COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	**COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Name and date of Committee	**FULL COUNCIL – 25th May 2022**
Report Number	**AGENDA ITEM 8**
Subject	**Community Governance Review**
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Rob Weaver, Chief Executive Officer and Sarah Dalby, Electoral Services Manager Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk; sarah.dalby@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	At its meeting in February, Council approved a Community Governance Review for six areas within the District and consultations have now taken place. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the responses and approve the final recommendations for each area. In addition, Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council has asked the Council to consider a change in their governance arrangements.
Annexes	Annex A – Details of proposals and responses Annex B - Considerations and recommendations Annexe C - Maps
Recommendation(s)	*That Council:* a. *approve the final recommendations in relation to the Parish boundary changes for the six areas under consideration* b. *authorise the Electoral Services Manager to request the Local Government Boundary Commission to change District Wards and County Divisions to reflect the changes made to Parish boundaries* c. *authorise the Interim Head of Legal Services to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council* d. *considers the recommendation to increase the number of Parish Councillors on Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council from 11 to 13.*
Corporate priorities	• Delivering our services to the highest standards
Key Decision	YES

Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Following Council's approval of the Community Governance Review in February, consultation has taken place with Parish and Town Councils, Ward Councillors, County Councillors and residents in each of the affected areas.

BACKGROUND

1.1 A Community Governance Review ("CGR") of existing Parish/Town Council arrangements within the District was commenced in February 2022.

1.2 A CGR enables strong, clearly defined boundaries to be put into place, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

1.3 Following the approval of the Review in February, consultation has now taken place with the areas identified and the responses collated.

2. Community Governance Review Criteria

2.1 A 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 or 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 Where 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. Draft recommendations

3.1 Following adoption of the draft recommendations in February, consultation has now taken place with the Parish and Town Councils, Parish Meetings, Ward and County Councillor members and properties affected by the proposals.

3.2 Details of the consultation responses are included in the attached Annex A.

4 Final recommendations

4.1 The proposals and responses have been considered against the CGR criteria and Annex B sets out the recommendation for each of the six areas.

4.2 Council is asked to consider and agree a way forward for each of the six areas.

5 Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

5.1 Since the CGR was started in February, Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council has asked if the number of councillors for the Council can be increased from 11 to 13.

5.2 The District Council adopted a scale for the number of Parish Councillors which is used as guidance in these matters.

5.3 Bourton-on-the-Water has seen significant development in the past few years and there are still more houses to be built. There are currently 3,102 electors on the register of electors and against the scale, this is 13 councillors.

5.4 Looking at the elections in the past few years, Bourton-on-the-Water has not had contested elections. However, since 2019 it has maintained a full complement of 11 councillors with only 4 casual vacancies in that time.

5.5. It is therefore recommended that the number of councillors for Bourton-on-the-Water be increased from 11 to 13 with effect from the 2023 Ordinary Elections.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The CGR must be conducted in accordance with relevant legislation, namely the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

7.2 Following approval of the final recommendations, Legal Services will draw up the appropriate Community Governance Orders to implement the changes. In respect of Cowley Parish Council this will include the abolition of the current Cowley Parish Council and the creation of two new Parish Councils; Cowley and Birdlip.

(END)