

Cherwell District Council

Council

16 May 2017

Community Governance Review Update

Report of Interim Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the Community Governance Review (CGR), including the results of the first consultation with Upper Heyford, and to ask Council to approve amendments to the timetable.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the update;
- 1.2 Approve a change in the timetable regarding the second consultation stage of the review;
- 1.3 Delegate authority to the Assistant Director – Transformational Governance to make any further amendments to the timetable if required.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 In December 2016, Council approved a timetable for a limited scope Community Governance Review (CGR) to be carried out, focussing on a possible split of Upper Heyford Parish and requests from five parish councils for a review of their number of Parish Councillors.
- 2.2 The first stage of consultation relating to Upper Heyford has now taken place, and results are available.

3.0 Report Details

Upper Heyford

- 3.1 A consultation document (appendix 1) was produced and delivered to every address in the existing Upper Heyford parish (approximately 1000 households). The

consultation ran from 16 January to 17 March 2017, and residents were able to respond on paper or online.

- 3.2 Somerton and Ardley with Fewcott Parish Councils were also notified of the consultation and invited to respond, due to sharing boundaries with Upper Heyford.
- 3.3 177 responses were received to the consultation. 139 responses felt it was a good idea for the existing parish to be split in two, with 38 saying they didn't think it was a good idea.
- 3.4 With regards to name of the new parishes if a split were to take place, 92 responses suggested Upper Heyford (the 'village' area) and Heyford Park (the former airbase area).
- 3.5 Regarding positioning of boundaries, 86 responses were received in favour of the boundary on Map 2 of the consultation document. 43 responses favoured Map 3.
- 3.6 Responses received from Somerton Parish have expressed concern over the suggestion of moving the boundary so that it is coterminous with the outer boundary of the airfield.
- 3.7 The timetable published on 3 January 2017 as part of the Terms of Reference for the review stated that a report would be submitted to Council in May, with recommendations to form the basis of the second consultation stage.
- 3.8 Due to the Prime Minister's announcement in April regarding a UK Parliamentary General Election on 8 June 2017, officers have had to consider the implications on the CGR timetable, as the administration of the CGR process sits with the Democratic and Election team.
- 3.9 Officers are therefore proposing to amend the timetable as follows:

Activity	Original date proposed	New date proposed
Report to Council with recommendations	16 May 2017	17 July 2017
Consultation on recommendations	19 June to 4 August	31 July to 8 September
Meeting with working group to discuss consultation responses and finalise recommendations	Between 21 August and 8 September	During w/c 11 September

The rest of the timetable remains unchanged, with the review concluding in October 2017.

- 3.10 Five parish councils – Fritwell, Stratton Audley, Tadmarton, Weston-on-the-Green and Yarnton – requested involvement in the review, regarding a review of their number of Parish Councillors. Consultation on this aspect of the review will be included in the revised second stage consultation.

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. Officers feel that due to the importance of the CGR, it is necessary to change the timetable to ensure adequate time and resource is applied to the process.

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 change the timetable. This is rejected, as officers would not be able to complete the work in line with the previously published timetable.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Comments checked by:
Paul Sutton, Chief Finance Officer, 0300 0030106,
paul.sutton@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

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:
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance – 0300 0030107
kevin.lane@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

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	Consultation document for Upper Heyford CGR
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Emma Faulkner – Democratic and Elections Officer
Contact Information	Tel: 01327 322043 Email: emma.faulkner@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk