



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	COUNCIL – 16 FEBRUARY 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 9
Subject	COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of the Council Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To approve and adopt the Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review, along with draft proposals
Annexes	Annex A – Draft Terms of Reference Annex B - Draft Proposals for consultation
Recommendation(s)	<i>That Council approve and adopt the Terms of Reference and Draft Proposals for consultation for the Community Governance Review.</i>
Corporate priorities	Delivering our services to the highest standards
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Before commencing the review, an initial discussion with Parish and Town Councils about the review process has been held via email. Parish and Town Councils were given information about how a CGR works and what changes the Council can implement. As a result, a number of Parish and Town Councils have asked for boundary changes or a change in the number of councillors.



BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Community Governance Reviews provide the opportunity for Principal Councils to review and make changes to community governance within their areas. A Community Governance Review enables strong, clearly defined boundaries to be put into place, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. The guidance on Community Governance Reviews states that it is good practice for a Principal Council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years as well as in circumstances where there has been significant new housing development.
- 1.2** The last full Community Governance Review took place in 2013 and a number of changes were implemented at that time. Following the District Boundary Review in 2015, and at the request of the relevant Town Councils, warding arrangements were changed in Tetbury, Fairford, Bourton-on-the-Water and Moreton-in-Marsh just before the 2019 District and Parish elections.
- 1.3** During 2021, the Council received a request from Cowley Parish Council for a change within its Parish and this prompted an invitation in October 2021 to all Parish and Town Councils asking for any proposals for change they wished to put forward.
- 1.4** As a result, six Parish and Town Councils have put forward proposals for change within their areas.
- 1.5** The review is undertaken in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 and will follow the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in 2010 by the Secretary of State for Local Communities.

2. WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW?

- 2.1** A Community Governance Review (“CGR”) can take place for the whole or part of the District and can consider the following:
 - a. Creating, merging, altering or abolishing Parishes;
 - b. The naming of Parishes and the style of new Parishes;
 - c. The electoral arrangements for Parishes including:
 - i. the ordinary year of election;
 - ii. the number of Councillors to be elected; and
 - iii. the warding (if any) of the Parish
 - d. Grouping Parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping Parishes



- 2.2** The Council is required to ensure that the community governance within the area under review will be:
- a. reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
 - b. is effective and convenient
- 2.3** In doing so, the CGR is required to take into account:
- a. The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
 - b. The size, population and boundaries of a local community or Parish
- 2.4** The District Council is responsible for conducting CGRs within its area. The Council will oversee the review and produce draft and final recommendations. Once approved, an Order will be made to implement the changes.
- 2.5** If any approved changes result in a change to a District Ward or County Division boundary, this will be reported to the Boundary Commission for England ("the Commission"). The Commission will consider the proposals and make any necessary changes to the District Ward or County Division boundaries.

3. AREAS UNDER REVIEW

- 3.1** Following a number of requests from Parish and Town Councils to review their boundaries, an initial invitation for proposals was sent out to all Parish and Town Councils in October 2021. Following this invitation, the following areas have submitted proposals for change:
- Ampney Crucis Parish Council
 - Cirencester Town Council
 - Coberley Parish Council
 - Cowley Parish Council
 - Northleach Town Council
 - Westonbirt-with-Lasborough Parish Council
- 3.2** Details of each proposal and relevant maps are included in the attached Draft Recommendation document.

4. TIMETABLE

- 4.1** A period of consultation will begin from the approval of the Terms of Reference until 14 April 2022. At the close of the consultation period, final recommendations will be drawn up taking into account the representations received.



- 4.2** These final recommendations will be brought back to Council for consideration.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1** Consultation will take place with all affected Parish and Town Councils affected as well as the local government electors in the areas concerned. Where the proposals affect residential properties, letters will be sent to each property. In addition, local community groups, the County Council and MP will also be consulted.

6. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** At the end of the consultation period, final recommendations will be drawn up for consideration by the Council. If approved, a Commencement Order will be made and the changes will come into effect at the May 2023 elections.
- 6.2** Changes which affect District Ward or County Division boundaries will be reported to the Boundary Commission for England. The Commission will consider the changes and make the appropriate adjustments to the District and/or County boundaries.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** The CGR must be conducted in accordance with relevant legislation, namely the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Local Government Act 1972.
- 8.2** Save from the above there are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

(END)