

Report of the Strategic Director

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW1. Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the proposed arrangements for the Community Governance Review (CGR).

2. Background

A CGR is a review of the whole or part of an authority's area to consider one or more of the following:

- the creation, merger, alteration or abolition of parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes (i.e. the ordinary year of election; council size; number of councillors to be elected to the council; and parish warding); and
- the grouping or de-grouping of parishes

to ensure that local governance continues to be effective and convenient and that it reflects the identities and interests of local communities. The recommendations arising from a CGR should deliver improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more efficient delivery of local services.

At the Council meeting on 15 December 2015 it was agreed that the CGR should take place after the outcome of the Parliamentary boundary review was known in 2020 so that any changes affecting the Broxtowe and Ashfield Constituencies could be taken into account. However, the Parliamentary review was not completed and the process is due to start again in 2021. Any changes arising from this will come into effect for the Parliamentary elections in 2024. As there are Borough and Parish elections scheduled for May 2023 the CGR needs to begin in 2021 at the latest. It was anticipated that a start date in October 2020 would be appropriate, but given the current pandemic it is now considered that the start should be postponed to October 2021. This will allow sufficient time for the review to be completed and any changes implemented for the elections in 2023. By that time it should be possible to safely hold briefings to outline the initial proposals which will then be subject to consultation.

The timetable for a review starting in October 2021 is set out in the appendix.

Recommendation

That the Committee RECOMMENDS to Council that the start of the CGR is postponed to October 2021.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

Community Governance Review Timetable

Stage	Action	Timescale	Dates
Commencement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of reference published Stakeholders notified with clear definition of remit of review 		1 October 2021
Preliminary stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local briefings and meetings (members/parish & town councils) 	One month	1 October - 30 November 2021
Stage One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial submissions invited from stakeholders on future arrangements under terms of reference 	Three months	1 December 2021 – 28 February 2022
Stage Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of submissions received Draft recommendations prepared Draft recommendations to be considered by Council 	Two months	1 March – 30 April 2022
Stage Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft recommendations published for consultation Stakeholders notified 	Three months	1 May – 31 July 2022
Stage Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of submissions received Final recommendations prepared Final recommendations published concluding the review Final recommendations considered by Council and decision made on arrangements with resolution to make a Reorganisation Order Reorganisation Order made 	Two months	1 August – 30 September 2022
		One month later	October 2022 November 2022