



Committee and Date

**Communities Overview
Committee**

16 July 2018

Item

Public

Terms of reference for the Area Committees Task and Finish Group

Responsible officer

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1.0 Summary

1.1 This report includes a draft terms of reference and outline work programme for the Area Committees Task and Finish Group.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Agree the draft terms of reference and work programme, subject to any amendments that the committee agrees.

3.0 Opportunities and risks

3.1 This review provides the opportunity to scrutinise a new way of organising local committees, aligned geographically with place planning boundaries. It will also provide the opportunity to devise and appraise future roles for these groups.

3.2 A failure to review arrangements for local committees could result in declining opportunities for towns and parishes to work together to make best use of local funding.

4.0 Financial assessment

4.1 There are no financial considerations to this report. Any recommendations that are made to Cabinet will need to carry a full financial assessment.

5.0 Report

5.1 In late 2017 the Communities Overview Committee agreed to set up a task and finish group to look at the role of local Joint Councils in current council arrangements. It held two two-day workshops in April 2018 and concluded that:

- There is an opportunity for a new model of joint local meetings to be aligned with the purpose and boundaries of the Place Plan areas.
- There is an opportunity to pick up the feedback from the recent council Peer Challenge Review and respond to a recommendation to strengthen the relationship between Shropshire Council and local councils.

- The future resource and role of the Community Enablement Team needs to be confirmed to inform the design and delivery of any future model.
- There is an opportunity for pooling financial resources within an area, e.g. individual small grant pots.
- There is an opportunity for co-ordinating and using the resources of an area, e.g. the corporate social responsibility of businesses, voluntary activity, and social action to get things done locally.

5.2 At its meeting on 21 May 2018 it agreed to set up a new task and finish group, to draft possible new arrangements for local committees, based on place planning boundaries.

5.3 A draft terms of reference for this task and finish group is attached as appendix 1.

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

None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Waste & Regulatory Services

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft terms of reference and work programme for the Area Committees Task and Finish Group