

# Cherwell District Council

## Council

30 October 2018

### Community Governance Review – Graven Hill – Results of Second Consultation and Final Recommendations

#### Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

#### Purpose of report

To consider the final recommendations from the Community Governance Review (CGR) Working group, following the second consultation phase.

#### 1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve the boundary between Bicester Town Council and Ambrosden being moved to incorporate Graven Hill into Bicester Town Council – Bicester South Ward, as shown in Appendix 1
- 1.2 Approve the boundary between Ambrosden and Chesterton being moved to include the orphan area into Chesterton as shown in Appendix 1
- 1.3 Agree that the number of councillors on Bicester Town Council (BTC) remain at 15 with the allocation of councillors amended to increase BTC – Bicester South Ward by one councillor and decrease BTC – Bicester East Ward by one councillor.

#### 2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 In [May 2018](#), Council approved a timetable for a Community Governance Review (CGR) to be carried out.
- 2.2 The second consultation stage has now concluded. This report gives details of the responses, and final recommendations from the Working Group.

#### 3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 At its meeting in [July 2018](#), Council approved recommendations to form the basis of the second consultation phase.

- 3.2 Two consultation documents were produced, one relating specifically to the Bicester Town Council/Ambrosden Parish boundary and the allocation of Bicester Town Councillors (appendix 2) and one relating specifically to the Ambrosden Parish/Chesterton Parish boundary (appendix 3).
- 3.3 The consultation period ran from 30 July 2018 to 14 September 2018. All documents were available via the Council's website, with the option of completing an electronic survey.
- 3.4 The consultation document (appendix 2) was emailed to the Graven Hill Development Company who distributed it to all Graven Hill residents and Graven Hill Plot Holders. Graven Hill Development Company was also invited to respond to the survey. The consultation document (appendix 2) was also emailed to Ambrosden Parish Council, Bicester Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council.
- 3.5 The consultation document (appendix 3) was emailed to Ambrosden Parish Council, Chesterton Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council. A copy was also posted to the only property in the Orphan Area.
- 3.6 A summary of the information gathered has been included with the breakdown of results for each consultation area.

#### **Ambrosden Parish Council/Bicester Town Council**

- 3.7 10 responses were received from Graven Hill Plot Holders all of which agreed to the proposal to move the area of Graven Hill into Bicester Town Council – Bicester South Ward.
- 3.8 The CGR working group therefore recommend that the Graven Hill area marked on the map (appendix 1) be incorporated with Bicester Town Council – Bicester South Ward.

#### **Configuration of Bicester Town Council**

- 3.9 9 responses were received to the question from Graven Hill Plot Holders all of which agreed to the proposal that Bicester Town Council (BTC) should be reconfigured so that BTC - Bicester South Ward be increased by one councillor and BTC - Bicester East Ward be decreased by one councillor, therefore retaining the same number of councillors.
- 3.10 The CGR working group therefore recommend that BTC should be reconfigured with the BTC – Bicester South Ward increased by one councillor and the BTC – Bicester East Ward decreased by one councillor. Bicester Town Council would, therefore, retain the same number of councillors at 15.

#### **Ambrosden/Chesterton**

- 3.11 5 responses were received, 3 from Ambrosden residents and 2 from Graven Hill Plot Holders/residents all of which agreed with the proposal to move the Orphan area into Chesterton.
- 3.12 Emails were also received from Bicester Town Council, Ambrosden Parish Council and Chesterton Parish Council all of which were in agreement to the proposals.

- 3.13 The CGR working group therefore recommend that the Orphan area indicated on the map (Appendix 1) be incorporated in Chesterton Parish.

### **Next Steps**

- 3.14 Recommendations approved by full Council will be incorporated into a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order, which will confirm implementation dates for each of the changes.
- 3.15 All affected parishes will be contacted and advised of the changes agreed, and their implementation date, 2 May 2019.
- 3.16 Properties changing parish will be written to individually, notifying them of the changes to Council Tax and voting location.
- 3.17 The Graven Hill Development Company will be notified of the changes in order to inform Plot Holders.
- 3.18 Permission will be sought from Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to amend the protected electoral arrangements made during the District boundary review by the LGBCE which reconfigure the Bicester Town Council Wards and comes into effect in May 2019. The LGBCE has already been approached and indicated it would support the CGR changes.

## **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 The working group feel that the recommendations made are logical, and in the best interests of the parishes and interested parties involved.

## **5.0 Consultation**

- 5.1 With all interested parties as detailed in section 3 of the report.

## **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 make any changes. This is rejected, as the CGR Working Group consider the recommendations to be in the best interest of the parishes involved.

## **7.0 Implications**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council in relation to these recommendations. The Council Tax in the Orphan area for a Band D property is subject to change from £1762.50 to £1785.54 for 2018/19.

Comments checked by: Adele Taylor Interim Executive Director: Finance and Governance 01295 221634, [adele.taylor@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:adele.taylor@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk)

## Legal Implications

- 7.2 The proposals in this report are in line with the powers of the council as set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and propose a pragmatic and proportionate way forward.

Comments checked by: James Doble, Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer. – 0300 003 0207

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## 8.0 Decision Information

### Wards Affected

Bicester South and Ambrosden  
Fringford and Heyfords  
Bicester East

### Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

N/A

### Lead Councillor

None

### Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Maps – affected areas
Appendix 2	Consultation document Ambrosden/Bicester
Appendix 3	Consultation document Ambrosden/Chesterton
Background Papers	
None	
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