

30 September 2021**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND
EMPLOYEES****BROXTOWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs Councillors about the process that is being followed by Broxtowe Borough Council in undertaking a community governance review of its area. It also summarises the proposals that are subject to consultation as part of the first phase of the review. The committee is also asked to confirm the Council reserves its position on a formal response until the next phase of the consultation by sending the courtesy letter attached to the report (**Appendix A**).

Information

2. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the framework for principal councils to undertake community governance reviews of their local area. For community governance reviews the principal authority in two tier areas is district and borough councils.
3. A Community Governance Review is a legal process through which the principal council will consult those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review.
4. A review can consider one or more of the following options:
 - a. Creating, merging or abolishing parishes
 - b. The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes and the creation of town councils
 - c. The electoral arrangements for parishes (for instance, the ordinary year of election, council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding)
 - d. Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes
 - e. Other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings
5. The principal authority sets the terms of reference for its review and must undertake consultation when considering what changes to make.
6. Broxtowe Borough Council is conducting a community governance review to consider parish boundaries. It reviews parishes' existing boundaries to ensure they are sustainable, provide

connectivity and reflect local community identities. This includes taking account of forecast electorate figures that take account of expected developments over the following five years.

7. The terms of reference and full details of the review can be viewed on Broxtowe Borough Council's website ([Governance, Audit and Standards Committee report, Broxtowe Borough Council – 17 May 2021](#))
8. The timeline for the review, together with the actions that will take place at each of its phases, are set out in the following table:

| Stage | Action | Dates |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Commencement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terms of reference published - Stakeholders notified with clear definition of the remit of the review | 7 June 2021 |
| Preliminary stage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local briefings and meetings (Borough Councillors and parish and town councils) | 7 June to 30 June 2021 |
| Stage 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial submissions invited from stakeholders on future arrangements under terms of reference | 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021 |
| Stage 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of submissions received - Draft recommendations prepared - Draft recommendations to be considered by Broxtowe Borough Council | 1 October 2021 to 30 November 2021 |
| Stage 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft recommendations published for consultation - Stakeholders notified | 1 December 2021 to 28 February 2022 |
| Stage 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of submissions received - Final recommendations prepared - Final recommendations published concluding the review - Final recommendations considered by Broxtowe Borough Council and decision made on arrangements with resolution to make a Reorganisation Order - Reorganisation Order made | 1 March 2022 to 30 April 2022 May 2022 June 2022 |

9. The review is currently at phase one and the Council has been invited to make any initial submissions on the proposals, several of which would affect County Divisions boundaries. The proposals that would affect county division boundaries and their rationale are set out in the table at **Appendix B**.
10. The overall effect of the proposals on the number of electors in each Division is set out in the following table:

| Division | Net Change (electors) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Beeston Central & Rylands | 0 |
| Bramcote & Beeston North | -1 |
| Eastwood | 11 |
| Greasley & Brinsley | -67 |
| Nuthall & Kimberley | -17 |
| Stapleford & Broxtowe Central | 74 |
| Toton, Chilwell & Attenborough | 0 |

11. These proposals may change in response to any comments received during the first phase of consultation. Any individual or group can comment on the proposals and put forward their own suggestions.
12. A Council undertaking a Community Governance Review may ask the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make changes to boundaries at district or county level to reflect revised parish boundaries to maintain coterminosity. The Commission may agree to implement these related alterations and make an Order to implement them. Changes would come into effect at the next ordinary elections for each Council so there may be a period where boundaries are not coterminous.
13. If the Commission decided not to implement any proposed related alterations, the existing boundaries would remain in force.
14. If a principal council was satisfied that the identities and interests of local communities were still reflected and that effective and convenient local government would be secured, then it may decide that it does not wish to propose related alterations to ward or division boundaries.
15. Where proposals for related alterations are submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, it would expect to receive evidence that the principal council has consulted on them as part of its review.
16. Once the community governance review has been completed, Broxtowe Borough Council has indicated that it will invite the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to undertake a Further Electoral Review of its arrangements, which will consider the number of Councillors and warding arrangements for the Borough.
17. Broxtowe Borough Council has also asked whether the County Council would consider making two amendments that would be outside of the Community Governance Review to correct anomalies from historic reviews. Details of these two requests will be provided when a report is brought before Members during phase two of the consultation.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The Council is under no duty to submit a response at this stage. Not submitting response at this stage of the review would not prejudice the Council's ability to respond to any further phases of consultation.

19. Broxtowe Borough Council has undertaken a comprehensive consultation on its initial proposals. It is understood that any individual, group or body could submit a response, which would be taken into account when the final recommendations are prepared.
20. At this stage it is recommended that the Council adopts a watching brief, as it is not required to respond at this stage and simply responds with a courtesy letter to the Borough Council explaining that it will reserve its position until the next stage of the consultation.
21. By reserving any comments until the consultation on the final draft proposals (at stage three of the process), the Council will be able to refer to any local submissions made by other consultees during the stage one consultation in forming its response, and may better understand the potential impact on County divisional boundaries in light of those more advanced proposals.
22. If any individual Councillor or group wished to make comments on the stage one proposals, they are able to send any comments directly to Broxtowe Borough Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. The Council is a consultee in this process and advice has been sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

24. From a County Council perspective, the only change for electors affected by the proposals would be the Division that they vote for at County Council elections and potentially the polling station at which they cast their vote.
25. There are wider impacts of the review, which will be for Broxtowe Borough Council to consider when it develops its final proposals and subsequently votes on the final recommendations. These implications are an effect of the wider review and have not related to any change to the county Division boundaries. These implications include the potential for affected residents' precept to change if they move from one parish to another, their representation at parish council level, and ensuring that there is consistent community identity within neighbourhoods.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee authorises the Chief Executive to submit the letter at **Appendix A** to the report as a courtesy response to the first phase of consultation in respect of Broxtowe Borough Council's Community Governance Review, reserving its position for any formal response until phase 2 of the consultation.

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Constitutional Comments (HD – 27/8/2021)

26. At this stage of the consultation, no formal response is proposed and it is therefore acceptable for this matter to be considered at the Council's Committee responsible for oversight of general governance matters affecting the Council.

Financial Comments (RWK 06/09/2021)

27. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [Governance, Audit and Standards Committee report, Broxtowe Borough Council – 17 May 2021](#)
- [Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#)
- [Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Guidance on community governance reviews](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Bramcote and Beeston North – Councillor Steve Carr
- Beeston Central and Rylands – Councillor Kate Foale
- Eastwood – Councillor Eddie Cubley
- Greasley and Brinsley – Councillor Elizabeth Williamson
- Nuthall and Kimberley – Councillor Philip Owen
- Stapleford and Broxtowe Central – Councillors Dr. John Doddy and John “Maggie” McGrath
- Toton, Chilwell and Attenborough – Councillors Richard Jackson and Eric Kerry