Welwyn Garden City Community Governance Review

Summary Booklet

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Have your say

The Council wants your views on a proposal to create a new parish council for Welwyn Garden City.

This summary uses plain language. It explains the main points from the phase two consultation and FAQs.

Consultation dates: 17 September 2026 to 31 October 2026 (now extended until 22 November).

What's happening?

A short explanation of the review

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review.

This review looks at how local communities are represented and governed.

The Council is now consulting on whether to create a new parish council (or town) for the unparished area of Welwyn Garden City.

In simple terms

A parish council would be a new, local council for Welwyn Garden City. It could later be renamed to a Town Council.

The Council has not made a final decision. It wants to hear what people think before deciding what happens next.

Why is this being considered?

Local government is changing in Hertfordshire

Welwyn Garden City is currently the only unparished part of Welwyn Hatfield borough.

The review is also taking place while local government in Hertfordshire is expected to change.

District, borough and county councils are expected to be replaced by new unitary councils.

Why this matters

If a parish council is created, Welwyn Garden City would have a local tier of democratic representation.

A parish council would be directly elected by local residents and would make decisions at public meetings.

What did people say in phase one?

Headline results from the first consultation

2,703	95%	92.8%
responses received	supported stronger community engagement	preferred a parish council

In phase one, most people who responded supported creating a parish council.

The Council considered the results and agreed to carry out a second consultation.

Phase two question

The Council now wants views on the specific proposal for a new parish council (which may later be called a Town Council).

The proposal at a glance

The main things being asked about

- Create a new parish for the current unparished area of Welwyn Garden City.
- Create a new parish council for that area.
- Use wards that match existing borough ward boundaries.
- Have 15 elected parish councillors.
- Add a parish precept to Council Tax bills to pay for the running costs and local services.

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Important

The consultation is about whether people support the proposal and how it may affect them.

Councillors and wards

Headline information

The proposal is for 15 parish councillors in total.

The parish would be split into wards. These would follow the current borough ward boundaries.

This means different parts of Welwyn Garden City would have local councillors representing them on the parish council.

15

Why 15 councillors?

The number is based on the size of the electorate and taking into account comparable representation for existing town and parish councils in the borough.

The detailed ward-by-ward numbers are available in the full consultation document.

What could a parish council do?

Examples of local work

A parish council is the most local level of government.

- Support community events and local projects.
- Manage or support local facilities, where agreed and funded.
- Look after smaller local amenities such as noticeboards or benches.
- Provide grants to community groups.
- Comment on planning applications affecting the area.
- Help represent local views to larger councils and other organisations.

It would not replace all council services

Major services such as education, social care, housing, waste collection and main planning decisions would remain with larger councils.

What would it cost?

Council Tax and the parish precept

A new parish council would be funded through a parish precept.

This would appear as an extra amount on Council Tax bills for properties in the parish area.

£25	£63-£100
estimated Band D year one	possible later Band D range

The first year amount would be set by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

In later years, the parish council would set its own budget and precept based on the services it provides. There are currently no caps on council tax rises for Town and Parish Councils.

In light of the introduction of a new parish precept, the special expenses paid by residents of Welwyn Garden City could be reviewed and changed. The consultation document explains more about special expenses.

Name, assets and elections

Other key points

The proposed name is Welwyn Garden City Parish Council.

After it is created, the council could choose to use another style, such as Town Council, Community Council, Village Council or Neighbourhood Council.

Major assets would not automatically transfer to the new parish council.

If the parish council wanted to manage assets in future, this would need proper consideration and agreement through the relevant process.

Elections May 2027

Possible timetable

If approved, the new council would come into being on 1 April 2027. First elections are expected in May 2027.

How to have your say

Please tell the Council what you think

The phase two consultation runs from 17 September 2026 to 31 October 2026 (now extended until 22 November).

You can complete the survey online or ask for a paper copy or alternative format.

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Website

Visit www.welhat.gov.uk and go to the Community Governance Review consultation page.

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Email

Send questions or paper copies to governancereview@welhat.gov.uk.

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Phone

Call 01707 357 000 and ask to speak to Gavin Ramtohal.

Your views will help the Council decide whether to create a new parish council for Welwyn Garden City.