

Report of the Monitoring Officer

<b>Community Governance Review</b>
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1. Purpose of Report

To ask the Committee to consider the report prior to forwarding a recommendation to full Council to conclude the Community Governance Review 2023.

2. Recommendation

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that the following be approved:**

- 1. Not to proceed with the recommendation (Option1) as per the Council meeting held on 23 May 2024, following evidence gathered during the statutory consultation.**
- 2. There to be no change to the existing Community Governance Arrangements within the North of the Borough and the Community Governance Review 2023 be concluded.**
- 3. To address outstanding boundary changes, with a new Community Governance Review, to commence after May 2025, following initial consultation with relevant stakeholders and with the timetable to be agreed.**

3. Detail

On 23 May 2024, full Council considered a recommendation on the Community Governance Review (CGR) submitted by the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee following consideration of information supplied by a Member Task and Finished Group (TFG) which had been formed to consider options for the CGR.

To assist Members in determining how to proceed with this CGR of the North of the Borough, Members will find attached the following: **Appendix 1** update position on the CGR and TFG recommendation, **Appendix 2** the analysis of the consultation responses and a link to the full responses, **Appendix 3** Key Considerations.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider with there being no changes in the governance arrangements. All activity up until now has been contained within existing budgets.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council has responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews and are able to decide whether to give effect to recommendations made in those reviews within their areas. Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 is the overarching legislation that devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of Parishes and their electoral arrangements to local government and local communities. In making decisions the Council are required to take account of the views of local people. The 2007 Act provisions are intended to improve the development and coordination of support for residents and community groups so that they can make the best use of empowerment opportunities. Failure to follow the legal process set out in the 2007 Act could put the Council at risk of a legal challenge and a cost award being made against the Council.

Further legal requirements are set out in the appendices to the report.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Links to the background papers are provided in the appendices.