

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 January 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Governance Review 2021/22 – Draft Proposals
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Democratic Services
<b>Corporate Lead:</b>	Borough Solicitor
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Lead Member for Corporate Governance
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	One

## **Executive Summary:**

At its meeting on 2 June 2021 the Executive Committee considered a report which sought approval for the commencement of a Borough-wide Community Governance Review. The Committee approved the review and the Terms of Reference of that review and established a Community Governance Review Working Group to undertake that work.

The Community Governance Review Working Group has met on three occasions (including a bus tour of the areas under consideration) and has now put forward its draft proposals which the Executive is asked to consider and endorse to enable them to be circulated for consultation.

## **Recommendation:**

- 1. To ENDORSE the draft recommendations for the Borough-wide Community Governance Review for further consultation purposes.**
- 2. To DELEGATE authority to the Borough Solicitor in consultation with the Working Group to**
  - i) consider the suggestion of forming a new Coopers Edge Parish Council covering the areas in the Borough that fall within the Parishes of Brockworth and Hucclecote and make a recommendation to be included in the draft proposals consultation report**
  - ii) make any minor wording/accuracy changes prior to the draft proposals being released for consultation.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

It is nearly 20 years since the last Parish Review was undertaken and changes as a result of the Tewkesbury (Electoral Changes) Order 2018, together with extensive development in the Borough, necessitate a review, to ensure that the arrangements meet the needs of the community. Initial consultation has taken place with Parishes and the public which has been considered by the Community Governance Review Working Group and helped form its draft recommendations which the Executive Committee is now asked to endorse.

## **Resource Implications:**

There may be some minimal costs associated with the consultation and mapping of proposals.

**Legal Implications:**

The review follows a statutory process which includes consultation at each stage.

**Risk Management Implications:**

None anticipated.

**Performance Management Follow-up:**

A detailed programme is included in the Terms of Reference previously approved by the Committee.

**Environmental Implications:**

None.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

**1.1** Following the Executive Committee's decision to undertake a Borough-wide Community Governance Review each Parish and Town Council in the Borough was asked to submit representations/comments along with MPs, County and Borough Councillors; Political Parties; Gloucestershire County Council; Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils; two members of the public following their previous communications on the subject; the Council's Community Development Officers; and members of the public/local residents through the website and social media.

**1.2** The initial consultation stage of the Community Governance Review took place between 15 June and 15 September 2021 with a total of 44 responses received - 23 from Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings within Tewkesbury Borough; one from a Parish Council within Cheltenham Borough; one from another organisation and 19 from members of the public/local residents.

**2.0 THE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

**2.1** The Community Governance Review Working Group has met on three occasions to date – including undertaking a bus tour of the areas under consideration to understand the issues raised – and its draft recommendations are contained within the Parish Boundary Review Draft Recommendations report attached at Appendix 1. The report also contains a summary of the comments made in the initial consultation and an analysis of those factors and supporting evidence.

**2.2** The Working Group has not had the opportunity to consider a proposal to create a new Parish Council at Coopers Edge covering the areas within the Parishes of Brockworth and Hucclecote nor has it had an opportunity to consider the detailed wording of the draft proposals report and therefore, a delegation is sought to consider in detail the Coopers Edge proposal and include a recommendation in the draft report as well as making any minor wording/correcting inaccuracies in the report before it is released for public consultation.

**2.3** The Executive Committee is asked to consider the Working Group's report and endorse its recommendations for consultation and approve the request for delegated authority as detailed in the paragraph 2.2 above.

### **3.0 THE NEXT STAGE**

**3.1** The next stage in the process requires the Council to consult on its draft recommendations. The Parish Boundary Review Draft Recommendations report as attached at Appendix 1 will be circulated to the Parish and Town Councils, MPs, County and Borough Councillors; Political Parties; Gloucestershire County Council; and Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils as well as being made available to residents via the Council's website. Copies will also be available from the Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices for those that wish to make a comment on the proposals and individuals who commented during the first stage of the process will automatically be sent copies.

**3.2** The consultation period will run from January 2022 to March 2022 with a summary of responses and proposed final recommendations to be made to the Executive Committee and Council. The timetable as set out in the draft proposals report has been set to enable the final recommendations to be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in May to ensure they are in force for the Borough, Parish and Town Council elections scheduled in May 2023.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**4.1** It is possible to undertake a partial review, but this is not recommended as it does not allow the whole picture to be taken into account.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

**5.1** Full details of the consultation to be undertaken is included within the report.

### **6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

**6.1** None.

### **7.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

**7.1** None.

### **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

**8.1** None.

### **9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**

**9.1** None.

**10.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)**

**10.1** None.

**11.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

**11.1** Executive Committee – 2 June 2021.

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**Background Papers:** The Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.

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**Appendices:** 1. Parish Boundary Review Draft Recommendations report.