



Cornwall Council has been undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR). CGR can lead to changes of existing parish boundaries, including merging of parishes or the creation of new parishes from parts of one or more existing parishes.

The original timetable for the review was set to ensure the agreed changes could be implemented in good time so they can take effect at the 2021 local council elections. The onset of the coronavirus pandemic meant that work had to be paused. In July 2020 the Electoral Review Panel decided to proceed with as much as possible of the review in time for the May 2021 elections. The Re-organisation Order for changes agreed by Council was made in December 2020. Some of the issues inevitably remain complicated and controversial and these parts of the review will be completed following the May 2021 elections.

For more information on CGR please see the webpage [Community Governance Reviews - Cornwall Council](#) which has information on the review process, timetable and FAQs.

Community Governance Review and the planning policy framework are two separate processes and any parish boundary change will not have an automatic effect on designated Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) areas. There is no need to stop work on an NDP or to review and update a made or emerging NDP just to align with new parish boundaries.

There may be other ways to influence planning decisions in new parish areas outside of an NDP area which are an easier option than reviewing the NDP.

This guidance describes the potential impacts of the CGR on NDPs at various stages of progress. This briefing note sets out some of the most likely scenarios for emerging and made neighbourhood plans in parishes affected by CGR.

Key points to note:

- NDP policies will remain in place and be enforced for the area of land that they cover even if that land becomes part of a different Parish.
- NDPs that have already been finalised and adopted cannot be revoked even if a new Parish is created within the area of the NDP
- NDP areas cannot overlap, so a new NDP area can only be designated if there is either no existing designation covering that area, or if an existing designation is withdrawn.
- Withdrawing an existing designation and restarting an emerging plan to cover a new area will require reconsultation and a new evidence base.
- Reviewing a made plan to change the NDP area will require all statutory processes to be repeated, including area designation, consultation, examination and referendum.
- We do not recommend making changes to NDP areas in anticipation of boundary changes, before these have been agreed.

If after reading the briefing note you have further queries, please contact the neighbourhood planning team on [neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Key:****NoNDP**

**NDP area designation.** The plan may be at very early, information gathering stage, or may have progressed through several rounds of consultation, SEA screening and pre-submission consultation.



Indicates the **proposed boundary change**.

**Made NDP.** The plan has been submitted, examined and been to referendum. It is adopted and carries full weight.

**Example 1**

Parish 1 is NDP designated area – parish 2 has not progressed an NDP. There is no obligation to redesignate the NDP area.

Parish 1 can continue to produce an NDP for the originally designated area or may choose to withdraw the original designation and re-designate to cover the extended area. If the re-designation takes place before the parish boundary change comes into force, this can still be done with parish 2's agreement.

The change in area will necessitate more work on the evidence for the NDP. The further the NDP has progressed, the more work will need to be repeated. This includes consultation and evidence base work. Any costs are borne by the parish. There will be minor administrative work for CC.

**Example 2****Option 1:**

Both parishes continue to progress NDPs for the original designated area. They consult/ collaborate to agree policies in the 'area of change'

Benefits: No need to repeat early consultation work

Costs: None

**Option 2**

Both parishes withdraw the current area designations and re-designate to reflect amended parish boundaries

Benefits: the NDP area is contiguous with the parish boundary

Costs: minor administration work for CC to determine the re-designation. If this is carried out prior to the enactment of CGR a six-week consultation is required.

The change in area will require some reworking of evidence base – the parishes must judge whether they wish to do this. Publicity to raise awareness of the change to the NDP will be required. If Pre-submission Consultation has already been carried out, this will have to be repeated. The parish council will bear these costs.

Option 2 can only happen if both parishes wish to re-designate and are in agreement. If parish 2 do not wish to withdraw their area designation, parish 1 cannot extend their NDP area.

Conversely parish 2 could withdraw and re-designate to align with

the new parish boundary – but parish 1 are not obliged to re-designate to cover the ‘area of change.’

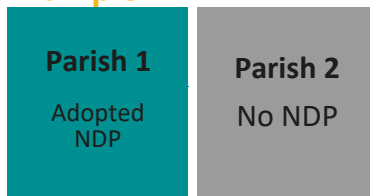
### Example 3



Parish 1 cannot withdraw their area designation and reapply to cover their parish as extended, because there is an extant NDP in parish 2.

The NDP for parish 2 will remain in force until it expires (2030) unless the parish decide to review their NDP. As part of this review they could consider a change to the NDP area.

### Example 4



**Option 1:** no change required, especially if there are no ambitions for development within the ‘area of change.’

**Option 2:** If parish 1 wish to extend their NDP to cover their parish as extended, they will have to review their NDP. As part of the review they can make an alteration to the NDP area.

Costs: for the parish, updates to the evidence base; carry out all stages of public engagement, presubmission consultation, submission. For CC, to carry out publication consultation, arrange examination and referendum. Currently, grants of up to £9k for the parish and £20k for CC are available. These should cover respective costs for smaller parishes but not for larger parishes.

Option 3: if there are ambitions for development within the ‘area of change’ Parish 1 work proactively with CC planning to realise those ambitions

### Example 5



**Option 1:** Both NDPs will continue in force, regardless of the change to the parish boundary.

**Option 2:** If a parish decides to review their NDP there is an option to change the NDP area. Parish 2 could review their NDP and exclude the extension of Parish 1 from their revised NDP.

Parish 1 could not expand their NDP area unless Parish 2 decided to review and change their NDP area; but they are not obliged to review and extend their NDP into the extended area, even if Parish 2 exclude it.

Costs: for the parish, updates to the evidence base; carry out all stages of public engagement, presubmission consultation, submission. For CC, to carry out publication consultation, arrange examination and referendum. Currently, grants of up to £9k for the parish and £20k for CC are available. These should cover respective costs for smaller parishes but not for larger parishes.

### Example 6

<p><b>Parish 1</b> Adopted NDP</p>	<p><b>Parish 2</b> Designated area</p>	<p><b>Option 1:</b> continue with areas as designated. Parish 2 collaborate with Parish 1 to develop policies for the 'area of change.'</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> Parish 2 may decide to re-designate to remove the 'area of change' This is likely to be less onerous if excluding an area, compared to adding an area.</p> <p>Costs: minor administrative processes for CC. Consultation and publicity for new plan area for parish 2.</p> <p>Pros/cons: Parish 1 would then have the option of extending their NDP area to be contiguous with their parish boundary, when they come to review their NDP. However, they may prefer to work with Parish 2 in order to get policies in place sooner.</p>
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### Example 7



#### Option 1:

Parish 2 continues to produce an NDP with the area as designated, liaising with parish 1 to develop policies for 'area of change.'

Pros: no need to repeat any work

Cons: If Parish 1 wish to create an NDP at a later date, they will not be able to include the dotted area until the NDP for Parish 2 expires.

#### Option2:

Parish 2 withdraws the designation and produces a new NDP to reflect the new parish area.

Pros: If parish 1 want to commence a new NDP at a later date, they will be able to cover the whole parish area.

Cons: depending on how much work has been carried out to date there will be some repetition of consultation and evidence gathering, but this is probably less onerous when reducing an area.

Costs and work are borne by the parish council, with some minor admin processes for CC.

### Example 8



The made NDP in parish 2 will continue in force regardless of the change to the parish boundary. If Parish 1 decide to pursue an NDP they cannot include their whole parish, as extended, until such time as the NDP for Parish 2 expires or Parish 2 decide to review their NDP.