, while 27% disagree. The largest single response is amongst those that neither agree nor disagree (31%), while 12% said they do not know.
- 3.19. 18% of respondents that live in the Kings Barton area agree, while 23% are neutral, 44% disagree and 15% do not know. 42% of respondents that live in the wider Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area agree, while 14% are neutral, 31% disagree and 12% do not know.
- 3.20. 45% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree, 25% are neutral, 21% disagree and 9% don't know. Support is greatest in the unparished parts of nearby Winchester town wards of St. Barnabas and St. Bartholomew (52% agree, 24% neutral, 18% disagree and 6% don't know).
- 3.21. Building on points made previously, Headbourne Worthy Parish Council (HWPC) said that the land off Courtenay Road at W4 (and Wellhouse Mews) should be in the same parish as Kings Barton given their proximity and likely future connections and shared use of amenities.

Figure 3.3: Level of agreement with the potential change of boundaries to include land west of Courtenay Road (W4) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area



Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents.

- 3.22. Respondents were asked to explain their answers, with 594 or 42% providing a response. Respondents who **agreed** that land west of Courtenay Road (W4) should be included in a new parish council for Winchester town mostly said the area will **function as part of the town and that the change would create clearer, more logical and coherent boundaries** that reflect residents' daily activities, movements and connections (cited by approximately 15% of all respondents). They also said it would **align with future housing and urban growth in the area** (c10%).
- 3.23. Respondents who **neither agreed nor disagreed or don't know** said they either **lacked sufficient information about the proposal or knowledge of the area** (c10% of all respondents), held **mixed/balanced views** (c10%) and/or that it is a **decision for local residents** most affected by the proposed changes (c5%).
- 3.24. Respondents who **disagreed** with including land west of Courtenay Road (W4) in a new parish council for Winchester town were **opposed to change in principle** (c10% of all respondents) and the **associated cost and practical implications** (c10%), while others **disputed claims that the area is functionally or otherwise aligned with Winchester** (c10%).

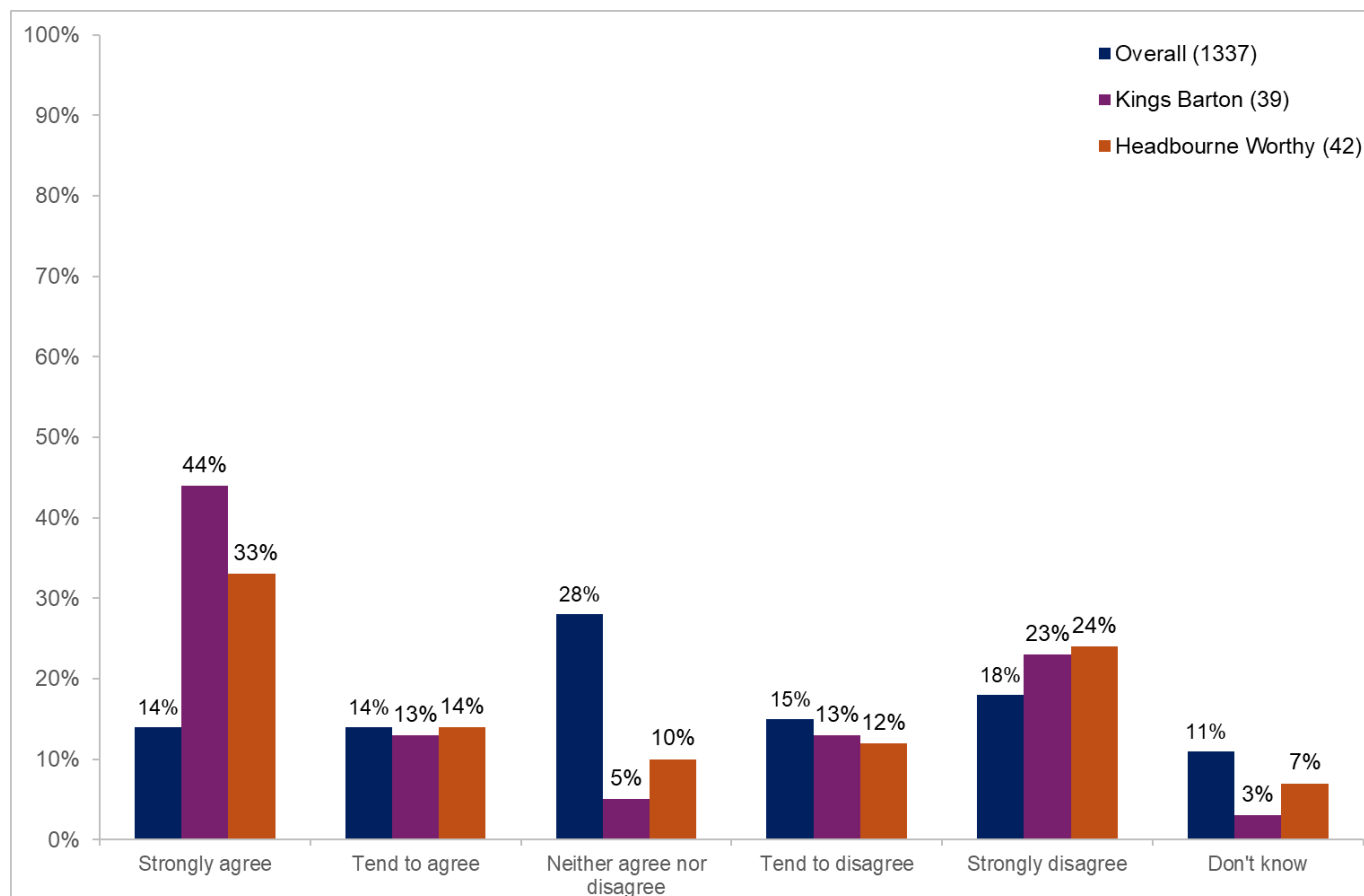
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Kings Barton area (Area B) and the land west of Courtenay Road (W4) should form their own parish council rather than join a new parish council for the Winchester town area or remain as part of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area?

Views are divided on Kings Barton and land west of Courtenay Road (W4) forming a separate parish council, although those in the area are more supportive, albeit Headbourne Worthy Parish Council's preference is for the area to remain as part of the existing parish

- 3.25. Overall, 28% of respondents agree that the Kings Barton area and the land west of Courtenay Road (W4) should form their own parish council, while 33% disagree. 28% neither agree nor disagree and 11% said they do not know.
- 3.26. 57% of respondents that live in the Kings Barton area agree, including 44% that strongly agree, and 36% disagree.¹⁰ 47% of respondents in the wider Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area agree and 36% disagree.
- 3.27. In contrast, 26% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree, 25% are neutral, and 41% disagree. Likewise, 24% in the unparished parts of nearby Winchester town wards of St. Barnabas and St. Bartholomew agree, 22% are neutral and 48% disagree.
- 3.28. Headbourne Worthy Parish Council (HWPC) is concerned that Kings Barton (and land west of Courtenay Road) would not be a viable standalone parish in the long term, as future development on adjacent land in neighbouring parishes is likely to necessitate further boundary and governance changes. Similarly, HWPC reiterates its preference for Kings Barton (and land west of Courtenay Road) to remain as part of the existing Headbourne Worthy parish and ensure the long-term viability and effectiveness of the area.
- 3.29. In contrast, Kings Barton Residents' Association supports the area forming its own parish council, with the boundary adjusted to include all Kings Barton residents. It argues issues that concern the new Kings Barton development should be dealt with by Kings Barton residents and not by residents in the town.

¹⁰ Of the 17 respondents from the Barton Farm area (the part of Kings Barton that is also part of St. Barnabas ward in the unparished Winchester town), 65% agree, including 47% that strongly agree and 30% disagree.

Figure 3.4: Level of agreement that the Kings Barton area and the land west of Courtenay Road (W4) should form their own parish council rather than join a new parish council for the Winchester town area or remain as part of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area



Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents.

- 3.30. Respondents were asked to explain their answers, with 643 or 45% providing a response. Respondents who **agreed** that Kings Barton and land west of Courtenay Road (W4) should form their own parish council most commonly cited their **distinct and emerging community identity and nature as a modern development** (c15% of all respondents) and the view that these areas **do not naturally align with either Winchester town** (c10%) **or Headbourne Worthy** (c10%). Some also felt a standalone parish council would provide more appropriate and focused local representation and better reflect local needs (c5%).
- 3.31. Respondents who **neither agreed nor disagreed or don't know** said they either **lacked sufficient information about the proposal or knowledge of the area, including finding it difficult to distinguish between the different options available for the areas** (c15% of all respondents) and/or that it is a **decision for local residents** most affected by the proposed changes (c5%). In addition, approximately 5% said that it is **too early to make a judgement** relating to the areas forming their own parish because they are still in development and in the process of forming new connections and identities.
- 3.32. Respondents who **disagreed** with Kings Barton and land west of Courtenay Road (W4) forming their own parish council most commonly **preferred these areas to be part of a wider Winchester town parish council** (c10% of all respondents) or to **remain within Headbourne Worthy parish** (c5%), citing stronger functional links and greater governance coherence. Many raised **concerns about the viability, cost, and effectiveness of a standalone parish**, warning it could fragment local governance, increase costs, and offer limited influence (c15%), while others felt there was currently **insufficient justification to create a separate parish council** at this stage of the area's development (c5%).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of the boundary to include the existing Badger Farm Parish Council area in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

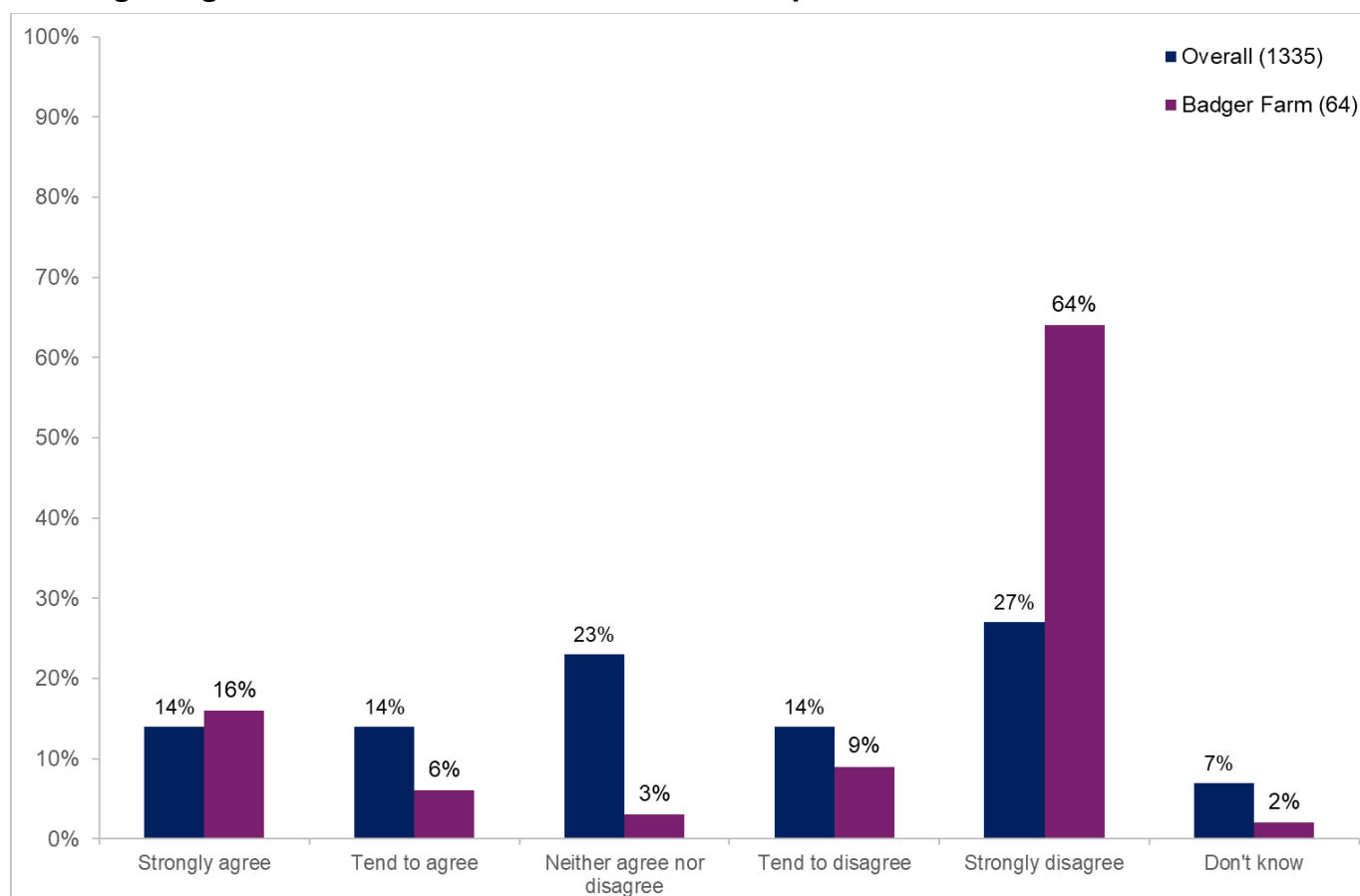
AREA C (BLUE): Badger Farm

This existing parish is a residential suburb south of the city centre. Including this area as part of a potential new parish council covering the Winchester town area would result in a larger parish council area for the town. On the other hand, it would mean that there would no longer be a dedicated parish council area specifically serving Badger Farm as the area would be included within the new Winchester town parish.

More respondents disagree than agree with the proposal to include Badger Farm in a new Winchester town parish council, particularly those who live in Badger Farm, including the existing Badger Farm Parish Council

- 3.33. Overall, 28% of respondents agree with the potential change of the boundary to include the existing Badger Farm Parish Council area in a new parish council for the Winchester town area, while 41% disagree, including 27% that strongly disagree. 23% neither agree nor disagree.
- 3.34. 73% of respondents that live in the Badger Farm area disagree, including 64% that strongly disagree, while 22% agree.
- 3.35. In contrast, 46% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree and 28% disagree with including Badger Farm in a new parish council for Winchester town. Likewise, in the neighbouring unparished Winchester town ward of St. Luke, 59% of respondents agree and 28% disagree (although there are only 22 respondents from this area).
- 3.36. Badger Farm Parish Council's response stated that it wishes to retain its independence and **does not support joining a larger parish council with the currently unparished areas of Winchester town**. The parish council believes there would be no benefits for the parish, only disadvantages, including a reduction in local representation and the risk of being burdened with additional city-wide costs, such as those associated with the mayoralty. Instead, the parish council would prefer to continue working collaboratively with neighbouring parish councils.

Figure 3.5: Level of agreement with the potential change of the boundary to include the existing Badger Farm Parish Council area in a new parish council for Winchester town



Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents.

- 3.37. Respondents were asked to explain their answers, with 689 or 49% providing a response. Respondents who **agreed** with including the Badger Farm area in a new parish council for Winchester town felt that **Badger Farm functions as part of the city**, with strong everyday links to Winchester's services, employment, and facilities (c15% of all respondents). Several also argued the change would provide more appropriate **representation** reflecting the lived experience of those in the area (c10%), create **clearer and more logical boundaries** (c5%), and **strengthen the effectiveness of a future Winchester parish council** (c5%) in a way that reflects ongoing **growth and urban change of the town and surrounding areas** (c5%).
- 3.38. Respondents who **neither agreed nor disagreed** felt that this was a **decision for local residents** (c10% of all respondents), **held mixed/balanced views** (c5%) and/or felt they **lacked sufficient information** (c10%) about the implications of the boundary change or the area itself.
- 3.39. Respondents who **disagreed** with including the Badger Farm area in a new parish council for Winchester town expressed a strong desire to **retain Badger Farm's existing parish identity and governance arrangements** (c15% of all respondents). Many **opposed changing established boundaries in principle** (c15%), raised concerns about **higher costs/council tax** (c10%) and potential **loss of local representation and community voice** (c10%). They also felt that Badger Farm, while geographically close, **does not function as part of Winchester town** in terms of daily life or identity, and should therefore remain separate (c5%).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of the boundary to include the Bushfield site (W5) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

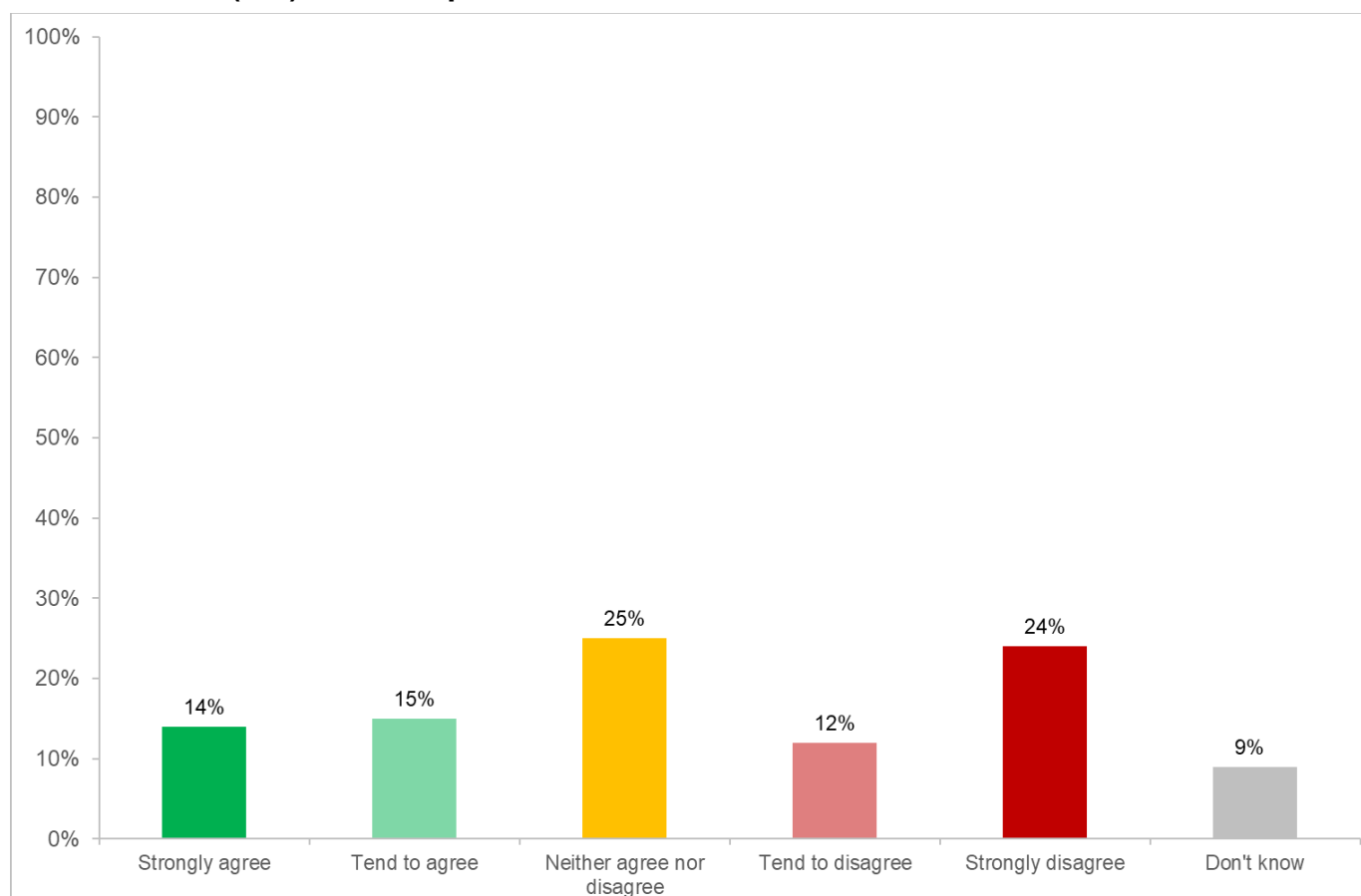
AREA D (ORANGE): BUSHFIELD SITE (W5)

The Bushfield Camp site, is a site allocated as a major mixed-use development area and is currently unpopulated and part of the Compton and Shawford Parish Council area. Including this area as part of a potential new parish council covering the Winchester town area would result in a larger parish council area for the town. On the other hand, this area and any future development there, would no longer be part of the existing Compton and Shawford Parish Council area, which would therefore cover a smaller geographic area.

More respondents disagree than agree with the proposal to include the Bushfield Camp site in a new Winchester town parish council, including the existing Compton and Shawford Parish Council

- 3.40. Overall, 29% of respondents agree with the potential change of the boundary to include the Bushfield site (W5) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area, while 36% disagree, including 24% that strongly disagree. 25% neither agree nor disagree.
- 3.41. 57% of respondents that live in neighbouring Badger Farm disagree, while 23% agree. Likewise, 71% of the small number of respondents (17) that live in the Compton and Shawford Parish Council area disagree (identified through analysis of postcodes), while 24% agree.
- 3.42. In contrast, 44% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree and 28% disagree with including the Bushfield Camp site in a new parish council for Winchester town. Likewise, in the neighbouring unparished Winchester town ward of St. Michael 39% of respondents agree and 34% disagree.
- 3.43. Compton and Shawford Parish Council, within which the Bushfield Camp site resides, **strongly opposes the proposal to remove the Bushfield Camp site from the parish**, arguing that it would weaken established community identity and undermine effective local representation. The parish council highlights that losing this strategically important area would threaten its long-term viability, reduce its ability to plan sustainably and deliver parish-wide services, and result in the loss of future development income needed for infrastructure and community improvements. It is also noted that potential mixed-use and residential development on the site would help broaden the parish tax base, whereas removing it would instead increase financial pressure on existing residents.

Figure 3.6: Level of agreement with the potential change of the boundary to include the Bushfield site (W5) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area



Number of respondents: 1,338.

- 3.44. Respondents were asked to explain their answers, with 660 or 47% providing a response. Respondents who **agreed** with the potential inclusion of the Bushfield Camp site in a new Winchester town parish council most commonly said the Bushfield site has a **stronger relationship with Winchester town than with surrounding parishes**, residing on the town's urban edge (cited by c15% of all respondents), and that inclusion within a Winchester town parish would create **clearer and more logical and coherent boundaries** (c10%). Several also pointed to future development potential at the site, arguing that governance by a Winchester town-focused parish council would **support better planning, integration, and infrastructure delivery** to the benefit of both the town and surrounding areas (c10%).
- 3.45. Respondents who **neither agreed nor disagreed** typically expressed **uncertainty or a lack of sufficient information to form a clear view**, often stating that they did not know enough about the Bushfield site, its future use, and relatedly that the development of the site is still speculative to an extent (c10% of all respondents). Some felt the issue had **little direct impact on them personally** (c5%), while others could see **potential arguments both for and against inclusion** within a new parish for Winchester town (c5%).
- 3.46. Respondents who **disagreed** raised concerns about **the loss of established community identity and historic parish ties, and that the Bushfield site is not part of Winchester town either functionally or in character** (c15% of all respondents). Some also felt the change would **reduce the effectiveness of local representation**, with the area marginalised within a larger, town-focused parish (c5%). **Financial concerns** were raised, particularly the potential loss of future income to the area (development, business rates and tax) and increased pressure on remaining residents in the parish (c10%). In addition, some

respondents were concerned that governance by a Winchester town council could lead to **less appropriate development and reduced local planning control** for the local area (c10%). In general, some respondents were **opposed to boundary change in principle**, with no clear justification to alter governance arrangements for Bushfield, particularly given uncertainty about its future use (c10%).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of the boundary to include the existing Oliver's Battery Parish Council area in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

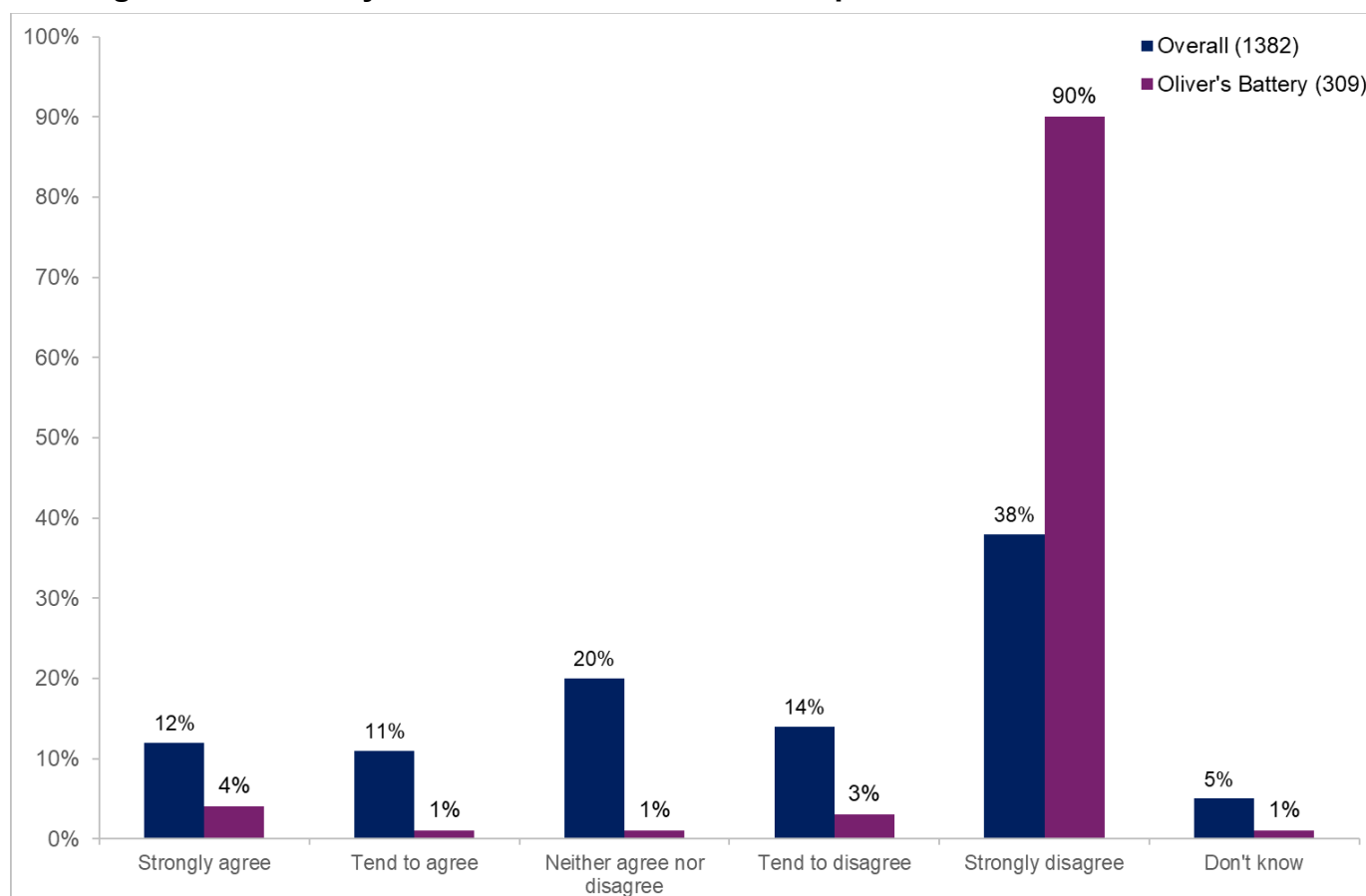
AREA E (PINK): Oliver's Battery

Oliver's Battery is an existing parish. Including this area as part of a potential new parish council covering the Winchester town area would result in a larger parish council area for the town. On the other hand, it would mean that there would no longer be a dedicated parish council area specifically serving Oliver's Battery as the area would be included within the new Winchester town parish.

Over half of respondents oppose including Oliver's Battery within a new parish council for Winchester town, especially those that live in the area and its Parish Council

- 3.47. Overall, 23% of respondents agree with the potential change of the boundary to include the existing Oliver's Battery Parish Council area in a new parish council for the Winchester town area, while 52% disagree, including 38% that strongly disagree. 20% neither agree nor disagree.
- 3.48. 93% of respondents that live in the Oliver's Battery area disagree, including 90% that strongly disagree, while only 5% agree. Likewise, 65% of respondents that live in neighbouring Badger Farm disagree, including 57% that strongly disagree, and 21% agree.
- 3.49. 38% of respondents that live in the unparished area of Winchester town agree, 23% are neutral and 34% disagree with including Oliver's Battery in a new parish council for Winchester town. Likewise, in the neighbouring unparished Winchester town ward of St. Luke, 46% of respondents agree and 27% disagree (although there are only 22 respondents from this area).
- 3.50. Oliver's Battery Parish Council **strongly opposes the inclusion of neighbouring parishes and areas, particularly the Oliver's Battery parish area, within a new parish council for Winchester town.** This opposition is driven in part by concerns that development receipts would be redirected to the town and not reinvested locally, alongside a perceived loss of influence over future development and planning decisions affecting the area.

Figure 3.7: Level of agreement with the potential change of the boundary to include the existing Oliver's Battery Parish Council area in a new parish council for Winchester town



Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents.

- 3.51. Respondents were asked to explain their answers, with 719 or 51% providing a response. Respondents who **agreed** with including the Oliver's Battery area in a new parish council for Winchester town most commonly felt the **area functions as part of the city**, with strong everyday links to Winchester's services and facilities (c15% of all respondents). Some also believed inclusion would provide **more appropriate representation**, with decision-making more closely aligned to urban issues and priorities affecting the area (c10%). They also felt it would create **more logical and coherent boundaries**, aligned with the town (c5%). A smaller group felt that including Oliver's Battery would help create a **more comprehensive, effective and representative Winchester parish council**, covering the full functional urban area and reflecting the future housing and urban growth of the town (c5%).
- 3.52. Most respondents who **neither agreed nor disagreed** felt that this was a **decision for local residents** (c10% of all respondents), **held mixed/balanced views** (c5%) and/or felt **they lacked sufficient information** (c5%) about the implications of the boundary change.
- 3.53. Respondents who **disagreed** with including Oliver's Battery in a new parish council for Winchester most commonly emphasised the area's **distinct character, history, identity and sense of place** (c15% of all respondents) and a strong preference to **retain its existing parish arrangements, which many felt already work well** (c10%). Others **opposed boundary changes** in principle as unnecessary, disruptive, or unjustified (c10%). Some respondents raised concerns that joining a Winchester town parish could lead to **higher council tax or poorer value for money** compared with existing arrangements (c10%), while others said it could lead to a **loss of local representation and dilute community voice and local influence** (c5%).

Appendix: Consultation Questionnaire

Note: This is the paper version of the questionnaire.

Share your views on the future governance of the Winchester town area

Introduction

Thank you for asking for a paper copy of this questionnaire.

We want to hear from local residents, businesses and community groups with their views on the future governance arrangements for the Winchester town area, as part of a Community Governance Review.

This questionnaire asks your views on whether a new parish council should be created for the unparished area and also your thoughts on whether other nearby areas should be included too.

This questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete. **It will be open until 23.59 on Monday 22 December. Please put it in the post by this date and send directly to Public Perspectives using the Freepost address at the end of this questionnaire.**

The consultation is running with support from Public Perspectives, an independent organisation that works with local councils and communities.

Your personal details are managed securely and within data protection laws. Your responses are anonymous and confidential. This means that we will not report your answers alongside your personal details in such a way that you can be identified. Please visit the following to read the Council's and Public Perspectives' privacy notices:

www.winchester.gov.uk/strategies-and-policies/data-protection-privacy

www.publicperspectives.co.uk/data-security-and-privacy/

If you have questions you can email: CGR@winchester.gov.uk or if you need support in completing this questionnaire, you can do this by calling Public Perspectives on Freephone: 0800 865 4898 (please leave a message and we will call you back).

Before completing the questionnaire, please read the background information on the council's website and especially the Frequently Asked Questions, which explain more about the background to why this is happening and will help you to respond:

www.winchester.gov.uk/CGR

Your background

Q1. Are you responding as . . .?

Please select all relevant answers. These questions help us understand who is responding.

- ☐ A resident living in the Winchester district
- ☐ Someone who works in the Winchester district
- ☐ Someone who studies in the Winchester district
- ☐ A voluntary or community organisation
- ☐ A parish council or parish meeting
- ☐ Another public sector organisation
- ☐ A local councillor
- ☐ A business operating in the Winchester district
- ☐ Other

If 'Other', please state:

Please state the name of the organisation or business you represent:

Proposal for a new local parish council for the Winchester town area

Winchester town is an unparished area and does not have a parish council. This is different from the rest of the district which has parish councils representing their local communities.

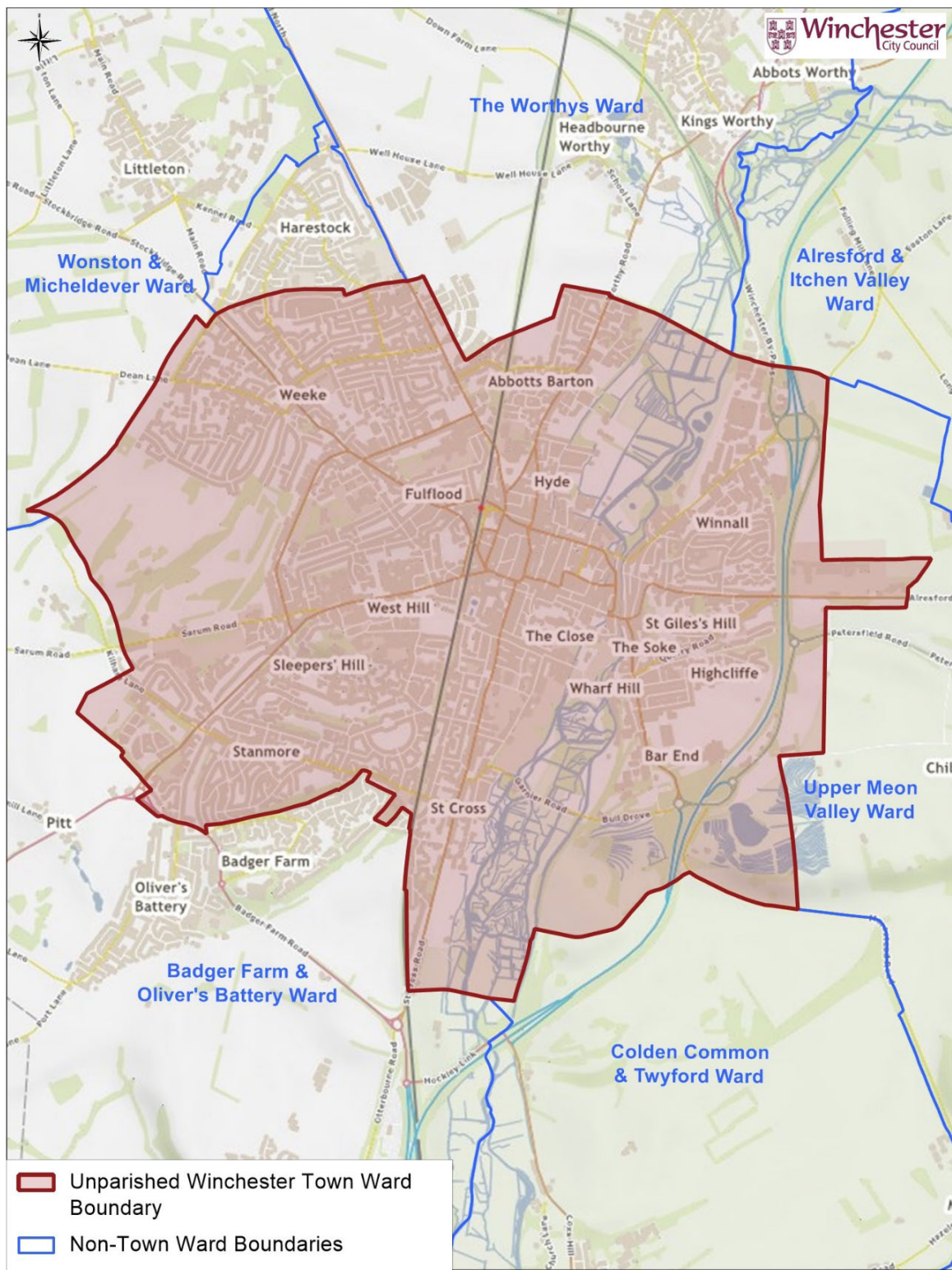
If the Government's request for Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire goes ahead, new larger unitary councils would be created replacing the current two-tier arrangement (where services are provided by both Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council). The new councils would serve larger geographies and populations of around 500,000 people. Without a parish council in place, Winchester town area would not have the most local level of decision making.

Creating a parish council for the area would make sure that the Winchester town area has the most local tier of local government in the future, like the rest of the district. Town and parish councils have an important role in representing their local communities and providing local services like play areas, parks and allotments.

We know that the historic city status, the mayoralty and coat of arms are important to residents in Winchester. Creating a parish council is one way these could be retained after the new councils are formed, as they could be transferred to the new parish council.

Parish councils are funded by a precept added to council tax. Winchester town residents currently pay an additional £90.08 a year (£7.50 a month) for local services instead of a parish council precept. Future costs are unknown, but the parish precept charges in 2025/26 in the Winchester district range from £58.40 - £232.49 per year.

Below is a map of the currently unparished areas of Winchester town, which will help you respond to the next questions.



Date: 30 October 2025

Scale: 1:31000

Unparished Winchester Town Area

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Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the creation of a new local parish council for the unparished area of Winchester town?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Why have you answered in this way?

Q3. What do you think are the potential benefits, if any, of creating a parish council representing the unparished area of Winchester town?

Please make comments below:

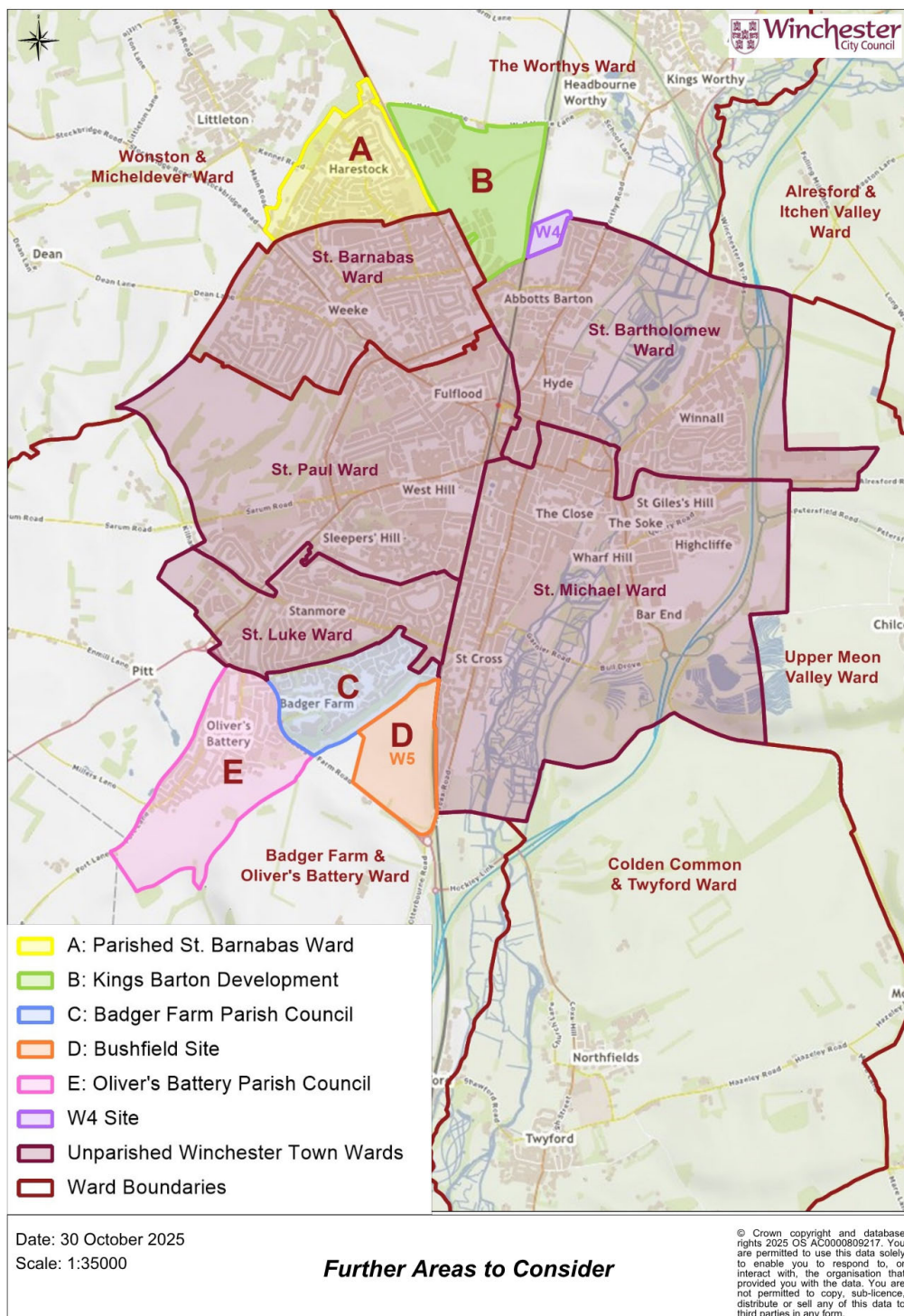
Q4. What concerns, if any, do you have about creating a parish council representing the unparished area of Winchester town?

Please make comments below:

Exploring potential boundary change options

This Community Governance Review (CGR) is focused on the unparished Winchester town, which currently has no parish or town council. However, some residents living near to the city centre may feel a stronger sense of community with the Winchester town area, than with their current parish council area. This CGR also gives an opportunity to confirm that current arrangements still make sense and are working for residents, particularly those living close by in: Harestock, Kings Barton, and the parishes of Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery.

Below is a map of the currently unparished areas of Winchester town, along with areas A to E of neighbouring parishes and areas, which could be considered as part of any potential new council created for the Winchester town area:



AREA A (YELLOW): Parished area of St Barnabas Ward (see map on page 5)

This area is currently part of the Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area, and if included, would mean all of the current St Barnabas ward area would become part of a new parish council for the Winchester town area (instead of the Harestock area remaining within the existing Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area). On the other hand, this area would no longer be part of the existing Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area, which would therefore become smaller.

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of the boundary to include the southern part of Littleton and Harestock Parish Council area (Area A) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Why have you answered in this way?

AREA B (GREEN): Kings Barton Development and W4 Site (PURPLE): Land west of Courtenay Road (W4) (see map on page 5)

Kings Barton is an area north of the city, creating 2,000 new homes. W4 is land west of Courtenay Road and is an area that has been allocated for new homes, but is not yet developed.

Both these areas could be considered as part of the potential new parish council for the Winchester town area, they could have their own parish council, or remain as they are, as part of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area.

The following questions are asking whether Kings Barton / W4 should become part of a new parish council covering the Winchester Town area, or form their own new parish council (as alternatives to remaining part of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area, which would become smaller if these areas were no longer part of it).

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of boundaries to include the Kings Barton area (Area B) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Why have you answered in this way?

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of boundaries to include land west of Courtenay Road (W4) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Why have you answered in this way?

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Kings Barton area (Area B) and the land west of Courtenay Road (W4) should form their own parish council rather than join a new parish council for the Winchester town area or remain as part of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Why have you answered in this way?

AREA C (BLUE): Badger Farm (see map on page 5)

This existing parish is a residential suburb south of the city centre. Including this area as part of a potential new parish council covering the Winchester town area would result in a larger parish council area for the town. On the other hand, it would mean that there would no longer be a dedicated parish council area specifically serving Badger Farm as the area would be included within the new Winchester town parish.

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of the boundary to include the existing Badger Farm Parish Council area in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Why have you answered in this way?

AREA D (ORANGE): BUSHFIELD SITE (W5) (see map on page 5)

The Bushfield Camp site, is a site allocated as a major mixed-use development area and is currently part of the Compton and Shawford Parish Council area. Including this area as part of a potential new parish council covering the Winchester town area would result in a larger parish council area for the town. On the other hand, this area and any future development there, would no longer be part of the existing Compton and Shawford Parish Council area, which would therefore cover a smaller geographic area.

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of the boundary to include the Bushfield site (W5) in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Why have you answered in this way?

AREA E (PINK): Oliver's Battery (see map on page 5)

Oliver's Battery is an existing parish. Including this area as part of a potential new parish council covering the Winchester town area would result in a larger parish council area for the town. On the other hand, it would mean that there would no longer be a dedicated parish council area specifically serving Oliver's Battery as the area would be included within the new Winchester town parish.

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the potential change of the boundary to include the existing Oliver's Battery Parish Council area in a new parish council for the Winchester town area?

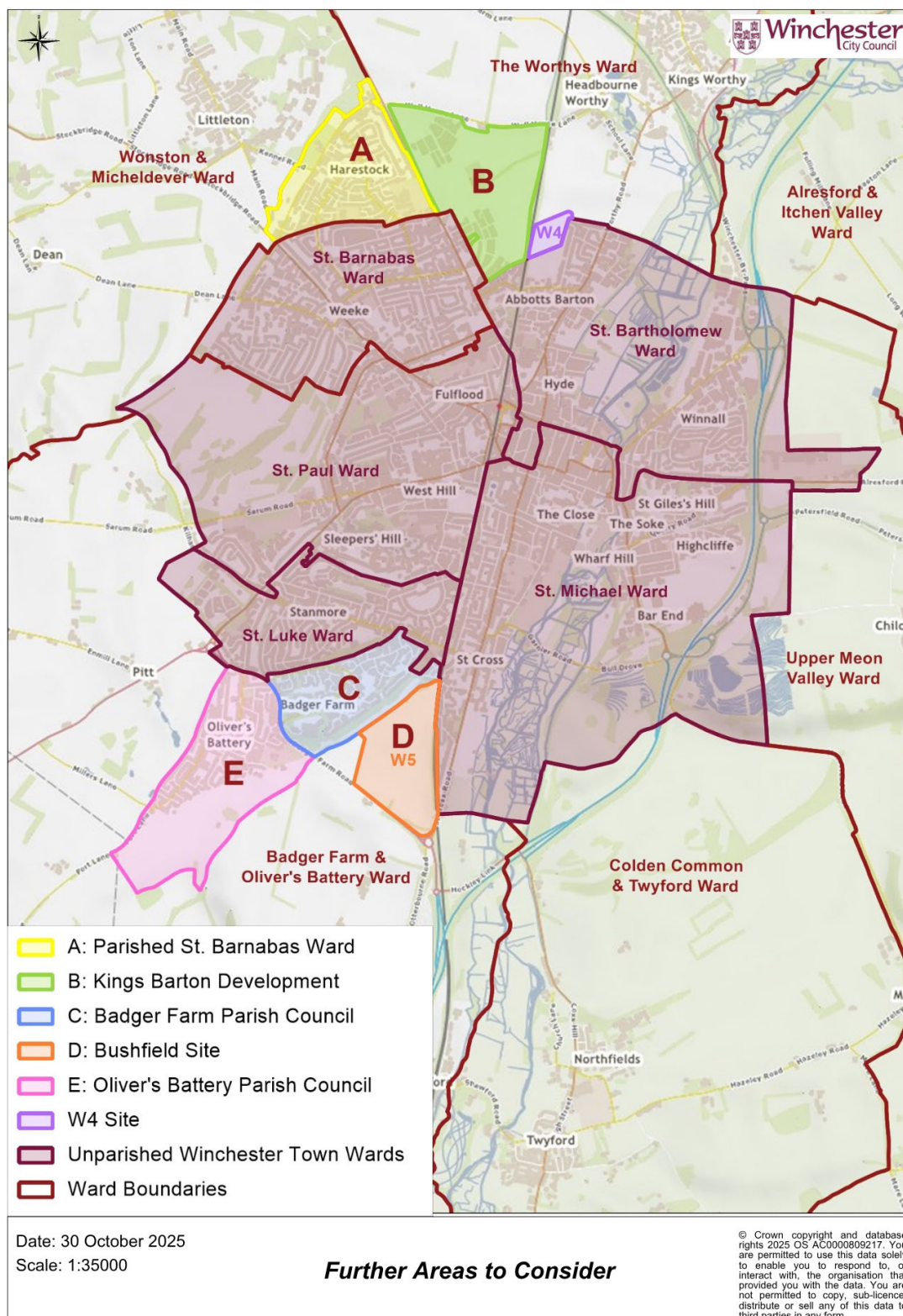
Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Why have you answered in this way?

Living, working and studying in Winchester

To help you answer the following questions, this map shows the boundaries of Winchester town, which is currently unparished, and surrounding parishes and other areas that are being considered for inclusion within a potential new parish council covering Winchester town:



Q11b. If you are representing an organisation or business, which areas does your organisation mainly operate in?

Please select all relevant answers.

- ☐ Unparished area of Winchester town
- ☐ Harestock (Area A)
- ☐ Littleton
- ☐ Kings Barton (Area B)
- ☐ Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area
- ☐ Badger Farm (Area C)
- ☐ Oliver's Battery (Area E)
- ☐ Elsewhere within the Winchester district
- ☐ Outside of the Winchester district
- ☐ Don't know

Q12a. If you live, work or study in the Winchester district, which area do you live in?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Unparished area of Winchester town
- ☐ Harestock (Area A)
- ☐ Littleton
- ☐ Kings Barton (Area B)
- ☐ Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area
- ☐ Badger Farm (Area C)
- ☐ Oliver's Battery (Area E)
- ☐ Elsewhere within the Winchester district
- ☐ Outside of the Winchester district
- ☐ Don't know

Q12b. If you live, work or study in the Winchester district, what is your postcode?
(This is asked so we can analyse the results by different areas. We will not be able to identify you personally)

Q13. If you live, work or study in the Winchester district, where is your main place of work or study?

Please select all relevant answers.

- ☐ Unparished area of Winchester town
- ☐ Harestock (Area A)
- ☐ Littleton
- ☐ Kings Barton (Area B)
- ☐ Headbourne Worthy Parish Council area
- ☐ Badger Farm (Area C)
- ☐ Oliver's Battery (Area E)
- ☐ Elsewhere within the Winchester district
- ☐ Outside of the Winchester district
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable - not currently in work / education

Other comments

Q14. Do you have any other comments, concerns or suggestions about the future governance arrangements for the Winchester town area?

Please make comments below:

Q15a. How did you hear about this consultation?

Please select all relevant answers.

- ☐ Council website
- ☐ Council e-mail or newsletter
- ☐ Other council communication or event
- ☐ Council social media
- ☐ Other social media
- ☐ Via a local councillor
- ☐ Via a local organisation
- ☐ Poster or flyer
- ☐ Direct e-mail or letter
- ☐ An advert in a local newspaper
- ☐ A relative or a friend
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Don't know

If 'Other', please state:

Q15b. Do you want us to keep in touch?

Please select all relevant answers.

- ☐ I'd like to receive emails from Winchester City Council about all news and information
- ☐ I'd like to receive emails from Winchester City Council only about this Community Governance Review
- ☐ I do not wish to receive e-mails about the above

If you want us to keep in touch with you, please provide your e-mail below:

The following questions are only relevant if you live, work or study in the Winchester district.

About you

This section asks some questions about you. This information will be kept strictly confidential and will not be used to identify you.

You don't have to provide the information requested in this section, but if you do it will help us to understand responses from across our communities.

The information will be stored in compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, including the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR). Further information about how Winchester City Council uses personal information can be found by visiting:
www.winchester.gov.uk/strategies-and-policies/data-protection-privacy

Q16. What is your age group?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75-84
- ☐ 85 and over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q17. Are you . . . ?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Another term
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q18. How would you describe your race/ethnic background?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- ☐ Asian or Asian British
- ☐ Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
- ☐ Other ethnic group
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q19. What is your religion or belief?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Other religion/belief
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q20. Do you consider yourself to have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 as outlined below?

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as: ‘a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’. In this definition, long- term means more than 12 months and would cover long-term illness such as cancer and HIV or mental health problems.

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q21. Which of the following best describes your current working status?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Employed (full or part time)
- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Looking after the family/home
- ☐ Long term sick
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If 'Other', please state:

Q22. Which of the following best describes your current housing situation?

Please select one answer only.

- ☐ Owner-occupier
- ☐ Privately renting
- ☐ Renting from the council or housing association
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Next steps

Once the consultation closes, the feedback received will be analysed and reported by independent organisation, Public Perspectives. This feedback and analysis will inform draft proposals, which will be consulted on in the spring/summer 2026.

You can keep up to date by checking our webpage dedicated to the review at: www.winchester.gov.uk/cgr. We will publish up to date information, council reports and any recommendations throughout the process on our website.

If any new parish council is established, these will most likely be established in April 2027, with a first election held in May 2027.

You can return your completed questionnaire either directly to the council at:

**Winchester City Council
City Offices
Colebrook Street
Winchester
SO23 9LJ**

Or put the questionnaire in an envelope and send it directly to Public Perspectives at the following Freepost address (no stamp needed):

**Winchester CGR consultation
C/O Public Perspectives Ltd
RUEB-BYCU-TEJA
PO Box 1340
St. Albans
AL1 9NT**

