

Cherwell District Council

Council

16 December 2013

<p>Community Governance Review – Bicester Town Council</p>

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To request the revocation of a previous Council resolution relating to Bicester Town Council in the light of further submissions received.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To revoke resolution (5) of Minute 30 of Council on 22 July 2013, relating to a proposed increase in the number of Town Councillors for Bicester Town Council.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Community Governance Review (CGR) has been in progress since December 2012. Amendments are being made to several Parish boundaries, and numbers are being increased at several Parish Councils.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 As part of the initial consultation process, a request was made by Bicester Town Council to increase their number of Town Councillors by five, from 15 to 20 (see appendix 1).
- 3.2 The Community Governance Review Working Group (CGRWG) agreed to this request at its meeting on 4 February 2013, and at the Council meeting on 25 February 2013 Members' agreed to include the increase request in the consultation phase, taking place from February to June 2013.

- 3.3 At its meeting on 22 July 2013, Council approved the increase in Town Councillors for Bicester, to take effect from the next ordinary day of election in 2015, with details on the exact spread of the extra Councillors still to be agreed.
- 3.4 Bicester Town Council were contacted in early October 2013, with a suggestion from officers as to where the additional five Town Councillors should be allocated. Bicester Town Council requested that, due to the short time allocated, they be afforded extra time to consider the suggestions in order to discuss it at a scheduled meeting of the Town Council on 12 November 2013. Officers agreed to this request, and a resolution was passed at the Council meeting on 21 October 2013 delegating authority to the Head of Law and Governance to complete the CGR Order once views of Bicester Town Council had been received.
- 3.5 Following the meeting on 12 November 2013, Bicester Town Council have now requested **not** to have an increase in Town Councillors, as they are of the view that the development taking place around Bicester is not happening quickly enough to warrant extra Town Council capacity at this time.
- 3.6 The Democratic and Elections Manager met with the Chairman and Clerk of Bicester Town Council on 28 November 2013, to discuss the situation and clarify the position. Following the meeting it was agreed that Bicester Town Council would withdraw their request for five extra Town Councillors at this time, with a view to requesting a further Review of the Bicester Town Boundaries after the 2015 Town Council election (see Appendix 2).

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 Council is therefore requested to revoke its earlier resolution proposing an increase in the number of Town Councillors for Bicester, in line with the wishes of Bicester Town Council.

5.0 Consultation

Community Governance
Review Working Group

The Working Group have no objection to the
request

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: To proceed with the original Council resolution and increase the number of Town Councillors.

This option is rejected as it would be in conflict with the revised request of Bicester Town Council.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications to the District Council with this recommendation.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

7.2 There are no legal implications to the District Council with this recommendation. The Council is legally obliged to make the necessary statutory order within one year of commencing the community governance review process which was on 17 December 2012. There is therefore no opportunity to defer consideration of this matter beyond this meeting.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

Bicester East; Bicester North; Bicester South; Bicester Town; Bicester West

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

N/A

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Correspondence from Bicester Town Council, January 2013
2	Correspondence from Bicester Town Council, November 2013
Background Papers	
None	
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