

Electoral Matters Committee 3 June 2024

Community Governance Review – Finstall Parish

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor May, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
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Wards Affected	Tardebigge
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Yes
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RESOLUTION

- 1) The Committee approves the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review (appendix 1);**
- 2) The Committee delegates authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Members of the Committee, to make minor amendments to the Terms of Reference, including the timetable for the review, if required.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report sets out Terms of Reference including a timetable for a Community Governance Review in Finstall Parish.
- 2.2 Finstall Parish Council asked Bromsgrove District Council if they will review the parish boundaries of Finstall Parish.
- 2.3 Officers met with the clerk and members of the parish council in January to discuss a potential CGR.
- 2.4 At it's meeting on the 6 February the parish council agreed to the following suggestions in regard to boundary changes:

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- a) Field View House: to support re-drawing of the parish boundary so that it runs alongside the railway line to the south of Field View House, thereby placing Field View House to the north of the parish boundary and to support the same for the district and county boundaries.
- b) Rutherford Road area (otherwise known as Hazelcroft): to seek to move the parish boundary northwards to run alongside the railway line, to incorporate Hazelcroft within Fininstall parish.

- 2.5 The first change relates to an area in Tardebigge Ward, this would mean a recommendation to change the ward boundary in the current Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review for Bromsgrove.

The change affects 21 electors who have no contact with the rest of Fininstall Parish.

- 2.6 The second change relates to a whole polling district (TAE – Gambolds) which already sits within the Tardebigge Ward. The area is currently unparished so would just be a matter of moving the parish boundary to incorporate that polling district.
- 2.7 Electoral Matters Committee agreed the request to hold a CGR at the meeting held 23 February 2024 (minute 22/23).

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Subject to the Committee's final decisions, there may be some minor financial implications for a consultation exercise which would be found under existing budgets.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A CGR must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Part 4) and the associated Dept. of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) Regulations 2008 and the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The authority must have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State (s100 (4) of the 2007 Act) and must give consideration to the views of local people in reaching its decision.

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- 4.2 The Terms of Reference of the Review are set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Section 93 of the 2007 Act sets out the council's duties in undertaking a community governance review. In relation to deciding what recommendations to make, it provides that 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.

Section 93 (6) provides that the council must "take into account" any representations received in connection with the review as one element of these considerations.

- 4.4 Section 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 states that there is a duty on principal councils to promote understanding among local people, which extends to parish councils.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 This report deals with statutory functions but relates to the strategic purpose of an effective and sustainable council.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 In conducting a review the Council will ensure that electoral equality is taken into consideration.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 The Terms of Reference and timetable are to be agreed within appendix 1.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

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- 7.1 The Act requires that the CGR must be completed within 12 months of the start of the review.
- 7.2 Amendments to the timetable for the review may have to be made when the General Election is announced in that event it would be requested that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with members of the Committee to make minor changes to the Terms of Reference, including the timetable. Any such changes would be publicised.
- 7.3 The LGBCE is also conducting their Electoral Review and are keen to avoid concurrent boundary considerations.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference (to follow)

Background papers:

- DCLG Guidance
- Relevant Statutory provisions