



<u>Committee and date</u> Council 27 February 2020 10.00 a.m.
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<u>Item No</u> Public

SHROPSHIRE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides authority for Shropshire Council to undertake community governance reviews and to decide whether to give effect to recommendations made in those reviews. In making those decisions, it is necessary to take account of the views of local people.
- 1.2 It is considered that a community governance review is desirable to acknowledge and resolve a number of anomalies which currently exist with regard to the current governance arrangements.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That preparatory work is undertaken with a view to submitting draft Terms of Reference for consideration by Council in 2021 for community governance reviews including areas to be transferred from one parish to another and considering wider governance issues including numbers of Councillors and warding/division arrangements.
- 2.2 That the existing Community Governance Review working Group, currently comprising Councillors Bardsley, Butler (Chairman), Mellings, Mosley, Motley, Shingleton, and Turner oversee the preparation of the draft terms of reference.

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 There are cost implications for the Council which will involve not only officer time, but also incidental costs if carrying out reviews to include publicity and postage.

5.0 Community Governance Reviews

- 5.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides authority for Shropshire Council to undertake community governance reviews and to decide whether to give effect to recommendations made in those reviews. In making those decisions, it is necessary to take account of the views of local people.
- 5.2 It is necessary first to identify where the greatest need for reviews exists. This would be based on existing knowledge and through discussions with Members.
- 5.3 Town/Parish Councils would be invited to suggest the potential need for a review and to enter into discussions with surrounding parishes in order to assist the process by identifying any common ground.
- 5.4 Draft Terms of Reference to be prepared for consideration to include proposals for changes to boundaries and/or to the amendment of the current governance arrangements within Parishes.
- 5.5 In the event that any proposals have an impact on the Division Boundaries, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will be asked to make the appropriate changes to ensure that parish and division boundaries remain coterminous, having in mind electoral equality
- 5.6 It is expected that a large number of reviews will require to be undertaken and it may not be possible to conduct a large number of reviews together. A rolling program of reviews would need to be managed.
- 5.7 A report will be submitted to Council in 2021 for approval of the draft terms of reference and for the commencement of Community Governance Reviews.
- 5.8 Any orders approved by the Council amending Community Governance Arrangements would come into effect from the ordinary elections of Councillors in 2025.

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

None

Cabinet Member

Peter Nutting

Local Member

All members

Appendices

None