



## Have your say on the number of parish councillors in Hazlemere

**Open date:** 7 May 2024

**Close date:** 16 June 2024

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### Overview

**We want to hear your view on a proposal to increase the number of parish councillors in Hazlemere.**

As Buckinghamshire Council, we are responsible for reviewing local governance arrangements to ensure they meet local needs. Local governance arrangements are the processes in place for decision making that affects you and your local area. This includes how you and your local community are represented, such as by your local councillors at council meetings. It also includes who you can contact if you have a query about services in your area.

This review is called a Community Governance Review and investigates whether:

- decisions made in your local area reflect the identity and interests of the local community
- arrangements are as convenient and effective as possible

### The proposal

Hazlemere Parish Council have proposed an increase in the number of parish councillors from 12 to 16.

The parish council's reason for requesting the proposed change is because of an increase in workload due to the increasing population and new housing developments in the area.

There are currently 2 wards in the parish; North and South. Each of the wards have 6 councillors. In its proposal, Hazlemere Parish Council did not state how

the additional councillors would be split across the two wards. If the council size increased by 4 councillors one option is for 2 additional councillors to represent each ward.

Electorate and forecast for 2028:

Parish ward	Polling District	Electorate						
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028 forecast	2023 to 2028 difference
Hazlemere North	RK	3778	3894	3876	3786	3850	3955	+105
Hazlemere South	RL	3602	3735	3663	3607	3664	3664	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7380</b>	<b>7629</b>	<b>7539</b>	<b>7393</b>	<b>7514</b>	<b>7619</b>	<b>+105</b>

Using the 2028 electorate forecast of 7619, the National Association of Local Councils recommendations would provide a suggested council size of between 14 and 15 councillors. Aston Business School recommendations would suggest a council size of between 9 to 16 councillors.

Currently there are 12 councillors out of a total of 12.

No changes to the parish boundary are being requested.

Standards and General Purposes Committee considered the request at its meeting on 4 April 2024 and agreed for a CGR to be undertaken. View the meeting report at [buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk](https://www.buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk).

### Guidance on parish council size

The guidance on council size is that a parish or town council must have no fewer than five councillors. There are otherwise no rules to the number of councillors that a parish or town council must or can have.

Research from Aston Business School recommends the following:

Electors	Councillors
less than 500	5 to 8
501 to 2,500	6 to 12
2,501 to 10,000	9 to 16
10,001 to 20,000	13 to 27
more than 20,000	13 to 31

The National Association of Local Councils recommends:

<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
up to 900	7	up to 10,400	17
1,400	8	11,900	18
2,000	9	13,500	19
2,700	10	15,200	20
3,500	11	17,000	21
4,400	12	18,900	22
5,400	13	20,900	23
6,500	14	23,000	24
7,700	15	over 23,000	25
9,000	16		

Statutory guidance states ‘each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities, and therefore the Council is prepared to pay particular attention to existing levels of representation, the broad pattern of existing council sizes.’ ([Guidance on community governance reviews, paragraph 156, page 44](#)).

The recommendations of a review should also have regard to the important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible.

### **Related documents**

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the following documents at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](http://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com):

- Map of the Hazlemere Parish Council boundary
- Community Governance Review of Parishes Terms of Reference

### **How to have your say**

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](http://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com)
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at [elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- write to us at Hazlemere CGR consultation, Electoral Services, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8LB

If you have any questions about this activity, please email us at [elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or phone us on 01296 798141.

**Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on Sunday 16 June 2024.**

### **What happens next**

Your feedback will be considered by councillors, along with other relevant information. We will then consider the future community governance arrangements for the area.

Standards and General Purposes Committee will consider and approve the draft recommendations and decide on the next stages of the Community Governance Review in Summer 2024. This is when the final recommendations are expected to be published and the Community Governance Review ends.

If the proposal is taken forward, the Reorganisation Order would be made in Autumn 2024. The Order would set out the timetable for change.

### **Privacy**

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on [dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

## **Printed consultation survey**

### **1. Do you agree with the proposal to increase the number of councillors at Hazlemere Parish Council from 12 to 16?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

## 2. Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

## About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

### 1. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I live in Hazlemere
- I work in Hazlemere
- I study in Hazlemere
- I represent or own a business in Hazlemere
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

### 2. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio or TV)
- Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- From Buckinghamshire Council staff

- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Poster
- Word of mouth
- Local Community Board
- Local Councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council
- Other (please give details below):

**3. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to question X)
- On behalf of an organisation

**On behalf of an organisation**

**4. Please provide the following details:**

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

**End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation**

**More about you**

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

**5. What is your postcode?**

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

**6. What is your age?**

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

**7. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?**

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

## 8. Are you:

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

## 9. How would you describe your ethnicity?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller



- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

### **End of the survey**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on Sunday 16 June 2024. You can:

- email it to [elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- post it to Hazlemere CGR consultation, Electoral Services, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8LB