

**14 September 2022**

**Agenda Item: 9**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES**

### **RUSHCLIFFE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – UPPER SAXONDALE (STAGE 2)**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The report asks the Committee to consider the final draft recommendations relating to Rushcliffe Borough Council's Community Governance Review and agree the Council's response to the consultation.

#### **Information**

2. Rushcliffe Borough Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review, which is a legal process that considers the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. Outcomes could include:
  - 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
3. The Upper Saxondale area is currently split across two parishes: Radcliffe-on-Trent and Cropwell Butler. Following receipt of a petition in December 2021, which asked for the creation of a separate parish Council for Upper Saxondale, Rushcliffe Borough Council commenced a Community Governance Review.
4. At its meeting on 21 April 2022, the Governance and Ethics Committee considered the review's first stage of consultation, which was assessing whether there was support for creating a parish for Upper Saxondale. It agreed to send a holding response, noting that the proposals were subject to consultation, with suggestions welcomed from any local stakeholder, that could influence the final proposals and any response the Council might wish to make.

5. The deadline for the initial phase of consultation closed on 13 May 2022, and the responses that were received were used by Rushcliffe Borough Council to identify the level of support for the proposal and whether to proceed to stage 2. An overview of the consultation responses is set out below:
  - 26.6% of the electorate in the Upper Saxondale area responded to the consultation
  - 25.5% of the electorate said 'yes' they would like to see a new parish
  - 1.1% of residents said 'no' they would not like to see the creation of a new parish
6. Rushcliffe Borough Council has therefore made recommendations, which are now subject to consultation as part of the second stage of the review:
  - A separate parish should be set up for the Upper Saxondale area
  - The new parish should be named **Upper Saxondale**
  - Upper Saxondale Parish Council should have 7 councillors
  - The boundaries of the parish should match the boundaries shown on the map at **Appendix A**
7. The second stage of consultation began on 27 June 2022 and runs until 19 August 2022. Rushcliffe Borough Council has agreed that, in order to allow a response to be drafted in conjunction with divisional members and considered by committee, the Council could submit its draft response by the deadline (**Appendix B**), with the final response being confirmed following agreement by the Committee.
8. Rushcliffe Borough Council will consider final recommendations at its full council meeting on 29 September 2022.
9. 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 provide coterminosity. It is not proposed in this instance that the Council makes any request for revisions to the Division boundaries, as the proposals can be effectively administered through creation and/or modification of polling districts.
10. Should the creation of a new parish be approved, then this would be a consideration in any future electoral review of Nottinghamshire County Council.

### **Other Options Considered**

11. The Council could choose not to submit a response to the consultation; this would mean any views it had on the proposals would not influence the final draft recommendations that members of Rushcliffe Borough Council will consider.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

12. A majority of respondents who live in the Upper Saxondale supported the proposal.
13. The local County Councillors have been included in drafting the response.
14. Any individual Councillor or group who wished to make their own comments on this proposal, were able to make them directly to Rushcliffe Borough Council.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

15. 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. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

16. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **Implications for Residents**

17. From a County Council perspective, the proposal has no implications for local residents.

18. There are wider impacts of the review, which will be for Rushcliffe Borough Council to consider when it develops its final proposals and subsequently votes on the final recommendations. These implications include the potential for affected residents' precept to change and the arrangements for residents voting in County Council elections. The proposals may impact residents across the current parishes of Radcliffe-on-Trent and Cropwell Butler, not just those in the Upper Saxondale area.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Committee approves the response at **Appendix B** to the report to Rushcliffe Borough Council as Nottinghamshire County Council's response to the consultation on the final draft proposals of its Community Governance Review.

**Marjorie Toward**

**Service Director – Customers, Governance and Employees**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (LW 11/08/22)**

19. Governance and Ethics Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

## **Financial Comments (SES 09/08/2022)**

20. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this 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.

- [Upper Saxondale CGR - Rushcliffe Borough Council](#)
- [Council - 03/03/22 - Rushcliffe Borough Council](#)
- [The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Chapter 3](#)
- [The Legislative Reform \(Community Governance Reviews\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/998\)](#)
- [Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Guidance on community governance reviews](#)

#### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- Radcliffe-on-Trent – Councillor Roger Upton
- Bingham West – Councillor Neil Clarke MBE