

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE 7 NOVEMBER 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 reviews submissions from the second public consultation and recommends to full Council final recommendations for changes to parish boundaries and the numbers of parish councillors in each parish council.

**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. Two informal and one formal meeting of the ERC were held in May and 6 June respectively.

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 On 6 July approval was sought from Council for the first set of proposals put forward by the ERC and to move on to conduct a second public consultation. This was agreed. The second consultation took place from 23 August to 23 October 2022. In total 86 'submissions' were received during that period.
- 1.4 Following on from the closure of the second public consultation consideration of the responses together with the initial proposals from the first consultation are raised in this report. These which will need to be formally considered by the Committee at its meeting on 1 November 2022 and if more time is required then subsequently at a further meeting on 7 November 2022. The submissions have been set out in the attached summaries – Appendices A,B and C.

## 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 D. There have been some comments in the second stage consultation on the proposals put forward from the 6 July meeting which will also need to be reviewed.

## 3.0 **The Next Steps**

- 3.1 The ERC is invited to consider the second stage submissions and to put forward final recommendations to full Council which will meet on 1 December 2022.

**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 and Existing number of parish councillors – Appendix