



<u>Committee and date</u> Council 19 September 2019 10.00 a.m.

<u>Item No</u> Public

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 A request has been received from Ellesmere Town Council to undertake a Community Governance Review of Ellesmere and its surrounding Parishes.
- 1.2 The Town Council has proposed that the Community Governance Review considers extending the boundaries of the Parish of Ellesmere to the South to take in part of the Parish of Ellesmere Rural.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That, whilst it is recognised that a Community Governance Review is desirable, in view of the likelihood that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will shortly undertake a wider review of the Electoral Divisions within Shropshire, the Council considers that the current request is premature and that it is not appropriate to commence a review 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 Ellesmere and Ellesmere Rural

- 5.1 A request has, on 12 June 2019, been received from Ellesmere Town Council (copy attached as appendix A) to review the Boundaries of the Parish of Ellesmere with a view to extending the parish boundary to the south into an area currently falling within the parish of Ellesmere Rural.
- 5.2 Consequential amendments to the boundaries of Shropshire Council Electoral Divisions would also be likely to be required.
- 5.2 Each year, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England reviews the electoral equality of the Shropshire Council divisions and has indicated that a review may now be appropriate. A final decision is awaited.
- 5.3 That part of Ellesmere Rural Parish Council which it is suggested would become part of the Parish of Ellesmere is represented by Councillor Brian Williams. He suggested that Ellesmere Town Council be given the opportunity to discuss the proposals with the Ellesmere Rural Parish Council prior to consideration being given to the request by Shropshire Council. There is currently no indication if such discussions took place and if so, the outcome.
- 5.4 Councillor Ann Hartley represents the division which comprises Ellesmere Town Council.
- 5.5 Councillors Hartley and Williams support the recommendation.
- 5.6 Whilst it is recognised that a review will need to be carried out, it is not considered appropriate at this time, prior to the implementation of any changes as a consequence of a wider review of Shropshire undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

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

Ann Hartley, Brian Williams

Appendices

Attached
