

ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
6 JUNE 2022
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2022

Cabinet Member(s): Leader of the Council, Bob Deed
Responsible Officer: Jill May, Returning Officer / Director of Business Improvement and Operations

Reason for Report: To enable Members to reach a decision in respect of any recommended proposals for consideration for the second consultation stage.

Recommendation: That the Electoral Review Committee recommends to full Council that it undertakes a public consultation on the review of parish boundaries as proposed in Appendices 1a and 1b of the Report.

Financial Implications: £45k has been set aside in the budget to undertake this review.

Budget and Policy Framework: None directly arising from this report.

Legal Implications: Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides that it is for the Council to decide the terms of reference of any community governance review.

Risk Assessment: Local democracy and representation is impeded.

Equality Impact Assessment: No equality issues have been highlighted in this report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: A community governance review supports and facilitates local democracy and local representation.

Impact on Climate Change: No climate change issues have been highlighted in this report.

1.0 Introduction/Background

1.1 The Electoral Review of Mid Devon Parish Councils (CGR 2022) commenced on 15 December 2021, with the first stage of the consultation period, which concluded on 28 February 2022. In total, 77 'submissions' were received during that period. The Electoral Review Committee (ERC) received all the submissions and a corresponding spreadsheet in advance of the meetings, which were considered at two 'informal' meetings on 5 and 16 May 2022.

1.2 Members were also advised that under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Local Government Boundary Commission has already decided to effect changes in respect of Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton Town Councils. As a consequence, the current CGR does not include those areas.

1.3 Following on from the informal consideration of the responses a number of proposals are raised in this report which will need to be formally considered

by the Committee at its meeting on 6 June 2022. These have been set out in the attached summaries – Appendices 1(a) and 1(b).

2.0 **Review of Number of Parish Councillors**

2.1 Part of the CGR involves a review of the number of parish councillors for each parish and parish ward (where applicable). The attached Table sets out the details of the existing numbers – Appendix 2.

3.0 **The Next Steps**

3.1 The ERC is invited to consider the proposed changes and make its recommendation to full Council which will meet on 6 July 2022, in preparation for publishing its proposals for the next public consultation stage.

Contact for more Information: Jill May, Director of Business Improvement and Operations (jmay@middevon.gov.uk)

List of Background Papers: Consultation responses

List of Appendices: Summary of discussions on submissions received – Appendix 1(a) & 1(b); and Existing number of parish councillors – Appendix 2