

Cherwell District Council

Council

19 December 2016

Community Governance Review Update

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the Community Governance Review (CGR) to be undertaken and to request that an amended Terms of Reference document be approved.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review (appendix 1)
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend the timetable for the Review, if required

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The last Community Governance Review for Cherwell was completed in 2013. This resulted in various changes across the district, including changes to parish boundaries and increased numbers of Parish Councillors.
- 2.2 In October 2016, Council approved a Terms of Reference (ToR) document for the review. Since then, a number of parish councils have expressed a wish to be included in the review. Officers also wish to amend other sections of the ToR, so it is necessary for the document to be updated and return to Council for approval.

3.0 Report Details

Community Governance Review – Parishes to be included

- 3.1 Following consideration of the draft Terms of Reference at the last meeting of Council, four further parishes have expressed an interest in having their number of Parish Councillors reviewed – Fritwell, Tadmarton, Weston-on-the-Green and Yarnton.

- 3.2 Stratton Audley were already included in the draft ToR, having contacted the Democratic and Elections team over the summer regarding an increase of parish councillors. Upper Heyford were also already included.
- 3.3 The main changes to the ToR are in the 'Consultation' paragraph, the 'Timetable for Review' paragraph, and an additional paragraph 'who undertakes the review?'.
- 3.4 The Consultation paragraph has been updated to give more detail on how exactly consultation will be carried out during the review.
- 3.5 The Timetable paragraph has been amended to give a later start date for the main part of the review. This does not impact on the overall end date for the review, or the implementation of any changes agreed.
- 3.6 It is requested that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to amend the timetable further should it be required, for example lengthening or adding a consultation period.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 Cherwell District Council committed to undertake a further CGR relating to Upper Heyford at the conclusion of the previous review in 2013.

5.0 Consultation

None specifically for this stage of the CGR. Details of consultation as part of the review are included in the Terms of Reference document.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to conduct a CGR. This is rejected as CDC has previously committed to a CGR for Upper Heyford.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 The Council is empowered to undertake a Community Governance Review by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. In undertaking the review it must take steps to ensure that the outcome of the review reflects the identities and interests of the area being reviewed and the need to ensure effective and convenient community governance. Statutory guidance on the process can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance>

Comments checked by:
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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

N/A

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Amended Terms of Reference for Community Governance Review
Background Papers	
None	
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