



<u>Committee and date</u>
Council
17 December 2015
10.00 a.m.

<u>Item No</u>
14
Public

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

Responsible Officer Claire Porter

Email: claire.porter@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: (01743) 252763

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks members' consent to a Community Governance Review in respect of the Parishes of Bridgnorth and Tasley.
- 1.2 A Community Governance Working Party was authorised, by Cabinet on the 13th of April 2011, to carry out future Community Governance Reviews.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that, following completion of the current ongoing Community Governance Reviews and after the Local Government Elections due to be held in May 2017, the Community Governance Working Party, in accordance with S79 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act), undertakes a review of the electoral arrangements and makes recommendations in respect of the Parishes of Bridgnorth and Tasley.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The recommendations in this report have no impact on the safeguarding arrangements for children and vulnerable adults. Shropshire Council is required to keep the electoral arrangements of Parishes in its area under review. The recommendations in this report do not have an adverse impact on human rights or equalities. When conducting a review, the Council is required to have regard to the identities and interests of the community in the area and is required to consult with local government electors in the area under review and any other person or body which, in the opinion of the Council, might have an interest in the review.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of carrying out the review will be borne by Shropshire Council and will be limited to officer time and any costs associated with the consultation and any publication required. There is no power to reclaim these costs from the Town/Parish Councils.

5.0 The Parishes of Bridgnorth and Tasley

- 5.1 A request has, on 7th October 2015, been received from Bridgnorth Town Council (copy attached as appendix A) to review the Boundaries between the Parishes of Bridgnorth and Tasley with a view to merging the two parishes as a consequence of recent and future proposed developments.
- 5.2 Tasley Parish Council has indicated that they have not had any formal discussions with Bridgnorth Town Council on this matter and that the desire for a review and the arguments in favour of it submitted by the Town Council, do not necessarily reflect the views of Tasley Parish Council (a copy of the Tasley Parish Council response is attached at appendix B).
- 5.3 Members will recall that at the meeting which was held on 24th September 2015 it was agreed that reviews would commence in a number of Parishes with a view to these concluding towards the end of 2016. These have now commenced.
- 5.4 Whilst it is recognised that a review will need to be carried out, having regard to the contentious nature of the proposals and the scale of review which will be required, Officers and members of the Community Governance Working Party are of the view that there is not enough time prior to the elections due to be held in 2017 to satisfactorily complete a comprehensive and thorough Community Governance Review.
- 5.3 S79 of the 2007 Act provides authority for Shropshire Council to consider and, if appropriate, to make an order confirming such changes to the electoral arrangements of Parish Councils.
- 5.4 Councillor Winwood, one of the Shropshire Councillors for the divisions in which the Parishes are situated, supports the recommendation to commence the Community Governance Review after the elections due to take place in May 2017.
- 5.5 Councillors Hurst-Knight, Lea and Parr, the other Shropshire Councillors for the divisions in which the Parishes are situated have not commented on the recommendations.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Attached.

Cabinet Member

Malcolm Pate.

Local Member

John Hurst-Knight, Christian Lea, William Parr and Les Winwood.

Appendices

Appendix A – Bridgnorth Town Council Letter.

Appendix B – Tasley Parish Council Response.