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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE – 7 FEBRUARY 2019
BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2019

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT & COMMISSIONING

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Members approval of final recommendations following a second period of consultation and to agree a final decision for this review.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That Boundary Review Committee recommend that that no change should be made to the Newport Town Council/Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Boundary.

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~~	Authority is delegated to Boundary Review Committee to deal with all matters relating to Community Governance Reviews. 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. 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.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes~~/No~~	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.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes~~/No~~	Newport South and East (South), Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote, Church Aston and Lilleshall

4. **BACKGROUND**

4.1 The 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 2007 Act). An initial period of consultation period was undertaken between June 2018 and August 2018. The Boundary Review Committee ("the Committee") gave due consideration to the consultee responses received and these were reviewed against the relevant statutory criteria as set out in the 2007 Act. The 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.

4.2 This recommendation was subject to a second period of consultation commencing 1 November 2018 and closing on 6 January 2019.

5. SUMMARY

5.1 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").

5.2 Four consultee responses were received during the initial consultation period; three in favour of the proposal and one against.

5.3 Twelve consultee responses were received during the second consultation period; six in favour of the draft recommendations, and six against.

5.4 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. (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)

5.5 The council have also given full consideration to all consultee responses received during both consultation periods and can comment as follows:

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:

5.6 **Community Cohesion**

It is submitted that there is a strong, cohesive community within Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote ("CA&W") that has an ancient and historical boundary. All consultees in support agree with the Draft Recommendations in this regard and there are no additional comments or evidence provided from those against the proposal that would support a change in the boundary.

5.7 **Size**

Those consultees against the Draft Recommendations submit that the potentially large number of new residents will look to Newport for their schools and facilities. However there is nothing to support this and mere

opinion as to where new residents will go is not conclusive enough to support a change in the boundary.

There is a strong case in support of the argument that 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.

5.8 **Population**

CA&W are able and willing to welcome a potentially large number of new residents 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. Those against the proposal have provided no persuasive arguments that this will not be the case.

5.9 **Boundaries and Effective Governance**

Those against the Draft Recommendations have again argued that the boundaries should be aligned as this "makes logical sense" however it is worth reiterating that 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 justification for change.

5.10 **Identities**

The argument again has been raised by those against the Draft Recommendations that those living in the Review Area will identify with Newport and use its high street and its schools etc. However this does not mean that all residents who shop in Newport and all children who attend school in Newport necessarily identify themselves as Newport residents.

CA&W can be seen as having a distinctive community identity to that of Newport as it is situated in a more rural environment, it can be reasonably argued that it has its own physical identity because of this and that any new residents will want to identify with this community and not that of Newport.

6. FINAL RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It is recommended that the Boundary Review Committee's Final Recommendation therefore is that no change should be made to the Newport Town Council/Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Boundary.

7. What happens next?

7.1 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 10 Weeks	Council undertakes a full consultation requesting comments as to the proposals 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 any new electoral arrangements	May 2023	

7.2 Final recommendations will be considered at a full council meeting on 28 February 2019. Because no change to the boundary is to be made then there is no requirement for a Reorganisation Order.

8. INFORMATION ATTACHED

8.1 Map of the review area highlighting the local facilities and amenities.

8.2 Appendix 1: List of responses to the second consultation

9. 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)
Boundary Review Committee – 23 October 2018 (Minute No. BRC-04)

10. 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

List of responses to the second consultation;

1. Lyn Fowler received 24 November 2018 against the recommendation.
2. Peter Scott 4 December 2018 against the recommendation
3. 18 December 2018 Newport – Corporate statement submitted by Chairman Peter Scott
4. Graham Foster, received 18 December 2018 against recommendation
5. Cllr Thomas Janke received 19 December 2018 against recommendation.
6. Cllr Phil Norton received 28 December 2018- Deputy Mayor against the recommendation.
7. Church Aston Parish Council received 5 January 2019 in favour of the recommendation.
8. Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council 6 January 2019 in favour of the recommendation
9. Bill Harper 6 January 2019 in favour of the recommendation.
10. Ann Kinnish received on 6 January 2019 in favour of the recommendation.
11. Amanda Mattison received on 6 January 2019 in favour of the recommendation
12. Bridget Page received on 7 January 2019 in favour of the recommendation