



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Boundary Review Committee

Thursday 5 September 2024

Community Governance Review

Conclusion of Review

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Customer Services & Governance
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
Report Author:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Boundary Review Committee – 5 September 2023

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Boundary Review Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the summary of responses received in relation to the final proposals decided upon by the Boundary Review Committee and published on 22 July 2024;
- 1.2 Concludes the Community Governance Review in accordance with the proposals set out in paragraph 4.5 of this report; and
- 1.3 Delegates authority to the Director: Policy & Governance to publish the final outcome of the Community Governance Review as agreed by the Committee.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the the Boundary Review Committee on the consultation responses received during the second consultation period (which closed on 4 September 2024,) and to seek agreement to conclude the Community Governance Review after considering those responses.

3.0 Background

3.1 Members of the Committee will be aware that, at its meeting of 7 September 2023, it was agreed that the Council should 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 7 September 2023, came to an end on Monday 18 December 2023. A copy of the consultation document is attached at **Appendix A** to this report. During the first round of consultation, the Council received 79 submissions in total which were varied in content from ‘no changes’ to ‘have three Town/Parish Councils covering the entire Borough’.

3.2 As set out in the consultation document published in September 2023, initial proposals were presented to the Committee on 19 July 2024 to enable Members to consider whether or not to commence the second round of consultation based upon those proposals. At that meeting, Members decided that, due to the range of interest in the initial proposals, it would be helpful to propose no changes to the current electoral arrangements for Town and Parish Councils and to commence the second phase of consultation on that basis.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 At the time of writing, the second round of consultation has seen 11 submissions received.

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

Type	Submissions
Resident	3
Parish/Town Councils	7
Elected member	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
Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote	1
Church Aston	1

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Donnington & Muxton	2
Hollinswood & Randlay	1
Lilleshall	1
Little Wenlock	1
Newport	1
Priorslee	1
Stirchley & Brookside	1
Waters Upton	1

4.4 At the time of writing, the consultation period is still open and any update on the above will be tabled at the meeting.

4.5 As is to be expected, the contents of the submissions received to date vary and these are summarised in **Appendix B**. Based upon the proposals received to date, it is still considered appropriate to conclude the Community Governance Review on the basis that no changes be made to the current electoral arrangements. In the event that any further representations are received prior to the meeting that result in a change to the proposals, this will be drawn to Members' attention at the meeting.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There is a legal requirement for a Community Governance Review to be completed within 12 months of what it was commenced. This means that it must be concluded by 6 September 2024. In terms of alternative options, it is open to the Committee to make alternative proposals to those contained in this report.

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. This report will so officers will ensure that sufficient resources are provided to ensure that the Community Governance Review 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

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- 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 have been 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. As set out within the body of the report, any Community Governance Review must be concluded within a period of 12 months.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 In the event that the Committee agrees to make no changes as a result of this Community Governance Review, there will be no ward implications.

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

12.1 As part of the Community Governance Review, stakeholders and the public have had the opportunity to participate in two distinct consultation exercises. The first consultation stage commenced on 7 September 2023 with the publication of the consultation document attached at Appendix A which set out those matters that can be considered as part of a review, as follows:-

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes and the creation of town councils;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (for instance, the ordinary year of election, a council's geographical size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding);
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes;

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- Other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings.

12.2 Upon commencement of the consultation, the consultation document was provided to all Town and Parish Councils in the Borough, SALC, the two MPs in post at the time, Borough councillors, Telford College and the universities within the Borough and community groups as well as being posted on our website. Details were also circulated through social media.

12.3 In respect of the second consultation, this commenced on Monday 22 July 2024 and runs until Wednesday 4 September 2024.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no direct Climate Change and Environmental Implications arising from this report.

14.0 Background Papers

- 1 [Agenda Pack, Boundary Review Committee – 20 July 2023](#)
- 2 [Agenda Pack, Boundary Review Committee – 7 September 2023](#)
- 3 [Agenda Pack, Boundary Review Committee – 16 November 2023](#)
- 4 [Agenda Pack, Boundary Review Committee – 8 February 2024](#)
- 5 [Agenda Pack, Boundary Review Committee – 19 July 2024](#)

15.0 Appendices

- A Consultation Document – September 2023
- B Summary of submissions received during second round of consultation

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	28/08/2024	28/08/2024	RP
Finance	28/08/2024	28/08/2024	MLB