

COUNCIL
6 JULY 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 and to consider a modified Terms of Reference.

Recommendations: That Council approves that a second public consultation take place on the review of parish boundaries as proposed in appendices 1a and 1b of the report subject to:

a) The detail of submission 33 [Mid Devon District Council CGR First Stage Consultation](#) submitted by Hittisleigh Parish Council be agreed.

b) The following options for Halberton, Willand and Uffculme form part of the stage 2 public consultation:

Option 1 – Lucombe Park move from Halberton to Uffculme and the Mid Devon Business Park move from Halberton to Willand.

Option 2 – Option 1 (as set out above) together with the area north east of Bridwell Avenue be moved from Halberton to Uffculme.

Option 3 – Options 1 and 2 (as set out above) together with Hitchcocks and Langlands Business Parks moving from Halberton to Uffculme.

c) The number of Parish Councillors remain as set out in appendix 2 subject to the following amendments which would form part of the stage 2 public consultation:

- i) Bradninch (Rural Ward) be reduced to 1 from 2
- ii) Bradninch (Town Ward) be increased from 10 to 11
- iii) Burlescombe be reduced from 9 to 7
- iv) Cheriton Fitzpaine be reduced from 9 to 8
- v) Colebrooke be reduced from 9 to 7
- vi) Copplestone be increased from 7 to 9
- vii) Crediton Hamlets (Yeoford Ward) be increased from 5 to 7
- viii) Silvertown (North Ward) be reduced from 2 to 1
- ix) Silvertown (Village Ward) be increased from 9 to 10
- x) Willand be increased from 11 to 12

d) The modified Terms of Reference be approved relating for the purpose of consideration of any submissions received arising from the second consultation period as set out in appendix 3.

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.

2.0 Parish Wards

2.1 The Electoral Review Committee met formally on 6 June 2022 and made a number of recommendations having considered appendices 1a and 1b. Members also reviewed the number of parish councillors for each parish and parish ward (where applicable) see appendix 2.

3.0 Modified Terms of Reference

3.1 Arising from the Electoral Review Committee meeting held on 6 June 2022, and the subsequent minutes, it would be prudent for Council to consider a slight modification of the current Terms of Reference (ToR) relating to the Council's Electoral Review of Mid Devon Parish Councils. Following the ERCs recommendations for the 2nd Stage Consultation, containing draft proposals, it has shown that the matter of possibly merging some parishes may arise. At present, there is no provision in the ToR for this in the "Scope of the review". The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, does allow for the modification of the ToR, and "As soon as possible after modifying term of reference, the principal council must publish the modified terms."

3.2 The 'draft modified ToR' is attached at appendix 3 and the modifications are set out in Para 1.2 (c) and Para 5.2.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 A second stage consultation is required as outlined within the Terms of Reference.

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: Minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Review Committee 6 June 2022 – Appendix 1; Summary of discussions on submissions received – Appendix 1(a) & 1(b); Existing number of parish councillors – Appendix 2; Modified Terms of Reference – Appendix 3