

Meeting of the Council – 1st December 2025

Report of the Director of Legal, Compliance and Assurance

Results of Feasibility Study into a Parish Council for Cradley

Purpose of report

1. To submit the outcome of the feasibility study on the potential creation of a Parish Council in Cradley.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted by the Council and that no further action be taken.

Background

3. At the meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday, 12th February 2025 it was recommended that Council provide a steer on whether they endorse undertaking a feasibility study to establish a Town Council in Cradley. The report to the Cabinet can be found on the [Council's website](#).

At the meeting of the Full Council on [3rd March 2025](#), it was resolved:

‘That the Council approves a feasibility study into the creation of a Town Council in Cradley being undertaken and confirms the allocation of the sum of £75,000 from the contingency fund in order to carry out the feasibility study’.

What is a Parish Council

4. A Parish Council is the most local tier of government in England. It is a type of council that can be established to represent and serve a defined community. Parish Councils are independently elected and funded through a precept (a portion of Council Tax). They are responsible for delivering local services, representing community interests, and improving

quality of life. They may choose to have a mayor and typically operate at a very local level, such as a town, neighbourhood or community and use that styling as their name.

Public Survey

5. The feasibility study opened on 1st September 2025 and ran until Friday 31st October 2025.

An information leaflet and response form along with a return envelope was delivered to all registered electors in the proposed area in September. Properties where no electors appeared on the electoral register were delivered the same information leaflet and survey response form and envelope addressed to the occupier.

People could also respond via the Dudley website using an online form or by emailing the CGR inbox.

The number of paper forms delivered was 9,633.

Responses to public survey

6. The total number of responses received were 1,269. Equating to a 13.16% response.

Support Levels

- Yes (supporting a Town Council): 217 responses → 17.2%
- No (opposing a Town Council): 1,045 responses → 82.6%
- Unsure: 3 responses → 0.2%

Below are tables detailing the responses by type and their response.

Response Method	Number of responses
Paper form	977
Email	7
Online	284
Total	1269*

*2 responses were withdrawn by the elector, and 2 responses were removed as duplicate responses.

The responses for and against are listed in the table below.

Response method	Yes	No	Unsure
Paper form	179	796	0
Email	0	7	1
Online	38	242	2
Total	217	1045	3

This has been further broken down per polling district.

Ward	Polling District	Yes	No	Unsure
Cradley North & Wollescote	T01	41	251	0
Cradley North & Wollescote	T02	38	131	0
Cradley North & Wollescote	T03	39	84	0
Cradley North & Wollescote	T04	29	157	0
Cradley North & Wollescote	T07	4	37	0
Hayley Green & Cradley South	R01	25	132	2
Hayley Green & Cradley South	R02	22	72	0
Belle Vale	O01	14	149	0
Not applicable	Other	5	13	1
Not applicable	Unknown	0	19	0
Total	All	217	1045	3

2 responses have been discounted due to duplicate responses submitted

The 'Unknown' responses were received via the postal form and did not provide a name or address to be able to link them to the area.

The 'Other' responses are from people who are from outside the proposed parish area.

The number of responses which also provided a comment was 764.
The responses have been summarised into the two tables below.

Comments for

Comment	Quantity
Yes / I support	25
Empowering the community / gives community voice	42
Improve Roads / Area	5
I would like to get involved	3
Other comments	19
Total comments for	94

Comments against

Comment	Quantity
No / I don't support	151
Already pay Council Tax / Council Tax already too high	270
Cost of living Crisis / cannot afford to pay any more	135
Another layer of bureaucracy / jobs for the boys	89
Other comments	25
Total comments against	670

As of 17th November 2025, 11 responses were received after the survey had closed.

Finance

7. The related costs to conduct the survey are to be recharged to the Contingency fund.

Law

8. There is no specific law relating to a feasibility study into the creation of a Parish Council. With this in mind, consideration was taken from the legislation that governs a Community Governance Review. This included Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Local Government Act 1972, Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008, Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 and The Legislative Reform (Community Governance Reviews) Order 2015.

Risk Management

9. The recommendations are to comply with legal requirements and there are no additional implications for the Council's Risk Management Framework.

Equality Impact

10. There are no implications relating to the Council's commitment to equality and diversity in connection with this report.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

11. There are no human resources or organisational development implications.

Commercial/Procurement

12. There are no procurement or commercial implications.

Environment / Climate Change

13. There are no environmental implications affecting the Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency or in relation to the impact on the Council's work to address Climate Change and achieve the Net Zero target.

Council Plan

14. There are no implications affecting the Council's key priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme.

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