

Council

Community Governance Review 2012

25 February 2013

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on progress of the Community Governance Review, and to agree proposals to consult upon.

This report is public

Recommendations

Council is recommended:

- (1) To agree that the principles as set out in appendix 1 should be consulted upon.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 Following the resolution made at December Council, a Community Governance Review Working Group was set up and all Town and Parish Councils across the district were invited to submit comments and suggestions for consideration. 19 responses were received, and full details of each response can be seen on file in the Members' Room.
- 1.2 The Working Group met on 4 February, and discussed each of the responses received during the initial consultation period.

Proposals

- 2.1 The Working Group made decisions on each of the suggestions received, and these decisions are included in full at Appendix 1 to this report.

- 2.2 The next stage of the process is to consult on the proposals Council agree. This consultation period will run from 1 March until 28 March 2013, and a meeting of the Working Group will be arranged for early April to discuss responses to the second consultation period.

Conclusion

- 3.1 Officers recommend that the principles as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report are approved as the basis for consultation.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

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| Option One | To agree the recommendations |
| Option Two | Not to agree the recommendations |
| Option Three | To amend the recommendations |

Consultations

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| All Town and Parish Councils in Cherwell District | All councils were contacted and given until 31 January 2013 to respond. |
| Oxfordshire County Council | Oxfordshire County Council were also invited to submit comments. |
| Electoral Registration Officer | Electoral Registration Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to make. |

Implications

- Financial:** The main costs associated with carrying out a review is in terms of the considerable staff time required, which will mean that the Democratic and Elections team will not be available to support other work areas during the review. Other costs associated with consultation and postage can be met from the existing elections and electoral registration budget.
- Comments checked by Sarah Best, Service Accountant for Resources.

Legal: The above proposals are in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 and , if implemented, will also serve to reduce if not eliminate anomalies in community governance that are currently present.

Comments checked by Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance

Risk Management: The proposals ensure that the Council is meeting requirements to keep community governance arrangements under regular review and therefore mitigate risk to the council.

Comments checked by Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance

Wards Affected

All

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	<i>Community Governance Review Working Group Spreadsheet</i>
Background Papers	
Full version of responses received from Town and Parish Councils – available in the Members’ Room.	
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