

Community Governance Review Final Recommendations Burstall Parish Council

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Following consultation on the Draft Recommendations, it is recommended that the number of councillors serving on Burstall Parish Council be reduced from eleven (11) to seven (7), with effect from the next ordinary parish council elections.

2. CONSULTATION OUTCOME

- 2.1 A further consultation was undertaken between 13 April 2026 and 19 June 2026. Residents and stakeholders were invited to comment on the proposal through Microsoft Forms, email, telephone and post. Consultation information was published on the District Council website, distributed to the parish council and ward councillors, and delivered to all households within the parish.
- 2.2 A total of 14 representations were received. Of these:
- 13 respondents (92.86%) supported the proposal to reduce the number of seats.
 - 1 respondent (7.14%) opposed the proposal.
 - No alternative proposals were received.
- 2.3 Responses were received from:
- 12 residents (85.71%)
 - 2 political representatives (14.29%)
- 2.4 Burstall Parish Council also confirmed its support for the proposal, stating that Burstall Parish Council supports the recommended reduction of seats from eleven to seven; the size of the electorate cannot support the number as presently is.

3. KEY INFORMATION

Electorate	Current Seats	Current Occupied seats
188	11	7

3.1 National Association of Local Councils (NALC) member ratio guidance

Electorate	Councillor allocation
Less than 500	5-8
501 – 2,500	6-12
2,501 – 10,000	9-16
10,001 – 20,000	13-27
Greater than 20,000	13-31

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3.2 Quorum requirements

SEATS	Quorum
7 - 9	3
10 - 11	4

4. REASONING

- 4.1 The working group has considered the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidance on parish council sizes when reaching its final recommendations. The recommended council size is considered appropriate for the electorate and supports effective representation and decision-making.
- 4.2 The working group has also taken account of the consultation responses received. The recommendations reflect the views expressed by respondents and seek to balance local opinion with the need for effective and sustainable governance.
- 4.3 Significant weight has been given to the Parish Council's views, recognising its experience of councillor workloads, service delivery and governance requirements. Where the Parish Council's position was supported by the consultation results, this has strengthened the case for the recommended council size.