

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE – 11 OCTOBER 2018

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL –
DRAFT PROPOSALS**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT
& COMMISSIONING**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Members approval of draft recommendations following initial consultation and to agree recommendations for further consultation before a final decision is made in the new year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That BRC recommend that the boundary of the South Ward of the parish of Newport is changed to match that of the borough ward of Newport South & East.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| COMMUNITY IMPACT | Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)? | |
| | Yes/No | |
| | Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people? | |
| | Yes/No | Electors in the parishes of Newport and Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote. |
| TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE | March 2019- recommendations will be published | |
| FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT | Yes/No | Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Local Authorities have the responsibility to undertake Community Governance Reviews, which includes arrangements in Parishes. The process to be followed is prescribed and will involve officer time and other associated costs, such as postages and printing. These costs will be met from within existing resources. |

| | | |
|---|--------|---|
| LEGAL ISSUES | Yes/No | <p>Authority is delegated to Boundary Review Committee to deal with all matters relating to Community Governance Reviews.</p> <p>There is a need to appoint an officer of the Council to act as “Proper Officer” within the Regulations issued under the Act. The Proper Officer is needed to make decisions in respect of the apportionment of the property, rights and liabilities of parish councils where applicable. The Regulations set out criteria to be used by the Proper Officer in making such calculations.</p> <p>There are no direct legal implications arising from this report at this stage. Further legal advice will be given as and when necessary during the consultation and order making process.</p> |
| OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES | Yes/No | <p>The opportunities and risks associated with any change following on from this consultation have been identified and assessed. Arrangements would be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified if community governance in the affected areas was to change.</p> |
| IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS | Yes/No | Newport South and East (South), Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote, Church Aston and Lilleshall |

4. **SUMMARY**

- 4.1 The Council have come to this recommendation following due consideration of all consultee responses in line with the criteria set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the Act”).
- 4.2 Four consultee responses were received during the initial consultation period; three in favour of the proposal and one against.
- 4.3 Two representations were also received outside of the initial consultation period and these were also taken into consideration. One in favour the proposal and one against.
- 4.3 Section 93 of The Act sets out the Council’s duties when undertaking a review. In particular, the Council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review—
- (a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and

(b) is effective and convenient.

4.4 In order to give full consideration to these factors we have divided the above duties into the subcategories of Community Cohesion, Size, Population, Boundaries, Effective Governance and Identities:

4.5 **Community Cohesion –**

We have applied the Local Government Association's definition of Community Cohesion which states:

"A cohesive community is one where:

- There is common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities;
- The diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and positively valued;
- Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities; and
- Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods." -- Local Government Association et al, 2002 – Guidance on Community Cohesion.

Recent planning permission has been granted for the development of up to 487 new dwellings in the area under review ("the Review Area") a map of the Review Area is attached at Appendix 1. Future residents will be looking to form strong and positive relationships with their local area and they might reasonably be expected to turn to Newport in order to establish such relationships. These new residents will use Newport facilities, such as schools and leisure facilities (This will result in additional financial burden on Newport Town Council ("NTC") to accommodate these new residents in the use of such facilities. It will greatly assist community cohesion if all residents within the one town/ parish are buying into one common vision based on their sense of belonging to the Parish within Newport.

4.6 **Size –** NTC has an electorate of over 9,000, Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote ("CA&W") has an electorate of 397. The proposed development of 487 properties will more than double the size of CA&W. Given the location of the new dwellings relative to the main centres of Newport and Chetwynd new residents may likely look to use the existing amenities of Newport with little change or burden on the community or Parish at CA&W.

4.7 **Population –** The proposed new developments will see an estimated increase of circa 847 electors (Newport South and East Ward); this will impact

on the existing ward councillors which NTC will need to take under review. New residents will pay the increased level of council tax from the day they move to the area. Established residents within the Review Area will face an increase of £82.15 per year. The precept costs to NTC are greater than the costs to CA&W because the facilities provided within Newport are much greater. The impact of the change will be to increase the precept income to NTC.

- 4.8 **Boundaries** –The Newport South and East Ward boundary and the newly adopted Local Plan boundary both match the proposed new boundary running up to the A41 and across to the A518, this lends itself to an interpretation that this is the natural boundary.
- 4.9 **Effective governance** –Borough Councillors are different to Parish Councillors at present this divide could cause confusion for the local residents. Extending the boundary to match the borough boundary will resolve this confusion.
- 4.10 **Identities** – This closely resembles the considerations referred to above in community cohesion; clarity for residents is likely to be achieved if all boundaries are the same (local plan, borough and parish).
- 4.11 We would highlight to the Committee that if they are minded to make a different recommendation to that which is proposed, they must consider their decision and give their reasons against the statutory criteria.
- 4.12 **Next Steps** – After the decision is made the Council will publish its draft recommendations and must take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them. The draft recommendations will be published on the 31st October 2018. Consultation on the draft recommendations will take place between 1 November and 31 December 2018.

5. **INFORMATION ATTACHED**

- 5.1 Map of the review area highlighting the local facilities and amenities.

6. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Boundary Review Committee – 2 November 2017 (Minute No. BRC-05)
Boundary Review Committee – 8 March 2018 (Minute No. BRC-10)
Boundary Review Committee – 10 May 2018 (Minute No. BRC-16)

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/28/contents>)

Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (Department for Communities and Local Government and LGBCE, March 2010).
(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf)

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APPENDIX 1