

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

✉ **Postal Address:** Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA
☎ **Telephone:** (01727) 825 314
💻 **Website:** <https://colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk>
✉ **E-mail:** clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk



2025-26 Item 48

St Albans City & District Council – Community Governance Review (CGR) 2025

Purpose of this Report

To brief Parish Councillors on the Community Governance Review (CGR) currently being undertaken by St Albans City & District Council (SADC) and to seek members' views on whether Colney Heath Parish Council should submit a formal response before the deadline of 6 October 2025.

Background

- SADC is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) of parish and town council arrangements across the District.
- The last review was undertaken in 2022/23, following changes to district ward boundaries.
- Normally, Government guidance suggests a review every 10–15 years. However, this review is being undertaken earlier, partly in light of central Government plans to abolish District and County Councils in Hertfordshire by 2028 and replace them with new unitary authorities.
- The review also provides an opportunity to consider whether changes should be made to parish arrangements before reorganisation takes place.

Scope of the Review

The CGR may consider:

- Creating, merging, or abolishing parish/town councils.
- Altering parish boundaries.
- Changing names of councils.
- Reviewing electoral arrangements (number of councillors, wards, timing of elections).
- Grouping/de-grouping parish councils.
- Alternative local arrangements such as parish meetings.

Key questions being raised by SADC include:

- Should a new parish/town council be created for the central area of St Albans, which currently has no parish representation?
- How should the historic St Albans Mayoralty (dating back to 1553) be preserved?

Timetable

- Initial consultation: 4 August – 6 October 2025.
- Draft recommendations considered in November 2025 and published late Nov 2025.
- Second consultation: late November 2025 – late February 2026.
- Final recommendations due July 2026 with changes (if agreed) implemented in September 2026.

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL



Postal Address: Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA



Telephone: (01727) 825 314



Website: <https://colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk>



E-mail: clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk



Implications for Colney Heath Parish Council

- At this stage, there are no specific proposals affecting Colney Heath Parish Council.
- However, councillors may wish to comment on:
 - The principle of parish councils covering all areas of the District.
 - The possible implications of local government reorganisation in 2028.
 - The preservation of the Mayoralty.
 - Any parish boundary issues locally that should be raised at this stage.

Next Steps

- Councillors are invited to consider whether Colney Heath Parish Council should submit a response to the initial consultation (deadline: 6 October 2025).
- Individual councillors may also respond directly as residents.

Recommendation

That Councillors:

1. Note the details of the Community Governance Review.
2. Confirm whether Colney Heath Parish Council wishes to submit a response to the consultation.