



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL AND THE PARISH OF
CHETWYND ASTON AND WOODCOTE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN
HEALTH ACT 2007**

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

**THESE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE
COUNCIL ON:**

31 OCTOBER 2018

**SUBMISSIONS AND COMMENTS ON THIS DRAFT RECOMMENDATION
DOCUMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY:**

6 JANUARY 2019

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Telford and Wrekin Council received a valid petition from Newport Town Council to undertake a community governance review pursuant to Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act).
- 1.2 The Boundary Review Committee published its Terms of Reference (Annex 1) on 1 June 2018 and a ten week consultation then took place. Residents of the area in question (the “Review Area”) and those in the general locality were invited to submit their written comments on the proposals. A list of the responses to the consultation received are provided at Annex 2. The consultation period closed on 10 August 2018.

- 1.3 The Boundary Review Committee met on 23 October 2018 and resolved that the Draft Recommendation would be that no change is made to the Parish/Town Council boundary.
- 1.4 This recommendation is now subject to a second period of consultation commencing 1 November 2018 and closing on 6 January 2019.

2. Summary

2.1 In reaching this draft recommendation the Boundary Review Committee has:

- (a) sought to ensure that community governance within its area:
- reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area;
 - is effective and convenient (following the Government's guidance on community reviews, the review committee have considered all responses received against the above duties which we have divided into the subcategories of Community Cohesion, Size, Population, Boundaries, Effective Governance and Identities as discussed below)
- (b) given full consideration to all consultee responses and representations received in the initial consultation.

Community Cohesion

2.2 It is submitted that there is a strong, cohesive community within Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote ("CA&W") that has an ancient and historical boundary. This is a small rural Parish that current residents identify with and therefore future residents will also be able to identify with and therefore there should be no requirement for change. Community cohesion could potentially be hindered if the current residents were faced with an increase in Council tax of £85.15 a year with no discernible or obvious reason for the increase.

This increase would be paid to Newport Town Council (“NTC”), together with the increase in any future additional resident’s precept, should the boundary be extended. It is therefore putting the current and future residents in a financially worse off position than they would be in if the current boundary were to remain unchanged.

Size

- 2.3 The potential increase in the number of electors within the Review Area will greatly benefit a small rural community like CA&W whereas NTC may see little benefit given its current size.

Current and future residents do not (and may not) necessarily look to Newport for all their amenities etc. as there are other options available within the Borough that can and are likely to be utilised. There are also likely to be many visitors to Newport that would not consider their identities aligned with that of the local residents simply because they choose to shop there.

Population

- 2.3 The proposed new developments could potentially see an increase of up to 847 new electors move into the area within the next 5 years. CA&W are able and willing to welcome this large number into their community and with the additional precept charges that it will receive it will be able to provide for and tailor residents’ requirements at a local level.

Boundaries and Effective Governance

- 2.4 There are many examples within the Borough of situations where Ward boundaries differ to the Parish boundaries with no evidence that this has an adverse effect on effective governance. Aligning the Parish boundary with the Ward boundary is not sufficient enough justification for change.

Future residents will be represented by existing effective arrangements as there is a capable Parish Council already in place. The current and

future residents may be better represented as a small community expanding rather than stretching an already very large and busy Town Council.

Identities

2.5 It is true that the facilities in Newport are utilised by residents but also by those who do not live in the immediate area. Newport receives visitors from further afield who would not reasonably be considered to align their identities with that of a Newport resident. School pupils to the Burton Borough School and other schools in Newport come from across the Borough and not just from Newport. Conversely, it can be argued that not all future residents in the Review Area will look to Newport for shopping, leisure facilities, schools etc. There are many residents that do and will look to other parts of the Borough for these facilities.

CA&W can be seen as having a distinctive community identity to that of Newport as it is situated in a far more rural environment, it can be reasonably argued that it has its own physical identity because of this.

3. Summary of Draft Recommendations

3.1 The Boundary Review Committee's Draft Recommendation therefore is that no change should be made to the Newport Town Council/Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Boundary.

4. What happens next?

4.1 The timetable for this Review is as follows:

| Action | Timetable | Outline of action |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Compiling Terms of Reference | 10 May 2018 | seek Members approval for draft Terms of Reference |
| Publication of Terms of Reference | 1 June 2018 | Publishes Council publishes TOR and notifies stakeholders, clearly defining extent of the review. |
| Consultations – invite initial submissions | 1 June 2018 10 August 2018 | Council undertakes a full consultation requesting comments as to the proposals |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 10 Weeks | made and/or alternative proposals |
| Consider and prepare Draft Recommendations | 10 August – 31 October 2018 | |
| Publication of Draft Recommendations | 31 October 2018 | |
| Consultation on Draft Recommendations | 1 November 2018 – 6 January 2019 9 Weeks | |
| Consider submissions following publication of draft recommendations | January 2019 | Council considers the results of consultation and prepares Final recommendations |
| Final Recommendations are published and the Boundary Review Committee resolve to (a) either make no changes or (b) make a Reorganisation Order. | January/ February 2019 | |
| Final Proposals are considered by Council at Full Council meeting on 28 February 2019 | 28 February 2019 | Council adopts Final Proposals |
| Council publishes the Reorganisation Order, if required. | March 2019 | Council publishes an order concerning Parish matters should this be the outcome of the review |
| Next election held under new electoral arrangements | May 2023 | |

4.2 This Draft Recommendation is our initial response to NTC’s petition for a community governance review of the Review Area. We will now allow a period of just over three months, in accordance with our timetable above, for consultations on the Draft Recommendation. Our Final Recommendation will be made in response to the outcome of this final consultation. There will then be a short period before the Council publishes its Recommendations in this review, and this period allows time for any final submissions and arguments to be made covering matters which may not have arisen earlier in the review.

4.3 A consultation period for comments on the Draft Recommendation has now opened, and will close on 6 January 2018.

5. How to contact us

If you would like a say on this Draft Recommendation please submit your written comments, on the form attached at Annex 3 no later than 6 January 2019.

By email to: BRCNewport@telford.gov.uk

In writing to:

Newport Boundary Review

Electoral Services Team
Telford & Wrekin Council
4th Floor
Addenbrooke House
Ironmasters Way
Telford
TF3 4NT

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process please contact:

Dave Bowen
Electoral Services Manager
Telephone 01952 383210
Email Dave.bowen@telford.gov.uk

6. A List of Annexes

Annex 1 – Terms of Reference

Annex 2 – List of responses to the initial consultation

Annex 3 - Response Form for the second consultation

Annex 1- Terms of Reference



COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW –NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL REQUEST FOR CHANGES TO THE PARISH BOUNDARIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

Aims of the review

Following a request from Newport Town Council, Telford and Wrekin Council (“the Council”) has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review pursuant to Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to consider the parish boundary.

Why undertake a community governance review?

A Community Governance Review provides an opportunity for principal authorities to review and make changes to community governance within their area.

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the district to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election: council size, the number of councillors to be elected to council, and parish warding) and
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

The government has emphasised that ultimately, recommendations made in Community Governance Reviews are to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

Scope of the review

The Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review to consider whether governance arrangements within the above stated parish are:

- a) Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area:
- b) Effective and convenient to the community in that area

In doing so, the review is required to take into account:

- a) The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
and
- b) The size, population and boundaries of the local community or parish

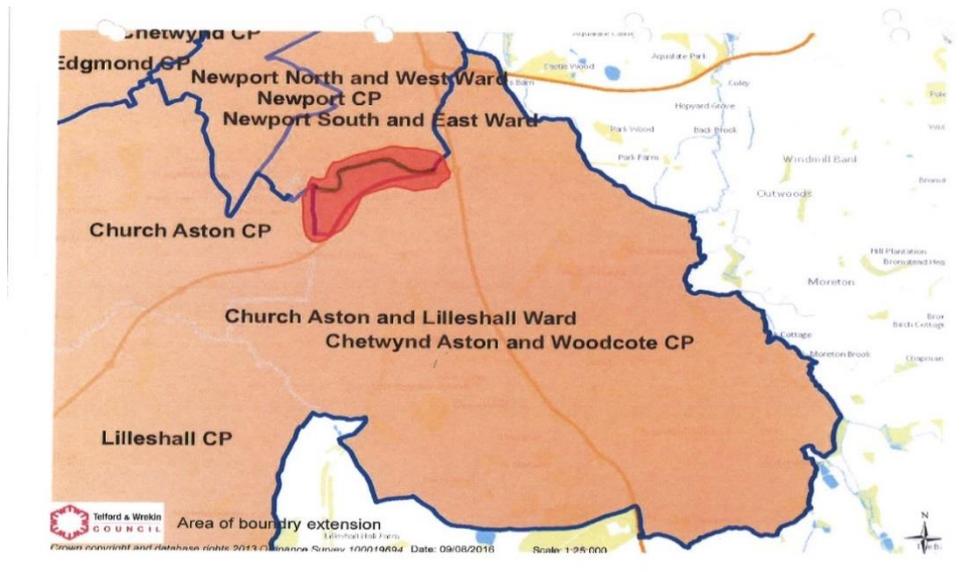
Specifically, the review will consider:

The boundary between parishes

The Council will review the boundary between Newport Town Council and Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council in response to the request from Newport Town Council, taking account of relevant local considerations.

In their request, Newport Town Council state that:

“The residents within the suggested boundary change are likely to consider themselves residents of Newport and not Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote, as borough boundary suggests. Housing developments within this area also assessed on, and approved because of their location is considered to be within the boundaries of Newport and not and Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote, this is because the A518 and A41 which border Newport, are a more natural boundary than what exists....



The dark red area of discussion, the blue line represents the parish boundary for Newport, and the red line represents the Telford and Wrekin Consistency boundary for Newport's South & East Ward.

Summary

There appear to some merits [sic] in considering extending the boundary of Newport in certain areas based upon:

- *General public perception of what is Newport.*
- *The ability to properly represent future residents and provide services.*
- *Having a boundary that is consistent with Telford & Wrekin borough wards.*

Certain features lend themselves to be natural boundary points, namely the A41 and A518.

Request received from Newport Town Council:

That the parish boundary is extended to match the Constituency boundary, and to be brought in to effect for the 2019 town and parish elections."

The current boundaries between Newport Town Council and Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote are shown in maps in Annex 1 ("the Review Area"). The current boundary is marked with a blue line and the proposed new boundary is marked with a red line.

Who will undertake the community governance review?

As the principal authority, the Council are responsible for undertaking any Community Governance Review within its electoral area.

Final recommendation will be made to Full Council for adoption and creation of a Community Governance Order.

CONSULTATION

Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, in line with legislative requirements, the Council will take full account of the views of local people. The Council will comply with legislative requirements by

- Consulting local government electors for the area under review
- Consulting any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the principal council to have an interest in the review
- Taking into account any representations received in connection with the review.

When taking account of written representations the Council is bound to have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- Is effective and convenient

In order to ensure that this review is conducted transparently, as soon as practicable, the Council will publish its recommendations and 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. In accordance with the Act, representations received in connection with the review will be taken in to account, and steps will be taken to notify consultees of the outcome of the review by:

- publishing them on the Council's website at www.telford.gov.uk
- posting public notices
- placing key documents on public deposit at Council Offices
- and by communicating the final outcome of the review by writing to all households in the area concerned by the review.

REORGANISATION OF COMMUNITY ORDERS AND COMMENCEMENT

The review will be completed when the Council adopts the reorganisation of Community Governance Orders.

TIMETABLE FOR THE REVIEW AND CONSULTATION

A Community Governance Review must, by statute, be concluded within a twelve month period from the day a valid petition is received, this was received on 8 March 2018. A Community Governance Review concludes when the Council publishes the recommendations made in the review.

TABLE 1: Timetable

| Action | Timetable | Outline of action |
|---|---|---|
| Compiling Terms of Reference | 10 May 2018 | seek Members approval for draft Terms of Reference |
| Publication of Terms of Reference | 31 May 2018 | Publishes Council publishes TOR and notifies stakeholders, clearly defining extent of the review. |
| Consultations – invite initial submissions | 1 June 2018 10 August 2018 10 Weeks | Council undertakes a full consultation requesting support for /or alternative proposals |
| Consider and prepare Draft Recommendations | 10 August – 31 October 2018 | |
| Publication of Draft Recommendations | 31 October 2018 | |
| Consultation on Draft Recommendations | 1 November – 31 December 8 Weeks | |
| Consider submissions following publication of draft recommendations | January 2018 | Council considers the results of consultation and prepares Final recommendations |
| Final Recommendations are published and the Boundary Review Committee resolve to make a Reorganisation Order. | January/ February 2019 | |
| Final Proposals are adopted by Council at Full Council meeting on 28 February 2019 | 28 February 2019 | Council adopts Final Proposals |
| Council publishes the Reorganisation Order | March 2019 | Council publishes an order concerning Parish matters |
| Next election held under new electoral arrangements | May 2023 | |

PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE REVIEW**Relevant legislation**

In undertaking a Community Governance Review, the Council will apply the guiding principles as appropriate from the following legislation and guidance:

- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as amended by the Legislative Reform (Community Governance Reviews) Order 2015
- The Local Government Act 1972
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (DCLG/EC)
- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils)(England Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625)

Electorate

In considering the electoral arrangements of the parish stated within these Terms of Reference the Council is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of the electors.

The Council has used the Register of Electors in force in April 2018 to provide existing local government electorate figures.

TABLE 2: Present Electoral arrangements

| Borough Ward (Parish) | Polling District | Electorate |
|---|------------------|------------|
| Newport South & East (East) | WNE | 2071 |
| Newport North & West (North) | WNN | 2469 |
| Newport South & East (South) | WNS | 2068 |
| Newport South & East (West) | WNW | 2516 |
| Church Aston & Lilleshall (Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote) | WCC | 376 |

TABLE 3: Proposed Electoral arrangements

| Borough Ward (Parish) | Polling District | Electorate |
|---|------------------|------------|
| Newport South & East (East) | WNE | 2071 |
| Newport North & West (North) | WNN | 2469 |
| Newport South & East (South) | WNS | 2076 |
| Newport South & East (West) | WNW | 2516 |
| Church Aston & Lilleshall (Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote) | WCC | 368 |

Currently the boundary change would see 4 properties move out of Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish and into Newport South & East (South).

Projected new dwellings for the Review Area

However, based on current approved planning permission figures for the area in question, there is likely to be a large number of new dwellings built within the proposed boundary change within the next five years and so we are required to give consideration to the electoral arrangements that might accompany such changes in the number or distribution of electors which is

likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day the Review starts. Electorate forecasts for the parish wards have been prepared using current planning permissions and using the multiplier of electors per property presented above.

TABLE 4– Projected new dwellings and electoral change statistics for the Review area 2018 – 2023

| | Projected new dwellings | Electors per property | Projected additional electors |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Review Area | 487 | 1.74 | 847 |

TABLE 5 – Current Parish Precepts 2018-2019

| Parish | Amount Required | Council Tax D equivalent 2018/2019 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Newport | £444,896 | £116.89 |
| Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote) | £6,000 | £34.74 |

Consequences of changes to the current boundaries

The main consequences it appears in making the change to the current boundaries is in the allocation of precept costs. At present there are four properties and eight electors affected by the change. In the next five years however, this number will increase by up to 487 dwellings.

Parish governance

The Council believes that parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at the local level and wants to ensure that parish governance continues to be robust, representative and enabled to meet the challenges that lie before it. Furthermore, it wants to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that the parish council represents.

How to submit your views

If you have a clear interest in this review or are impacted by its outcome, the Council would like to hear your views. Submissions can be made in any format (e.g. letter or email). Consultation responses must be in writing, whether by letter or email and must contain the name and residential address of the person submitting their views.

How to contact us

If you would like to say how you view potential future arrangements under these Terms of Reference please submit your written comments no later than 10 August 2018:

By email to: BRCNewport@telford.gov.uk

In writing to:

**Newport Boundary Review
Electoral Services Team
Telford & Wrekin Council
4th Floor
Addenbrooke House
Ironmasters Way
Telford
TF3 4NT**

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process please contact:

**Dave Bowen
Electoral Services Manager
Telephone 01952 383210
Email Dave.bowen@telford.gov.uk**

Publication of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference will be published on the Council website: www.telford.gov.uk and will be available for public inspection at the Council offices at Addenbrooke House, Ironmaster Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Notices advertising this Community Governance Review and the availability of these Terms of Reference will also be posted within the parish.

Annex 2 – List of Responses to the initial consultation

Newport Town Council

Church Aston Parish Council

A resident of Newport

A resident of Newport

Representation 1 – a Church Aston Resident (received prior to the formal consultation period)

Annex 3 - Response Form

Community Governance Review: 2nd period of consultation

Telford & Wrekin Council would like to know your views on changing the parish boundary for Newport Town Council and Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council.

Telford & Wrekin Council have been asked to conduct a consultation (Community Governance Review) to determine views around the change of a parish boundary.

This questionnaire is being made available to ensure public opinion is taken fully into account when Telford & Wrekin Council looks at the responses to the draft recommendations.

It is important that you complete your full details – including your name and address to ensure that your views can be taken in to account.

You should return this questionnaire by 6th January 2019

Further information can be found at:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20107/elections/634/parishes_in_the_borough_community_governance_reviews

Why is Telford & Wrekin Council carrying out this review?

This Community Governance Review is being undertaken in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Since 13 February 2008, district councils, unitary county councils and London borough councils (“principal councils”) have had responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews and have been able to decide whether to give effect to recommendations made in these reviews. In making that decision, principal councils need to take account of the views of local people.

The Terms of Reference for this review were published on 1st June 2018

The first period of consultation closed on 10th August 2018

Draft Recommendation were published on 31st October 2018

The second period of consultation commenced on 1st November 2018

The second period of consultation closes on 6th January 2019

Final recommendation are due to be published during February 2019

Please complete the response form below, and send your response to:

brcnewport@telford.gov.uk

Responses can also be made in writing, to
Newport Boundary Review, Electoral Services Team, Telford & Wrekin
Council, 4th Floor, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford. TF3 4NT

The Council's Boundary Review Committee met on 23rd October 2018.

Following this meeting, the initial recommendations being made are for there to be no changes made to the existing parish and town council boundaries between Newport Town Council and Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council.

The document outlining these draft recommendations [can be accessed here](#):

| <u>Question</u> | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you agree there should be NO CHANGES made to the existing Parish / Town council boundary? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you agree with the recommendations under the Community Cohesion section? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you agree with the recommendations under the Size section? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you agree with the recommendations under the Population section? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you agree with the recommendations under the Boundaries and Effective Governance section? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you agree with the recommendations under the Identities section? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you have ticked "No" to any of the above questions, please explain your reasons here. You may continue on a separate sheet / submit a separate document to explain your reasons for disagreeing with the recommendations made.
