



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Boundary Review Committee

Thursday 8 February 2024

Community Governance Review - Update Report

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Nathan England - Cabinet Member: Finance, Customer Services & Governance	
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance	
Service Area:	Policy & Governance	
Report Author:	Richard Phillips - Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy	
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 383241	Email: richard.phillips@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable	
Report considered by:	Boundary Review Committee – 8 February 2024	

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Boundary Review Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the summary of responses to the Community Governance Review consultation which concluded on Monday 18 December; and
- 1.2 Delegates authority to the Director: Policy & Governance to prepare a synopsis and overview of the consultation responses alongside some draft proposals for consideration by the Boundary Review Committee.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To update the Boundary Review Committee on the consultation responses received during the consultation period (which closed on 18 December 2023,) and

to seek agreement for officers to bring forward proposals for consideration by the Committee, taking into account the criteria that can be considered when undertaking a community governance review and any consultation responses relating to those criteria.

3.0 Background

3.1 Committee will be aware that, at its meeting of 7 September 2023, it agreed to commence a Community Governance Review, seeking views on the electoral arrangement of the Town and Parish Councils across the Borough. The initial consultation which ran from publication of the Community Governance Review and Terms of Reference on 8 September 2023, was due to end on 20 November 2023. At its meeting of 16 November 2023, the Committee decided to extend the deadline of the consultation until Monday 18 December 2023.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 During the consultation period, the Council received 79 submissions in total. 64 submissions were made on the online portal, 14 responses were emailed in and one submission was received by post.

4.2 The below table sets out the breakdown of submissions categorised by who made them:

Type	Submissions
Resident	47
Parish/Town Clerk	17
Elected member	12
Community Group Representative	2
Other	1

4.3 The below table sets out the breakdown of submissions based on the Town/Parish Council areas the consultation response relate to:

Parish	Submissions
Hadley & Leegomery	9
Preston	9
Ercall Magna	7
Kynnersley	7
Madeley	6
St Georges & Priorslee	5
Stirchley & Brookside	5
Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	5
Lawley & Overdale	5
Wellington	4
Oakengates	4

Donnington & Muxton	3
Great Dawley	3
Hollinswood & Randlay	3
Newport	3
Chetwynd	3
Wrockwardine	3
Dawley Hamlets	2
Eyton	2
Ketley	2
The Gorge	2
Waters Upton	2
Edgmond	1
Little Wenlock	1
Rodington	1

4.4 Officers are now reviewing the submissions in more detail, identifying those matters which are not capable of being considered through the Community Governance Review and view any trends which emerge from the responses. As part of this work, officers will be developing options and proposals which reflect the feedback received, taking in to account the factors which can be taken into account through the Community Governance review process.

4.5 Those proposals will be brought to Committee for consideration and for Members to feed in further to the process. The is due to be completed by April, with draft recommendations being published on 22 May 2024 before a final consultation period running until 24 July 2024. Officers will ensure that Committee is able to meet to discuss the proposals in detail and will be circulating additional meeting dates for working groups shortly.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 Given the Community Governance Review has been commenced, at this stage, there are no alternative options to the recommendations in this report. Once recommendations are considered and proposals made by Boundary Review Committee, alternative options will be set out.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 The law requires a Community Governance Review to be undertaken and completed in a period not exceeding 12 months so officers will ensure that sufficient resources are provided to ensure that the CGR is conducted efficiently within that period.

6.2 There is potential for any changes arising out of the Community Governance Review to cause confusion for voters if there are significant changes to Town/Parish Council boundaries and wards which, in turn, could lead to

disenfranchisement of voters. This can be mitigated against by ensuring that appropriate communication takes place with any voters affected by any changes.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 The recommendations in this report, align with the following Council priorities:

- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live; and
- A community-focussed, innovative council, providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The costs associated with the Community Governance Review will be met from existing resources and budgets.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The relevant legislation which sets out the Council's powers in relation to Community Governance Reviews is the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Together, this legislation enables the Council to undertake a Community Governance Review, including considering the most appropriate boundaries for Town and Parish Councils and the way in which Town and Parish Councils are organised across the Borough, for example by considering the way in which parishes are grouped together.

9.2 The legislation sets out the process for conducting and giving effect to recommendations made in a Community Governance Review, noting that the process includes provisions for stakeholder and public consultation.

9.3 It is important to note that any Community Governance Review must be undertaken within a period of 12 months from the date upon which it commences.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 It is possible that the Parish areas and / or wards within some Borough wards may change as a result of a Community Governance Review. Where any proposals lead to this, this will be set out in formal reports to the Boundary Review Committee.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 There are no health, social and economic implications arising from this report. It may be that such implications are identified as part of the review of consultation responses

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

Community Governance Review – Update Report

- 12.1 As part of the Community Governance Review, stakeholders and the public have the opportunity to participate in two distinct consultation exercises. The first consultation stage has closed. Once proposals are drafted, a further consultation exercise will commence.
- 12.2 In respect of the second consultation, officers will carefully consider how best to ensure the participation of underrepresented groups across the Borough and seek to ensure that any consultation is as wide-reaching as possible, by considering the methods in which consultation is undertaken. More details on how this will be done are set out at paragraph 12.2 below.
- 12.3 To ensure that the Council engages with under-represented groups, we will undertake the following activities:
- Targeted social media to under-represented groups;
 - Correspondence to our 3000+ community groups seeking feedback;
 - Engaging with Telford College and the Universities within the Borough; and
 - Engagement with our lived-experience groups including the Making it Real Board, Dandelions and care-experienced groups.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 13.1 There are no direct Climate Change and Environmental Implications arising from this report. It may be, that as the consultation responses are fully considered, environmental factors may be raised. Where this happens, those matters will be reported to Boundary Review Committee for their consideration.

14.0 Background Papers

- 1 [Agenda Pack, Boundary Review Committee – 20 July 2023](#)
- 2 [Agenda Pack, Boundary Review Committee – 7 September 2023](#)

15.0 Appendices

None

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	31/01/2024	31/01/2024	ACL