



Committee and date

Council

13 December 2018

10.00 a.m.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Responsible Officer Claire Porter

Email: claire.porter@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: (01743) 252763

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 A request has been received from Bridgnorth Town Council to undertake a Community Governance Review of Bridgnorth and its surrounding Parishes.
- 1.2 The Town Council has proposed that the Community Governance Review considers extending the boundaries of the Parish of Bridgnorth to take in the whole of the Parish of Tasley and parts of other adjoining Parishes.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That, whilst it is recognised that a Community Governance Review is desirable, the Council considers that the current request is premature and that a review is not appropriate at this time.

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 adjoining Parishes

- 5.1 A request has, on 22 August 2018, been received from Bridgnorth Town Council (copy attached as appendix A) to review the Boundaries of the Parish of Bridgnorth with a view to merging with the Parish of Tasley and extending into the areas falling within other adjoining Parishes.
- 5.2 Consequential amendments to the boundaries of Shropshire Council Electoral Divisions are also likely to be required.
- 5.2 All the Shropshire Councillors representing divisions in Bridgnorth and adjoining divisions and whose parish Councils could be affected have indicated that they could not support a review at the current time.
- 5.3 Astley Abbots Parish Council has suggested that if a review were to be carried out, the rural parts of the Parish of Tasley which are not a focus for development should be amalgamated into other adjoining Parishes rather than into the Parish of Bridgnorth.
- 5.4 The Parish Councils of all the other adjoining Parishes which could be affected by the proposal have indicated their opposition to a review being carried out at this time.
- 5.5 Whilst it is recognised that a review will need to be carried out, it is not considered appropriate prior to the adoption of the revised Local Plan, which is currently expected to take place in 2020. This would provide for insufficient time for a review to be completed prior to the next ordinary elections scheduled to be held in 2021. A review commencing after the next ordinary elections is likely to be appropriate.
- 5.6 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.

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

Attached

Cabinet Member

Peter Nutting

Local Member

Christian Lea, Elliott Lynch, William Parr, Robert Tindall, Les Winwood, Michael Wood and Tina Woodward

Appendices

Attached