

Community Governance Review

Cabinet

Date 17th August 2016

Author:	Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart. Cabinet Member for Communities, Board Director Resources, and Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To note the outcomes of Stage 2 of the Community Governance Review (CGR) and approve the draft proposal to take to formal public consultation in Stage 3 of the Review.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the summarised feedback received from stage two of the Community Governance Review;
- 2.2 Agree that there should be parishes across the entire Borough in order that the identities and interests of communities are reflected and to enable effective and convenient means to provide options for local service provision;
- 2.3 Agree the draft proposal map at **Appendix Four** showing proposed boundaries of existing and new parishes, for consultation as Stage 3 of the CGR;
- 2.4 Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services to:
- 2.4.1 prepare all materials, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, for the proposed consultation, and
- 2.4.2 undertake consultation on the draft proposal and report the results back to Cabinet and Council;
- 2.5 Note that Council will be asked to consider the consultation feedback and agree the final recommendations of the CGR process on 10th November 2016;
- 2.6 Note that discussions are on-going with the business community around making a contribution to the cost of street cleaning services in commercial areas of the Borough;
- 2.7 Note that as areas become developed, there may be requests for a community governance review in a few years to reflect more accurately the new community
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identity interests and to enable effective and convenient means to provide options for local service provision;

3. Detail

3.1 Following the success of the transfer of services to parish councils and in response to some requests from existing parishes to reconsider their boundaries and electoral arrangements, a community governance review commenced on 5th December 2015. The first stage of the process was to seek initial views on the governance arrangements within the Borough and to support this, a range of one day 'open-house' events attended by over 700 residents were held between 22nd February and 17th March 2016 at the following locations:-

Freshbrook Community Centre,
Highworth Community Centre,
Coleview Community Centre Stratton,
St Marys Hall Old Town,
Liden Community Centre,
St Peters Church Hall Penhill,
St Andrews Church Hall Walcott,
Pinetrees Community Centre Pinehurst,
Central Community Town Centre,
StoweAway Community Centre East Wichel,
Haydon Wick Parish Council Offices and
Broadgreen Community Centre.

3.2 A significant proportion of the feedback from residents questioned why the Borough Council was considering changing the governance arrangements in the parts of the Borough without parishes but wanted to shape any future boundaries if changes were to be made.

3.3 In response to this feedback, Cabinet agreed on 16th June 2016 to alter the timetable for the CGR to allow for a longer period of engagement during stage two of the process to help residents understand why changes were being considered and give them an opportunity to help shape future boundaries (Cabinet Minute 8, 2016/17 refers). Subsequently, at its meeting on 13th July 2016, it was agreed that the Stage 3 consultation would commence on 23rd August 2016 in order to accommodate a rearranged Cabinet meeting on 17th August, with Scrutiny Committee meeting on 22nd August 2016 (Cabinet Minute 26 (8), 2016/17 refers).

3.4 The updated timetable is shown below in Table 1.

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Table 1

Action	Original	Revised	Outline of action
Stage 1	5 th December 2015 to 30 th March 2016	5 th December to 30 th March 2016	Initial Submissions invited
Stage 2	31 st March to 30 th June 2016	31 st March to 29 th July 2016	Prepare draft recommendations, including public engagement from 22 nd June to 20 th July involving maps and setting out illustrative outline parish boundaries
Stage 3	4 th Jul to 16 th September 2016	23 rd Aug to 30 th September 2016	Draft recommendations published and comments sought
Stage 4	19 th September to November 2016	3 rd October to November 2016	Consider final submissions and prepare recommendations
Final recommendations	November/December 2016	November 2016	Publish final recommendations
Implementation order	January 2017	January 2017	Council to make order

3.5 Stage 2 of the CGR has sought further detailed suggestions from residents of the Borough on possible arrangements for parishes so as to enable the council to formulate a proposal for public consultation in Stage 3. To that end additional public engagement activities, using 2 illustrative maps in **Appendix Two A** and **Appendix Two B** that set out potential outline parish boundaries, took place between 22nd June and 20th July 2016 as listed below:

- 3.5.1 8 public meetings (including 4 organised at request of members) were held and attended by a total of 181 residents;
- 3.5.2 4 workshops for those who had expressed more detailed views at Stage 1 were held and attended by 27 residents;
- 3.5.3 Illustrative maps and CGR information were published on the SBC website which attracted hits from over 500 residents;
- 3.5.4 Members were asked to publicise the events in their wards;
- 3.5.5 Social media activity to promote the public meetings and maps/information;

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- 3.5.6 Media relations activity, including press releases, generated media coverage on the engagement exercise across a number of outlets including Swindon Advertiser, Swindon Link, BBC Wiltshire and in some Parish/Community publications;
- 3.5.7 Posters distributed by the Localities team to advertise the public meetings;
- 3.5.8 Officer meetings with parish councils, community groups and Ward members; and
- 3.5.9 139 submissions (including one petition) were recorded from both residents and interested groups/organisations. A copy of the submissions, with personal information duly redacted is available on the Council's website and in the Council's Members Room.
- 3.6 The feedback from stage two has now been reviewed and analysed, and is summarised in **Appendix One** together with comments and recommendations / draft proposals.

Issues to consider

Whether to create an additional parish or parishes in the Borough

- 3.7 The issue of whether to create a parish or parishes in areas of the borough currently without them has raised a range of opinions. Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act") requires the Borough Council to ensure that community governance within its area will be
- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in the area, and
 - Effective and convenient
- 3.8 When considering the criteria above, the Borough Council is also required to take into account a number of influential factors including the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.
- 3.9 The Map showing the area of Swindon currently without parishes together with existing parish boundaries is at **Appendix Three**. Although residents in unparished areas do pay a 'Special Expenses' rate, or precept, this is added to the General Fund and the residents have no particular say in how that money is spent, and it is not ringfenced for specific use in the unparished areas.
- 3.10 On balance, therefore, the Borough is recommending that parishes be created or extended to cover all areas without parishes in order to enable community empowerment at a local level to promote community cohesion, shape service provision in local areas, and allow the devolution of power and responsibility to communities within the Borough. The creation of parishes would also allow local

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communities to develop alternative provision for those services currently delivered by the Council that will reduce, as set out to Cabinet on 16th June 2016 (Cabinet Minute (8) 2016/17 refers).

Recommendations for parish boundaries

- 3.11 The main area of focus in discussions in the workshops as to the creation of parishes in areas without them was in relation to the number of new parish councils to be created. The options here ranged from one large single parish to a larger number of smaller parishes that would be more closely aligned to specific communities.
- 3.12 In order to help inform the proposed way forward, the following tables show the relative advantages for both a single large parish and several smaller community-based parishes.

Advantages of one large new parish

Ease of implementation	Only one new organisation for the Borough Council to engage with
Recruitment of councillors	Smaller number of parish councillors to recruit
Infrastructure costs	Single set of overheads
Parish service costs	Increased opportunity for economies of scale

Advantages of a larger number of smaller parishes

Community Cohesion	Easier to demonstrate that the identities and interests of the community have been reflected and are effective and convenient
Longer-term service sustainability	Stronger allegiance to other local services such as libraries and community buildings. Ability to free up full service overheads
More resilient communities	Foundation to build stronger local neighbourhoods with a sense of local pride to create more longer-term resilience with increased volunteering
Increased service standards	More likely to change current service model creating greater agility of a neighbourhood-based workforce that can be reprioritised at pace
Local prioritisation	Services can be prioritised more easily based on community needs

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- 3.13 On balance, it is considered that one large single parish would not be reflective of the identities and interest of the community in that area, as required by the 2007 Act. Put simply, a new large parish of approximately 56,200 households would not recognise the existing sub-divisions and governance arrangements of the areas of the town without parishes.
- 3.14 Cabinet is, therefore, recommended to consult on the creation of four new parishes; namely, West Swindon, Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South, and South Swindon and to expand Nythe to cover the unparished area of Liden and Eldene. In addition, Cabinet is also recommended to consult on the creation of a St Andrew's Parish from out of the current parish of Blunsdon St Andrew.
- 3.15 The Borough Council also has to consider the number of parish councillors for any new parish. The statutory minimum number of parish councillors is 5. There is no maximum number. The number of parish councillors in existing parishes in Swindon range from 5 (Castle Eaton, Stanton Fitzwarren, and Hannington) to 23 (Stratton St Margaret).
- 3.16 Where a parish is divided by a borough ward boundary, the Council should be mindful of the provisions of Schedule 2 (electoral change in England: considerations on review) to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 in relation to reviews of borough council electoral arrangements. These provide that when the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is making changes to principal council electoral arrangements, no unwarded parish should be divided by a borough ward boundary, and that no parish ward should be split by such a boundary.

West Swindon

- 3.17 West Swindon is widely recognised to be an identifiable community that had a functioning local area forum before the creation of the West Locality, which has provided convenient and effective means for promoting local governance. The West Swindon Centre provides a focal point with sports, leisure, and retail facilities with which local residents identify. The area has had a separate local news magazine – the Link – since 1978 that has reinforced the distinctive West Swindon community identity. Existing smaller geographical neighbourhoods are easily accommodated within the broader sense of identity. Prior to creation of a new Toothill Borough ward in 1981, the area proposed for a new West Swindon parish was covered by three parish councils: Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze and Wroughton.
- 3.18 It is suggested that this area be created as a separate parish with its boundaries largely similar to the current West locality, excluding the area of the Mannington and Western Ward that lies east of the River Ray. It is suggested that the new parish has in the region of 15 parish councillors as this would be the same size as currently exists for Highworth, and Wroughton.
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- 3.19 Some existing parishes have larger numbers of parish councillors (Stratton St Margaret – 23; Haydon Wick – 18; Blunsdon St Andrew – 17) and some smaller parish councils have a similar number (Chiseldon – 15; Covingham – 15) and so members' views are requested.

Central Swindon North

- 3.20 It is considered that the area north of the Chippenham-Swindon-Didcot railway line and east of the River Ray presently outside a parish can justifiably be considered a distinct community. It recognises the parliamentary boundary along the railway line and includes the smaller communities of Gorse Hill, Pinehurst, Rodbourne, Moredon and Penhill. These are all older traditional neighbourhoods that were established before the massive recent expansions to the West and North West. The area also includes almost all of the North Central locality; hence, there is an established pattern of sub-local authority community identity and governance.
- 3.21 Therefore it is proposed to consult on the creation of a Central Swindon North parish covering the Swindon Borough Council wards of Gorse Hill and Pinehurst and Rodbourne Cheney in addition to polling districts MWA and MWD from the Mannington and Western ward and polling districts PSA, PSB, and PSG from the Penhill and Upper Stratton ward.
- 3.22 The proposed parish would have a sufficient population size and income-base to provide for convenient and effective local governance as well as the option to provide any additional services that the parish council may decide. It is suggested that the new parish has 15 councillors for the reason outlined above.

Eldene, Liden and Nythe

- 3.23 The communities of Eldene, Liden, and Nythe can conveniently be regarded as having common identities and interests. Eldene, Liden and Nythe have longstanding links. In 2011, the LGBCE Final Recommendations noted these communities' shared geographical boundaries (Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Sept 2011, 11). Collectively, those communities have common identities and interests that derive from the housing tenure and the common period in which the neighbourhoods were developed. The size of the proposed parish would enable it to plan effectively the delivery of local services should it so desire.
- 3.24 Nythe is an existing parish and, therefore, the Borough could recommend that the rest of the proposed new parish be separately parished and then that new parish be grouped with Nythe to form one overall east Swindon and Nythe Parish. Alternatively, the new parish could simply be an extension of Nythe Parish and called Eldene, Liden, and Nythe Parish.

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- 3.25 Procedurally, the latter would be by far the easier course of action with the number of Nythe councillors being increased to 15 to cope for the larger size of the parish. The area to be covered by this parish would be the CDB and CDD polling districts from the Covingham and Dorcan ward along with the LEC and LED polling districts from the Liden, Eldene, and Park South ward.
- 3.26 It was considered whether Covingham should be included with that parished area but to do so would have required grouping Covingham Parish and Nythe Parish together. The consent of Covingham would be required for this and Covingham Parish Council has stated that they do not consent to being grouped.

South Swindon

- 3.27 Historically, Swindon has been divided into the Old Town, which covers the southern part of the urban area and New Town, which was the expansion northwards to the railway and beyond. The residents of the new homes at East Wichel have strong community identity links with other parts of the main urban area rather than with the largely rural Wroughton parish to the south. The West and Middle Wichel areas, once developed, will also have community, housing tenure and transport links that will make them more similar to the contiguous urban core to which they are attached. In addition to this, the M4 would also act as a clear actual and geographical barrier separating Wichelstowe from Wroughton. There was also a submission to the 2011 LGCBE requesting the creation of a Wichelstowe and Okus ward, which is evidence of a shared identity there.
- 3.28 There are strong historical community ties across Old Town, Lawn, and Broome Manor with the communities there sharing a common point of focus as “Old Town”, which is distinct from New Town. The area was contained in a single local government ward from 1949 to 2012 (South Ward 1949-1975, Lawns 1976-1999, Old Town and Lawn 2000-2012). This area has shared transport links, cultural and retail facilities and large open spaces including The Lawns, the Polo Ground, and Old Town Gardens.
- 3.29 The residents of the new development at Badbury Park have expressed a desire to set up their own parish; however, as this area is still under construction, it is deemed too small at this time to provide convenient and effective local governance. Some residents of this area have indicated that they have more affinity to the contiguous urban core than to the largely rural Chiseldon village, and would see their community interests better reflected in a parish lying north of the M4.
- 3.30 While there are numerous small community and neighbourhood identities, creating more numerous parishes to reflect them would inhibit effective and convenient governance or the provision of local services that would be available to other parishes. A single parish would have sufficient resources, in terms of

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residents, potential councillors, and tax base to provide both convenient and effective governance as well as to reflect local communities.

- 3.31 It is, therefore, proposed for consultation that a South Swindon parish be created covering the WWB polling district from the Wroughton and Wichelstowe ward, all the Old Town ward, that part of polling district ETC in Eastcott that lies south of Church Place and east of Albert Street, the entire CLA and CLC polling districts from the Chiseldon and Lawn ward and that part of polling district CLB from the same ward that lies north of the M4. Again, it is initially suggested that the new parish has 15 councillors.
- 3.32 Three of the ward councillors, as community representatives and leaders, have indicated support for the creation of a South Swindon parish, although two councillors have expressed concern about the effect these changes could have on the existing Wroughton and Chiseldon parishes. Both the existing parish councils that might be affected – Wroughton and Chiseldon – have stated their opposition to such the changes that would create a South Swindon parish as defined above. Representations were received as part of stage two consultation that there was a lack of common identity between Wroughton and Wichelstowe

Central Swindon South

- 3.33 It is proposed that the remainder of the urban area without a parish south of the Chippenham-Swindon-Didcot railway line and excluding Eldene and Liden form one new parish. This area has been part of one local authority since 1900, which has created shared cultural, retail and transport links and was formerly known as part of Swindon New Town. In particular, the area will contain significant green open spaces including Queens Park and Faringdon Park. All these help create the shared values of association that combine these disparate small communities into a broader Central South Swindon identity.
- 3.34 Again, while there are numerous small community and neighbourhood identities, creating more numerous parishes to reflect them would inhibit effective and convenient governance or the provision of local services that would be available to other parishes. A single parish would have sufficient resources, in terms of residents, potential councillors, and tax base to provide both convenient and effective governance as well as to reflect local communities. Again, it is initially suggested that the new parish has 15 councillors.

Blunsdon St Andrew

- 3.35 So far as the Blunsdon St Andrew parish is concerned, it is noted that a 899 signature petition has been received requesting the creation of a new parish out of the area in the Blunsdon St Andrew parish covered by the St Andrew Swindon Borough Council ward, with the A419 as the shared boundary. Blunsdon St Andrew has also submitted a 390 signature petition to the contrary as well as its objections to the loss of all its areas beyond the A419.

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- 3.36 It is also noted that the Local Government Commission for England (LGCE) Report in 1999 stated the Blunsdon and St Andrew Parish “argue that ‘future arrangements should be for the existing Parish of Blunsdon to be served by two parish councils: one for the present village of Blunsdon and the other for the new development of Abby Meads’.” (LGCE 1999, 9). A subsequent review of ward electoral arrangements also noted that the A419 presented a strong boundary demarcating the south western edge of the current Blunsdon and Highworth Borough Council Ward (LGBCE, March 2011, 9, and Sept 2011, 9).
- 3.37 As part of this review, the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council made a submission date 16th June 2011 stating “Almost all the Community facilities of the parish are in the Blunsdon [parish] Ward...It is very difficult to recruit Parish Councillors from the Abbey Meads [parish] Ward as most of the community interest lies in the Blunsdon [parish] Ward. Since 2011, this has changed slightly as the Borough Council transferred the lease of the Redhouse Community to Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council (Cabinet Member Decision Note dated 21st August 2015).
- 3.38 If a new parish were to be created in St Andrew, both this new area and the remainder of the current Blunsdon St Andrew parish would have sufficient residents and resources to provide convenient and effective local government.
- 3.39 Therefore, it is proposed that
- 3.39.1 The Blunsdon St Andrew parish be amended so that the A419 is its south western boundary. As a consequence of this change, it is proposed that the Blunsdon St Andrew parish be renamed Blunsdon parish, and it is further proposed that this parish should have 11 councillors and not be warded unless Blunsdon parish council request otherwise.
- 3.39.2 A new parish of St Andrew be formed for the area south west of the A419, all of the present Borough Council St Andrews ward and it is further proposed that this parish should have 11 councillors.
- 3.40 An alternative model from some Ward Members for the Blunsdon St Andrew and Haydon Wick area is set out below in paragraph 3.43.

Other Existing Parishes

- 3.41 So far as existing areas with parishes are concerned, in essence, it is considered that existing parish boundaries be maintained unless there are sound reasons otherwise. A few minor changes to the following existing parishes are proposed.
- 3.41.1 Both Stratton St Margaret and Blunsdon St Andrew parish councils have requested that the Bramwell Close area, which is contained entirely within the present Borough PSD polling district, be transferred from Blunsdon to Stratton. The Borough Council had previously argued that this area had

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closer community links to the St Phillip part of Stratton St Margaret than to Blunsdon LG BCE, Sept 2011, 12). This transfer would come out of the area that it is proposed be transferred to a new St Andrew (or Haydon Wick & St Andrew) parish,

3.41.2 It is recommended that the boundary between Stanton Fitzwaren and South Marston be adjusted to follow the A361 main road rather than its historical route, which now meanders through an industrial estate dividing buildings between two parishes. Simplifying the boundary to a recognisable geographical feature will contribute towards effective and convenient government. However, until ward boundaries are adjusted, Members are advised that this would create a new polling district for which there would be no registered electors.

3.41.3 South Marston Parish Council and Highworth Town Council both agree that the entire area currently occupied by Supermarine Football Club should fall in one parish but both parishes have made submissions that the area be assigned to them. As there is no agreement, Cabinet is not recommended to propose a change for the consultation map. However, Cabinet may wish to encourage further submissions by the Town and Parish Council on this matter as part of the consultation.

3.42 **Appendix 1** sets out the detailed situation with regard to each parish and the recommendations to members as to the proposal to be issued for consultation.

Members' Suggestions for Blunsdon St Andrew/Haydon Wick

3.43 Some Members have made a further suggestion to create a new parish covering the Priory Vale and St Andrews Borough Council wards, which would result in a reduction in size for both the existing Blunsdon St Andrew and Haydon Wick parishes. This would unite the Northern Expansion in a single parish, although it would include some older properties.

3.44 While this proposal would create a council large enough to provide effective local governance, there is no evidence at this time that it would reflect community interest. Moreover, it would create a parish beyond the area set out in the petition already submitted for the creation of a St Andrew parish. Therefore, it is not proposed to proceed with this as part of the consultation proposals.

3.45 Cabinet is reminded that Ward Members, communities, and other stakeholders are encouraged to make submissions to the Council in response to any consultation map agreed in this report, as the local authority will not make its final decision until November. Evidence submitted as part of the consultation process could affect the final proposals.

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Assets

- 3.46 During the engagement period, a number of enquiries were raised around the future of land and community assets in the area currently without a parish and whether assets owned by Swindon Borough Council would transfer to any new parishes created if agreed in November.
- 3.47 In preparation for discussion around this, officers have been undertaking an exercise to document the status of each asset in terms of its use, development links, any tenants, leases or licencing arrangements together with the income and expenditure for each asset. If the Council agrees to create parishes in areas of the Borough currently without them, an exercise will be undertaken between November and January 2017 to agree with the shadow parish any proposed asset transfers to be included in the Community Governance Review order.
- 3.48 It is not proposed to transfer strategic assets such as Lydiard Park, Coate Water and its surrounding lakes, Barbury Castle or Stanton Manor.
- 3.49 Questions also arose during the engagement period around the possibility that parishes containing industrial estates may be subject to higher costs. It is not intended that responsibility for maintenance of industrial estates passes to parish councils as most costs are met by a service charge paid by the tenants of those sites. It was accepted that there could potentially be higher fly tipping incidences in areas of industrial estates that may increase demand for this service on any future parish councils but this is not expected to be significant unless the estate was located within a very small parish with very few households.

Business Community

- 3.50 As well as engaging with residents, the Council is also committed to engage with business representatives to ensure key businesses in the town understand the context the Borough Council is operating within and the CGR process that is being undertaken.
- 3.51 Cabinet Members are asked to note that discussions are on-going with the business community around making a contribution to the cost of street cleaning services in commercial areas of the Borough and, in considering the financial viability of potential future parish council(s), it is not the intention to expect residents living in parishes containing significant commercial shopping areas to solely meet the high cost of cleaning those areas.

Next steps

- 3.52 So far as consultation on the proposal set out in the map in **Appendix 4** is concerned, the Council is obliged to publish its recommendations and ensure that those who have an interest are informed of them.

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- 3.53 It is suggested that an individual leaflet should be prepared for distribution to all households in the Borough at an estimated cost of around £15k. The cost of this will be met from the one-off Transition Grant received from Government as part of the current year's finance settlement. Cabinet has previously agreed that the grant will be used to support implementation of the Council's Going Local programme of work. A press release marking the start of the consultation on 23rd August would be issued to the media and community and parish publications. There will, of course, be further information on the council's website and promoted through social media.
- 3.54 The intention is to promote some of the existing library strategy drop-in consultation events taking place in September as opportunities for interested parties to also speak to Council officers about the CGR. Although there has been a relatively low attendance at the public meetings in Stages 1 and 2, it is considered that there is some merit in having one in each of the proposed 4 new parished areas, and, subject to resources, officers could attend a meeting in a parished area called by the parish council involved to discuss the community governance review proposal.
- 3.55 Members views are requested on what, if any, other consultation methods should be used.

Future Community Governance Reviews

- 3.56 Members are aware of the expected housing completions in Badbury Park as well as the expected new homes that are to be built in West and Middle Wichel along with the New Eastern Villages. Once these developments exist, there may be new community interests and identities that could be served by different local arrangements that would secure effective and convenient governance.
- 3.57 Therefore, Cabinet is asked to note that a further Community Governance Review may become necessary in the next few years, depending on the rate at which these new communities become established.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 **Appendix One** includes alternative views around parish boundaries and ways of reducing costs of the Borough Council by sharing services with others and utilising other ways of service delivery. Such suggestions are being considered by the relevant service areas as part of the ongoing change programmes but would not enable communities to decide on the local services to be provided in their area.
- 4.2 Cabinet could decide not to make any changes to the existing parish boundaries nor create any new parishes.

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5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The cost of the Community Governance Review has to date been met using existing resources and budgets and this will largely continue. An exception referred to in paragraph 3.52 of the report is to use £15k from the Transition Grant to fund a leaflet drop to all households as part of the next stage of the consultation. There are no other financial implications at this stage of the process.
- 5.2 Should the Community Governance Review result in the whole Borough being parished, it is estimated that between £2.7m and £5m of new income could be generated from council tax payers to fund important local services should the parishes so decide.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.3 Legal and Human Rights implications have been taken fully into account in the preparation of this report. It is considered that the recommendations of the report are compatible with Convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.4 There are no other direct implications associated with this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has not been undertaken at this stage. It should be noted that parish councils are Public Authorities and so subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Risk Management

- 5.6 There are none linked to this report although failure to comply with the statutory procedures would be a legal and reputational risk to the Council.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- 6.2 Borough Councillors, Parishes and parish councillors, stakeholders and members of the public have been consulted during Stages 1 and 2 of the Review.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Community Governance Review working papers and feedback.
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8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix One – Feedback from stage two of the CGR and draft recommendations by area
- 8.2 Appendix Two A – Illustrative Map 1
- 8.3 Appendix Two B – Illustrative Map 2
- 8.4 Appendix Three – Map of existing Parish Boundaries
- 8.5 Appendix Four – Map of draft proposal for consultation