

**Committee and Date**

Council
14th December 2023

Item

Public



Community Governance Review

Responsible Officer:	Tim Collard		
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Gwilym Butler, Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities		

1. Synopsis

1. Shropshire Council has the power to conduct a Community Governance Review to ensure that the community governance for the area continues to be effective and convenient and that it reflects the identities and interests of the community.
1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has now concluded its review of the Shropshire Council Division Boundaries. This creates the new division pattern for Shropshire Council and will come into effect at the next ordinary elections, in May 2025. Several anomalies have been identified as a consequence of the review where the new division boundaries dissect an existing Parish. The LGBCE does not have the power to change Parish Boundaries but must create a Parish Ward where a division boundary cuts across a parish.
1. It is appropriate to consider if the new parish wards continue to represent effective and convenient community governance which reflects the identities and interests of the community.

2. Executive Summary

2. 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.

- 2.2 It is considered that a community governance review is desirable to acknowledge and resolve a number of anomalies which have arisen with regard to the new community governance arrangements.
- 2.3 The Community Governance Working Group (consisting of Councillors Nick Bardsley, Gwilym Butler, Ted Clarke, Julian Dean, Nick Hignett, Simon Jones, Heather Kidd, David Minnery, Cecilia Motley (Chair), Alex Wagner and Claire Wild) has met to discuss the Terms of Reference of the reviews proposed at Appendices 1 to 5 and will prepare recommendations for approval at Council at each stage of the process.

3. Recommendations

3. That the Terms of Reference for the following Community Governance reviews set out in appendices 1 to 5 be approved for consultation:
 - a. Albrighton/Donington
 - b. Baschurch/Pimhill(Bomere Heath and District)
 - c. Ludlow/Ludford
 - d. Market Drayton/Adderley
 - e. Shrewsbury

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4. 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.

5. Financial Implications

5. 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.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6. The Community Governance Review will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

7. Background

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 The LGBCE has now concluded its review of the Shropshire Council Division Boundaries. This creates the new division pattern for Shropshire Council and will come into effect at the next ordinary elections, in May 2025. Several anomalies have been identified as a consequence of the review where the new division boundaries cut through an existing Parish. The LGBCE does not have the power to change Parish Boundaries but must create a Parish Ward where a division boundary cuts across a parish.
- 7.3 In order to ensure that community governance remains effective and convenient and reflects the identities and interests of the community it is proposed that a Community Governance Review will be undertaken.
- 7.4 It is proposed that there should be consultation in relation to the draft Terms of reference. The Community Governance Working Group will then consider the responses before seeking the approval of Council in March for its initial recommendations. A further Period of consultation will then commence following which the Community Governance Working Group will form final recommendations for approval in Council. At the end of the process Orders will be made and any changes proposed will come into effect at the next ordinary election, in May 2025.

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

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Regulations made thereunder.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England Shropshire Final Proposals

Local Member: All

Appendices

Terms of Reference

Appendix 1 - Albrighton/Donington

Appendix 2 - Baschurch/Pimhill(Bomere Heath and District)

Appendix 3 - Ludlow/Ludford

Appendix 4 - Market Drayton/Adderley

Appendix 5 - Shrewsbury