

Supplement to the agenda for

Council

Friday 13 October 2017, 10.00 am

The Council Chamber - The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square,
Hereford, HR1 2HX

Pages

3. MINUTES

Appendices 1 and 2 to the minutes of the previous meeting of full Council are attached. The appendices were omitted in error from the minutes circulated with the initial publication of the agenda.

3 - 6

9. THE RESCHEDULING OF DEBT REPAYMENT COSTS

The footer to the report concerning the rescheduling of debt repayment costs does not provide details of a report author. The detail should state that Josie Rushgrove, Head of Corporate Finance is the relevant contact.

10. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The corrected appendix A (attached) replaces the previous version circulated with the agenda. The principal correction made is to paragraph 1 in each of the terms of reference presented. This change ensures that duplication has been removed and the correct parish name inserted within each of the eight terms of reference presented.

The recommendation for this item has changed to account for the new version of the appendix and to correct the number of community governance reviews for which authority is sought to eight. The recommendation below will be moved at full council on Friday:

Recommendation: that the terms of reference for eight community governance reviews attached in the correction supplement be approved.

7 - 34

Appendix 1 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Ms Godbert, Hereford	Can Herefordshire Council give me an assurance that the tennis courts at Bishop's Meadow will be resurfaced with new floodlighting for the four tarmac courts, so that they are handing over to the city council a public asset that is fit for purpose in 2017?	Cabinet member contracts and assets
<p>Cabinet member response There are currently no plans to provide new floodlights or to resurface Bishop's Meadow tennis courts in advance of any potential asset transfer.</p>			
<p>Supplementary question – Ms Godbert When will Herefordshire Council allocate appropriate finding to maintain their unique public asset of six grass and four tarmac tennis courts, situated opposite Herefords cathedral in King George V playing fields, a prime conservation area, to ensure the courts remain fit for purpose after the 2017 refit?</p>			
<p>Cabinet member response to supplementary question Maintenance is currently undertaken within available budgets to ensure the tennis courts may be used safely during the tennis season. Herefordshire Council has already delivered savings of £59m in the past 6 years and must undertake a further £28m by 2019/20; in light of that financial challenge we cannot invest in every local facility. The council's community asset transfer policy ensures that where a local facility is valued by the community it serves, there is the opportunity for ownership and management of the facility to be transferred to the local community. If the tennis courts are subject to an asset transfer during the current year, it would be for the organisation taking responsibility for the assets to consider and fund any improvements that they consider appropriate, and advice on sources of funding is available from the council's project development team.</p>			
PQ 2	Mr Geeson, Hereford	As the City Link Road between Edgar Street /Commercial Road nears completion can the Cabinet member confirm there have been recent and comprehensive traffic surveys at either end of the new road and along Newmarket Street / Blue School Street so good quality data is available on traffic flows before the Link Road and thus further surveys can be undertaken to demonstrate the effect of the new road once opened?	Cabinet member infrastructure
<p>Cabinet member response Yes. A programme of traffic surveys was carried out prior to the construction of the city link road and will be repeated following its completion in accordance with the requirements of the planning permission granted for the road.</p>			
<p>Supplementary Question – Mr Geeson Can the Cabinet member say approximately when the new survey will be held after the road is completed?</p>			
<p>Cabinet member response to supplementary question Surveying and design elements for everything that goes forward in the city centre and the Hereford transport plan is ongoing and I cannot specifically give a date for this particular survey but it will be done as soon as possible after the completion of the road and the traffic using it settles into a normal routine.</p>			

Appendix 2 - Questions from members of the council

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
MQ 1	Councillor RI Matthews	At full council on May 19 it was noted that certain financial responsibilities had been delegated to Hoople Ltd, a public registered business financed by taxpayers in Herefordshire. The company's accounts to March 2016 showed losses of £1.396M and decreased turnover of 8%. I asked the leader to arrange an urgent review of responsibilities for monitoring this publicly-owned business. Can the Leader inform Council what action he has taken?	Leader of the council
<p>Leader's response</p> <p>Following the May meeting of Council I asked the chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee to consider the delegation to Hoople staff regarding the writing off of uncollectable debts and the issues around the Hoople pension deficit. I am pleased to be able to report that the chairman has agreed for the matter to be considered at the next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee and, following discussions with external audit, officers are preparing a report for the committee. The council remains responsible for monitoring the performance of Hoople.</p>			
<p>Supplementary question – Councillor RI Matthew</p> <p>I am satisfied with the response that this matter is going to audit and governance committee for close monitoring during the next twelve months.</p>			
MQ 2	Councillor ACR Chappell	The cabinet member, Chief Executive and relevant Director are members of the university project board. There is only one elected member, drawn from the executive. Cabinet will receive reports from the board and the £300K loan from council requires reports to audit committee. Will the Leader ensure that one non-executive member is appointed to the board and a standing item exists at general scrutiny and Council providing scrutiny and accountability?	Leader of the council
<p>Leader's response</p> <p>The joint university delivery board is not an outside body to which the council makes appointments but a partnership arrangement and as such complies with the council's approved framework for partnership governance. Arrangements are in place for the effective monitoring and reporting of any financial arrangements between the council and the university bodies. There is no requirement to report on deployment of loans to the audit and governance committee; however that committee does assure the robustness of our risk management and governance frameworks and the council's internal audit team will have access to all records relevant to the loan. I do not see that appointment of a further member of council to the delivery board will strengthen accountability; however I will, through the delivery board, ask the university team to consider reviewing their broader community engagement mechanisms. It is a matter for the scrutiny committees to prioritise and determine their own work programmes. I would be happy to meet separately with Councillor Chappell to provide updates on the work of the board.</p>			

Supplementary Question – Councillor ACR Chappell

I am concerned that the public perception is that Herefordshire Council is giving away not just money but properties etc. The audit committee is not a scrutiny committee but one of the priorities of the Board is that it is scrutinised, I just feel there should be ongoing scrutiny of what is happening and what is being handed over so that the public and we their elected representatives are 'on-board'.

Leader's response to supplementary question

The nature of your question and the logic behind it was understood Councillor Chappell. There are two issues here; the actuality and the perception. The actuality is this council does not drive or manage the university project, it is a separate organisation. We provide help with putting green bookcases together and securing loans via the LEP but we have no authority over the body. It would therefore be inappropriate to scrutinise it, as it would any business in the city. What you refer to is understood, if there is a public perception that we are responsible for the university and that we are giving them public money then that is a perception that we should deal with.

Chief Executive comment – the intention is to be transparent and therefore minutes of meetings of the joint university delivery board are on the website. It may help to have further discussions about what is possible with the intention of increasing transparency.

Appendix A: Terms of Reference for a series of targeted Community Governance Reviews.

Terms of Reference for:	Page. No
Bishopstone and District	2 - 4
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Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review.

Proposals to remove three seats within the Bishopstone and District Parish Council

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) in Bishopstone and District Parish in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a community governance review?

A CGR can consider a number of issues, including whether to:

- create a new parish (this may be where an area is not currently parished, or as a result of bringing together two or more existing parishes)
- alter the boundary of one or more existing parishes
- bring a number of parishes together as a grouped parish council
- alter the number of seats on an existing parish council

A community governance review provides an opportunity to remove unsuitable boundaries and ensure that boundaries both reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Reviews also offer principal councils the opportunity to consider the future of what may have become redundant or declining parishes, often the result of an insufficient number of local electors within the area who are willing to serve on a parish council.

3. In undertaking the review, Herefordshire Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act, 1972
- The guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission, published in April 2008 and,
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review:
 - Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (S12008/625);
 - Local Government Finance (New Finance) regulations 2008 (S12008/626)

4. Who carries out the review?

Herefordshire Council is responsible for conducting the review. A decision on whether or not to carry out a CGR will be taken by Herefordshire Councillors at a meeting of full Council on 13 October 2017. If agreed, the council will have one year to complete the review. A full consultation will take place with parishes, ward members and other local stakeholders as part of the review. See item 7 below.

5. Why are we proposing a Community Governance Review for Bishopstone and District Parish Council?

In September 2015 the audit and governance committee received a report setting out the reasons for considering undertaking a CGR in the county, and agreed a timetable by which the information necessary to assess the case for a CGR would be collated.

Herefordshire is currently divided into 239 parishes and there are no areas within the county which are not 'parished'. Within the county there are 133 parish councils, (some of which are group parish councils which collectively represent more than one parish), and four parish

meetings (where there is no parish council but a parish meeting is held at least twice a year to which all electors are entitled to attend and vote on certain matters).

To inform the recommendation of the committee, a range of information has been collated including current elector numbers per parish, number of uncontested seats in the 2015 local elections and number of seats remaining vacant after the election¹.

As part of a county wide consultation with parishes in 2016, a number of parishes came forward to highlight that they wished to either increase or decrease the number of seats on their parish council. During that consultation Bishopstone and District parish council indicated that: *The council indicated that they wished to remove the three seats which remained vacant following the elections in May 2015. Current and proposed arrangements would involve relatively low numbers of electors for every councillor on the parish council.*

However, in subsequent follow up consultation undertaken in the last two months, Bishopstone and District have now indicated that they: *no longer wish to remove the three seats which remained vacant following the elections in May 2015. They would, however, like to take part in the Community Governance Review with regard to moving a boundary on the north side of the A438 at Sugwas Pool, Swainshill, and Sugwas parish.*

6 The scope of the CGR.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. Herefordshire Council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

7 Who will we consult?

Herefordshire Council's audit and governance committee will seek to establish a working group made up of appropriate local stakeholders, which will include the ward member for the Bishopstone and District parish. This working group will be supported and facilitated by Herefordshire Council officers.

A full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation. This will include:

- The Parish Councils of the Bishopstone and District group.
- Communities within the parishes under review.
- Ward Members (in the wards where parishes are under review)
- Community Council
- Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges
- Members of Parliament
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Local Political Parties

The deadline for sending your submissions for the first stage of the review is **19th January 2018**. Please return your views in writing to: Democratic Services Community Governance Review, The Shire Hall , St. Peter’s Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX or by email: CGR@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government’s view that “Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions.”

To that end, Herefordshire Council will:

- Publish a notice in the local press informing residents of the review and inviting responses;
- Publish information on the council’s website;
- The Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representations during the initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.
- Take into account any representations received in connection with the Review.

8. What matters will the review focus on?

The recommendations made in a community governance review will have two main objectives:

- 1) To facilitate the changes the parishes identified in this document are seeking
- 2) To improve community engagement and better local democracy.

The review must ensure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It must also take into account any existing arrangements such as community or resident’s associations or neighbourhood councils.

The Council is keen to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identify and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

9. Timeframes

Publication of this draft terms of reference formally begins the review, and the review must be completed within twelve months.

10. Timetable for the Review

Terms of Reference Presented to Council	13 October
Publish Terms of Reference	16 October (TBC)
Initial Consultation period	16 October to 19 January, 2018
Prepare draft proposals/recommendations	19 January to 2 March, 2018
Consult on draft proposals/recommendations	5 March to 31 May, 2018
Presentation of proposals for consultation	4 June to 29 June, 2018
Prepare final proposals	2 July to 31 July, 2018
Internal consultation and sign off of report	August/September 2018
Report to Council	Report published 5 days before Council, October 2018
If required: Organisation of Community Governance Order	To be advised.

Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review.

Proposals to increase the number of seats for other members of the Bredenbury and District Group be increased

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the Bredenbury and District Group in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a community governance review?

A CGR can consider a number of issues, including whether to:

- create a new parish (this may be where an area is not currently parished, or as a result of bringing together two or more existing parishes)
- alter the boundary of one or more existing parishes
- bring a number of parishes together as a grouped parish council
- alter the number of seats on an existing parish council

A community governance review provides an opportunity to remove unsuitable boundaries and ensure that boundaries both reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Reviews also offer principal councils the opportunity to consider the future of what may have become redundant or declining parishes, often the result of an insufficient number of local electors within the area who are willing to serve on a parish council.

3. In undertaking the review, Herefordshire Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act, 1972
- The guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission, published in April 2008 and,
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review:
 - Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (S12008/625);
 - Local Government Finance (New Finance) regulations 2008 (S12008/626)

4. Who carries out the review?

Herefordshire Council is responsible for conducting the review. A decision on whether or not to carry out a CGR will be taken by Herefordshire Councillors at a meeting of full Council on 13 October 2017. If agreed, the council will have one year to complete the review. A full consultation will take place with parishes, ward members and other local stakeholders as part of the review. See item 7 below.

5. Why are we proposing a Community Governance Review for Bredenbury and District Group Parish Council?

In September 2015 the audit and governance committee received a report setting out the reasons for considering undertaking a CGR in the county, and agreed a timetable by which the information necessary to assess the case for a CGR would be collated.

Herefordshire is currently divided into 239 parishes and there are no areas within the county which are not 'parished'. Within the county there are 133 parish councils, (some of which are group parish councils which collectively represent more than one parish), and four parish

meetings (where there is no parish council but a parish meeting is held at least twice a year to which all electors are entitled to attend and vote on certain matters).

To inform the recommendation of the committee, a range of information has been collated including current elector numbers per parish, number of uncontested seats in the 2015 local elections and number of seats remaining vacant after the election.

As part of a county wide consultation with parishes in 2016, a number of parishes came forward to highlight that they wished to either increase or decrease the number of seats on their parish council. During that consultation Bredenbury and District Group Parish Council: *The parish council identified a parish within the group was able to have voting powers disproportionate to its size due to the distribution of seats. It was proposed that the number of seats for other members of the group be increased.*

6 The scope of the CGR.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. Herefordshire Council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

7 Who will we consult?

Herefordshire Council's audit and governance committee will seek to establish a working group made up of appropriate local stakeholders, which will include the ward member for the Bredenbury District Group Parish. This working group will be supported and facilitated by Herefordshire Council officers.

A full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation. This will include:

- The Parish Councils of the Bredenbury and District Group.
- Communities within the parishes under review.
- Ward Members (in the wards where parishes are under review)
- Community Council
- Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges
- Members of Parliament
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Local Political Parties

The deadline for sending your submissions for the first stage of the review is **19th January 2018**. Please return your views in writing to: Democratic Services Community Governance Review, The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX or by email: CGR@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government's view that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions."

To that end, Herefordshire Council will:

- Publish a notice in the local press informing residents of the review and inviting responses;

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8. What matters will the review focus on?

The recommendations made in a community governance review will have two main objectives:

- 1) To facilitate the changes the parishes identified in this document are seeking
- 2) To improve community engagement and better local democracy.

The review must ensure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It must also take into account any existing arrangements such as community or resident’s associations or neighbourhood councils.

The Council is keen to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identify and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

9. Timeframes

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Report to Council	Report published 5 days before Council, October 2018
If required: Organisation of Community Governance Order	To be advised.

Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review.

Proposals to review the seats within the Brockhampton Group

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the Brockhampton Group in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a community governance review?

A CGR can consider a number of issues, including whether to:

- create a new parish (this may be where an area is not currently parished, or as a result of bringing together two or more existing parishes)
- alter the boundary of one or more existing parishes
- bring a number of parishes together as a grouped parish council
- alter the number of seats on an existing parish council

A community governance review provides an opportunity to remove unsuitable boundaries and ensure that boundaries both reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Reviews also offer principal councils the opportunity to consider the future of what may have become redundant or declining parishes, often the result of an insufficient number of local electors within the area who are willing to serve on a parish council.

3. In undertaking the review, Herefordshire Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act, 1972
- The guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission, published in April 2008 and,
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review:
 - Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (S12008/625);
 - Local Government Finance (New Finance) regulations 2008 (S12008/626)

4. Who carries out the review?

Herefordshire Council is responsible for conducting the review. A decision on whether or not to carry out a CGR will be taken by Herefordshire Councillors at a meeting of full Council on 13 October 2017. If agreed, the council will have one year to complete the review. A full consultation will take place with parishes, ward members and other local stakeholders as part of the review. See item 7 below.

5. Why are we proposing a Community Governance Review for Brockhampton Group Parish Council?

In September 2015 the audit and governance committee received a report setting out the reasons for considering undertaking a CGR in the county, and agreed a timetable by which the information necessary to assess the case for a CGR would be collated.

Herefordshire is currently divided into 239 parishes and there are no areas within the county which are not 'parished'. Within the county there are 133 parish councils, (some of which are group parish councils which collectively represent more than one parish), and four parish meetings (where there is no parish council but a parish meeting is held at least twice a year to which all electors are entitled to attend and vote on certain matters).

To inform the recommendation of the committee, a range of information has been collated including current elector numbers per parish, number of uncontested seats in the 2015 local elections and number of seats remaining vacant after the election.

As part of a county wide consultation with parishes in 2016, a number of parishes came forward to highlight that they wished to either increase or decrease the number of seats on their parish council. During that consultation Brockhampton Group parish council: *considered this at their meeting on 21/09/17 and formally resolved to ask for the community governance review as they have great difficulty filling all available seats as all of the parishes within the group have very small populations. It was proposed that the number of seats within the group could be reviewed so as to better reflect the number of electors, which would address the issue and strengthen the democratic process.*

6 The scope of the CGR.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. Herefordshire Council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

7 Who will we consult?

Herefordshire Council's audit and governance committee will seek to establish a working group made up of appropriate local stakeholders, which will include the ward member for the Brockhampton Group parish council. This working group will be supported and facilitated by Herefordshire Council officers.

A full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation. This will include:

- **The Parish Councils within the Brockhampton Group.**
- Communities within the parishes under review.
- Ward Members (in the wards where parishes are under review)
- Community Council
- Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges
- Members of Parliament
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Local Political Parties

The deadline for sending your submissions for the first stage of the review is **19th January 2018**. Please return your views in writing to: Democratic Services Community Governance Review, The Shire Hall , St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX or by email: CGR@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government's view that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions."

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8. What matters will the review focus on?

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The Council is keen to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identify and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

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Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review.

Proposals to review the options to amalgamate the Kilpeck Group Parish Council

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) in the Kilpeck Group Parish Council in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a community governance review?

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4. Who carries out the review?

Herefordshire Council is responsible for conducting the review. A decision on whether or not to carry out a CGR will be taken by Herefordshire Councillors at a meeting of full Council on 13 October 2017. If agreed, the council will have one year to complete the review. A full consultation will take place with parishes, ward members and other local stakeholders as part of the review. See item 7 below.

5. Why are we proposing a Community Governance Review for Kilpeck Group Parish Council?

In September 2015 the audit and governance committee received a report setting out the reasons for considering undertaking a CGR in the county, and agreed a timetable by which the information necessary to assess the case for a CGR would be collated.

Herefordshire is currently divided into 239 parishes and there are no areas within the county which are not 'parished'. Within the county there are 133 parish councils, (some of which are group parish councils which collectively represent more than one parish), and four parish meetings (where there is no parish council but a parish meeting is held at least twice a year to which all electors are entitled to attend and vote on certain matters).

To inform the recommendation of the committee, a range of information has been collated including current elector numbers per parish, number of uncontested seats in the 2015 local elections and number of seats remaining vacant after the election.

As part of a county wide consultation with parishes in 2016, a number of parishes came forward to highlight that they wished to amalgamate their group into one single parish council. During that consultation Kilpeck Group parish council expressed an interest in merging the group into a single parish council.

6 The scope of the CGR.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. Herefordshire Council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

7 Who will we consult?

Herefordshire Council's audit and governance committee will seek to establish a working group made up of appropriate local stakeholders, which will include the ward member for the Kilpeck Group parish council. This working group will be supported and facilitated by Herefordshire Council officers.

A full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation. This will include:

- The Parish Councils within the Kilpeck Group.
- Communities within the parishes under review.
- Ward Members (in the wards where parishes are under review)
- Community Council
- Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges
- Members of Parliament
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Local Political Parties

The deadline for sending your submissions for the first stage of the review is **19th January 2018**. Please return your views in writing to: Democratic Services Community Governance Review, The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX or by email: CGR@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government's view that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions."

To that end, Herefordshire Council will:

- Publish a notice in the local press informing residents of the review and inviting responses;
- Publish information on the council's website;
- The Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representations during the initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.

- Take into account any representations received in connection with the Review.

8. What matters will the review focus on?

The recommendations made in a community governance review will have two main objectives:

- 1) To facilitate the changes the parishes identified in this document are seeking
- 2) To improve community engagement and better local democracy.

The review must ensure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It must also take into account any existing arrangements such as community or resident's associations or neighbourhood councils.

The Council is keen to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identify and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

9. Timeframes

Publication of this draft terms of reference formally begins the review, and the review must be completed within twelve months.

10. Indicative timetable for the Review

Terms of Reference Presented to Council	13 October
Publish Terms of Reference	16 October (TBC)
Initial Consultation period	16 October to 19 January, 2018
Prepare draft proposals/recommendations	19 January to 2 March, 2018
Consult on draft proposals/recommendations	5 March to 31 May, 2018
Presentation of proposals for consultation	4 June to 29 June, 2018
Prepare final proposals	2 July to 31 July, 2018
Internal consultation and sign off of report	August/September 2018
Report to Council	Report published 5 days before full Council, October 2018
If required: Organisation of Community Governance Order	To be advised.

Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review.

Proposals to review the options to amalgamate the parish of Walterstone with Ewyas Harold - Longtown Group Parish Council

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) in the Longtown Group Parish Council in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a community governance review?

A CGR can consider a number of issues, including whether to:

- create a new parish (this may be where an area is not currently parished, or as a result of bringing together two or more existing parishes)
- alter the boundary of one or more existing parishes
- bring a number of parishes together as a grouped parish council
- alter the number of seats on an existing parish council

A community governance review provides an opportunity to remove unsuitable boundaries and ensure that boundaries both reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Reviews also offer principal councils the opportunity to consider the future of what may have become redundant or declining parishes, often the result of an insufficient number of local electors within the area who are willing to serve on a parish council.

3. In undertaking the review, Herefordshire Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act, 1972
- The guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission, published in April 2008 and,
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review:
 - Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (S12008/625);
 - Local Government Finance (New Finance) regulations 2008 (S12008/626)

4. Who carries out the review?

Herefordshire Council is responsible for conducting the review. A decision on whether or not to carry out a CGR will be taken by Herefordshire Councillors at a meeting of full Council on 13 October 2017. If agreed, the council will have one year to complete the review. A full consultation will take place with parishes, ward members and other local stakeholders as part of the review. See item 7 below.

5. Why are we proposing a Community Governance Review for Longtown Group Parish Council?

In September 2015 the audit and governance committee received a report setting out the reasons for considering undertaking a CGR in the county, and agreed a timetable by which the information necessary to assess the case for a CGR would be collated.

Herefordshire is currently divided into 239 parishes and there are no areas within the county which are not 'parished'. Within the county there are 133 parish councils, (some of which are group parish councils which collectively represent more than one parish), and four parish meetings (where there is no parish council but a parish meeting is held at least twice a year to which all electors are entitled to attend and vote on certain matters).

To inform the recommendation of the committee, a range of information has been collated including current elector numbers per parish, number of uncontested seats in the 2015 local elections and number of seats remaining vacant after the election.

As part of a county wide consultation with parishes in 2016, a number of parishes came forward to highlight that they wished alter the membership of their current group arrangements. During that consultation Longtown Group noted that: *The parish council expressed an interest in separating the parish of Walterstone from the group and instead amalgamating Walterstone with Ewyas Harold group parish council.*

Following confirmation of these proposals with Longtown Group, the parish council noted: *At the Parish Council meeting on 20th September 2017 it was agreed that whilst the Parish Council could not formally request these changes without consulting the residents of Walterstone, but it can confirm that the reasons originally indicated are still relevant.*

6 The scope of the CGR.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. Herefordshire Council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

7 Who will we consult?

Herefordshire Council's audit and governance committee will seek to establish a working group made up of appropriate local stakeholders, which will include the ward member for the Longtown Group and Ewyas Harold parish councils. This working group will be supported and facilitated by Herefordshire Council officers.

A full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation. This will include:

- The Parish Councils within the Longtown Group and Ewyas Harold Parish Council.
- Communities within the parishes under review.
- Ward Members (in the wards where parishes are under review)
- Community Council
- Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges
- Members of Parliament
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Local Political Parties

The deadline for sending your submissions for the first stage of the review is **19th January 2018**. Please return your views in writing to: Democratic Services Community Governance Review, The Shire Hall , St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX or by email: CGR@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government's view that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions."

To that end, Herefordshire Council will:

- Publish a notice in the local press informing residents of the review and inviting responses;
- Publish information on the council's website;
- The Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representations during the initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.
- Take into account any representations received in connection with the Review.

8. What matters will the review focus on?

The recommendations made in a community governance review will have two main objectives:

- 1) To facilitate the changes the parishes identified in this document are seeking
- 2) To improve community engagement and better local democracy.

The review must ensure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It must also take into account any existing arrangements such as community or resident's associations or neighbourhood councils.

The Council is keen to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identify and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

9. Timeframes

Publication of this draft terms of reference formally begins the review, and the review must be completed within twelve months.

10. Indicative timetable for the Review

Terms of Reference Presented to Council	13 October
Publish Terms of Reference	16 October (TBC)
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Presentation of proposals for consultation	4 June to 29 June, 2018
Prepare final proposals	2 July to 31 July, 2018
Internal consultation and sign off of report	August/September 2018
Report to Council	Report published 5 days before full Council, October 2018
If required: Organisation of Community Governance Order	To be advised.

Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review.

Proposals to review border anomalies within Moreton-on-Lugg Parish Council

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) in the Moreton-on-Lugg Parish Council area in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a community governance review?

A CGR can consider a number of issues, including whether to:

- create a new parish (this may be where an area is not currently parished, or as a result of bringing together two or more existing parishes)
- alter the boundary of one or more existing parishes
- bring a number of parishes together as a grouped parish council
- alter the number of seats on an existing parish council

A community governance review provides an opportunity to remove unsuitable boundaries and ensure that boundaries both reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Reviews also offer principal councils the opportunity to consider the future of what may have become redundant or declining parishes, often the result of an insufficient number of local electors within the area who are willing to serve on a parish council.

3. In undertaking the review, Herefordshire Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act, 1972
- The guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission, published in April 2008 and,
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review:
 - Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (S12008/625);
 - Local Government Finance (New Finance) regulations 2008 (S12008/626)

4. Who carries out the review?

Herefordshire Council is responsible for conducting the review. A decision on whether or not to carry out a CGR will be taken by Herefordshire Councillors at a meeting of full Council on 13 October 2017. If agreed, the council will have one year to complete the review. A full consultation will take place with parishes, ward members and other local stakeholders as part of the review. See item 7 below.

5. Why are we proposing a Community Governance Review for Moreton-on-Lugg Parish Council?

In September 2015 the audit and governance committee received a report setting out the reasons for considering undertaking a CGR in the county, and agreed a timetable by which the information necessary to assess the case for a CGR would be collated.

Herefordshire is currently divided into 239 parishes and there are no areas within the county which are not 'parished'. Within the county there are 133 parish councils, (some of which are group parish councils which collectively represent more than one parish), and four parish meetings (where there is no parish council but a parish meeting is held at least twice a year to which all electors are entitled to attend and vote on certain matters).

To inform the recommendation of the committee, a range of information has been collated including current elector numbers per parish, number of uncontested seats in the 2015 local elections and number of seats remaining vacant after the election.

As part of a county wide consultation with parishes in 2016, a number of parishes came forward to highlight that they wished to address some minor boundary anomalies. During that consultation Moreton-on-Lugg noted that: *a small number of properties affected by a border anomaly. It was proposed that the properties would be better represented in the neighbouring parish of Wellington.*

6 The scope of the CGR.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. Herefordshire Council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

7 Who will we consult?

Herefordshire Council's audit and governance committee will seek to establish a working group made up of appropriate local stakeholders, which will include the ward member for the Moreton-on-Lugg and Wellington parish councils. This working group will be supported and facilitated by Herefordshire Council officers.

A full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation. This will include:

- **The Parish Councils of Moreton-on-Lugg and Wellington.**
- Communities within the parishes under review.
- Ward Members (in the wards where parishes are under review)
- Community Council
- Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges
- Members of Parliament
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Local Political Parties

The deadline for sending your submissions for the first stage of the review is **19th January 2018**. Please return your views in writing to: Democratic Services Community Governance Review, The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX or by email: CGR@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government's view that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions."

To that end, Herefordshire Council will:

- Publish a notice in the local press informing residents of the review and inviting responses;
- Publish information on the council's website;
- The Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representations during the

initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.

- Take into account any representations received in connection with the Review.

8. What matters will the review focus on?

The recommendations made in a community governance review will have two main objectives:

- 1) To facilitate the changes the parishes identified in this document are seeking
- 2) To improve community engagement and better local democracy.

The review must ensure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It must also take into account any existing arrangements such as community or resident's associations or neighbourhood councils.

The Council is keen to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identify and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

9. Timeframes

Publication of this draft terms of reference formally begins the review, and the review must be completed within twelve months.

Indicative timetable for the Review

Terms of Reference Presented to Council	13 October
Publish Terms of Reference	16 October (TBC)
Initial Consultation period	16 October to 19 January, 2018
Prepare draft proposals/recommendations	19 January to 2 March, 2018
Consult on draft proposals/recommendations	5 March to 31 May, 2018
Presentation of proposals for consultation	4 June to 29 June, 2018
Prepare final proposals	2 July to 31 July, 2018
Internal consultation and sign off of report	August/September 2018
Report to Council	Report published 5 days before full Council, October 2018
If required: Organisation of Community Governance Order	To be advised.

Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review.

Proposals to increase the number of seats for Peterchurch Parish Council

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) in the Parish of Peterchurch in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a community governance review?

A CGR can consider a number of issues, including whether to:

- create a new parish (this may be where an area is not currently parished, or as a result of bringing together two or more existing parishes)
- alter the boundary of one or more existing parishes
- bring a number of parishes together as a grouped parish council
- alter the number of seats on an existing parish council

A community governance review provides an opportunity to remove unsuitable boundaries and ensure that boundaries both reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Reviews also offer principal councils the opportunity to consider the future of what may have become redundant or declining parishes, often the result of an insufficient number of local electors within the area who are willing to serve on a parish council.

3. In undertaking the review, Herefordshire Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act, 1972
- The guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission, published in April 2008 and,
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review:
 - Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (S12008/625);
 - Local Government Finance (New Finance) regulations 2008 (S12008/626)

4. Who carries out the review?

Herefordshire Council is responsible for conducting the review. A decision on whether or not to carry out a CGR will be taken by Herefordshire Councillors at a meeting of full Council on 13 October 2017. If agreed, the council will have one year to complete the review. A full consultation will take place with parishes, ward members and other local stakeholders as part of the review. See item 7 below.

5. Why are we proposing a Community Governance Review for Peterchurch Parish Council?

In September 2015 the audit and governance committee received a report setting out the reasons for considering undertaking a CGR in the county, and agreed a timetable by which the information necessary to assess the case for a CGR would be collated.

Herefordshire is currently divided into 239 parishes and there are no areas within the county which are not 'parished'. Within the county there are 133 parish councils, (some of which are group parish councils which collectively represent more than one parish), and four parish meetings (where there is no parish council but a parish meeting is held at least twice a year to which all electors are entitled to attend and vote on certain matters).

To inform the recommendation of the committee, a range of information has been collated including current elector numbers per parish, number of uncontested seats in the 2015 local elections and number of seats remaining vacant after the election.

As part of a county wide consultation with parishes in 2016, a number of parishes came forward to highlight that they wished to either increase or decrease the number of seats on their parish council. During that consultation Peterchurch Parish Council noted that they *wish to increase the number of seats on the council by one to reflect an increase in population*.

6 The scope of the CGR.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. Herefordshire Council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

7 Who will we consult?

Herefordshire Council's audit and governance committee will seek to establish a working group made up of appropriate local stakeholders, which will include the ward member for the Peterchurch Parish Council. This working group will be supported and facilitated by Herefordshire Council officers.

A full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation. This will include:

- Peterchurch Parish Council.
- Communities within the parish under review.
- Ward Member
- Community Council
- Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges
- Members of Parliament
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Local Political Parties

The deadline for sending your submissions for the first stage of the review is **19th January 2018.** Please return your views in writing to: Democratic Services Community Governance Review, The Shire Hall , St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX or by email: CGR@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government's view that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions."

To that end, Herefordshire Council will:

- Publish a notice in the local press informing residents of the review and inviting responses;
- Publish information on the council's website;
- The Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representations during the initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.

- Take into account any representations received in connection with the Review.

8. What matters will the review focus on?

The recommendations made in a community governance review will have two main objectives:

- 1) To facilitate the changes the parishes identified in this document are seeking
- 2) To improve community engagement and better local democracy.

The review must ensure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It must also take into account any existing arrangements such as community or resident's associations or neighbourhood councils.

The Council is keen to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identify and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

9. Timeframes

Publication of this draft terms of reference formally begins the review, and the review must be completed within twelve months.

10. Indicative timetable for the Review

Terms of Reference Presented to Council	13 October
Publish Terms of Reference	16 October (TBC)
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Presentation of proposals for consultation	4 June to 29 June, 2018
Prepare final proposals	2 July to 31 July, 2018
Internal consultation and sign off of report	August/September 2018
Report to Council	Report published 5 days before full Council, October 2018
If required: Organisation of Community Governance Order	To be advised.

Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review.

Proposals to address a number of minor boundary anomalies – Wellington Parish Council

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) in the Parish of Wellington in accordance with Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard for the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference.

2. What is a community governance review?

A CGR can consider a number of issues, including whether to:

- create a new parish (this may be where an area is not currently parished, or as a result of bringing together two or more existing parishes)
- alter the boundary of one or more existing parishes
- bring a number of parishes together as a grouped parish council
- alter the number of seats on an existing parish council

A community governance review provides an opportunity to remove unsuitable boundaries and ensure that boundaries both reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Reviews also offer principal councils the opportunity to consider the future of what may have become redundant or declining parishes, often the result of an insufficient number of local electors within the area who are willing to serve on a parish council.

3. In undertaking the review, Herefordshire Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act, 1972
- The guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission, published in April 2008 and,
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review:
 - Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (S12008/625);
 - Local Government Finance (New Finance) regulations 2008 (S12008/626)

4. Who carries out the review?

Herefordshire Council is responsible for conducting the review. A decision on whether or not to carry out a CGR will be taken by Herefordshire Councillors at a meeting of full Council on 13 October 2017. If agreed, the council will have one year to complete the review. A full consultation will take place with parishes, ward members and other local stakeholders as part of the review. See item 7 below.

5. Why are we proposing a Community Governance Review for Wellington Parish Council?

In September 2015 the audit and governance committee received a report setting out the reasons for considering undertaking a CGR in the county, and agreed a timetable by which the information necessary to assess the case for a CGR would be collated.

Herefordshire is currently divided into 239 parishes and there are no areas within the county which are not 'parished'. Within the county there are 133 parish councils, (some of which are group parish councils which collectively represent more than one parish), and four parish

meetings (where there is no parish council but a parish meeting is held at least twice a year to which all electors are entitled to attend and vote on certain matters).

To inform the recommendation of the committee, a range of information has been collated including current elector numbers per parish, number of uncontested seats in the 2015 local elections and number of seats remaining vacant after the election.

As part of a county wide consultation with parishes in 2016, a number of parishes came forward to highlight that minor Boundary anomalies. During that consultation Wellington Parish Council noted that: *The Parish boundary could be considered with specific reference to the two properties which were currently in Moreton Parish. Similarly the northern boundary adjacent to the railway may be better served under Hope under Dinmore Parish.*

6 The scope of the CGR.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but it will see if there is a case for change. Herefordshire Council is not seeking a particular solution at this stage. It wishes to test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

7 Who will we consult?

Herefordshire Council's audit and governance committee will seek to establish a working group made up of appropriate local stakeholders, which will include the ward member for the Wellington, Hope-under-Dinmore and Moreton-on-Lugg Parish Councils. This working group will be supported and facilitated by Herefordshire Council officers.

A full consultation process will form part of the review to take full account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account. The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation. This will include:

- The Parish Councils of Wellington, Hope-under-Dinmore and Moreton-on-Lugg.
- Communities within the parishes under review.
- Ward Members (in the wards where parishes are under review)
- Community Council
- Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges
- Members of Parliament
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Local Political Parties

The deadline for sending your submissions for the first stage of the review is **19th January 2018**. Please return your views in writing to: Democratic Services Community Governance Review, The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX or by email: CGR@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government's view that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions."

To that end, Herefordshire Council will:

- Publish a notice in the local press informing residents of the review and inviting responses;
- Publish information on the council's website;

- The Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representations during the initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.
- Take into account any representations received in connection with the Review.

8. What matters will the review focus on?

The recommendations made in a community governance review will have two main objectives:

- 1) To facilitate the changes the parishes identified in this document are seeking
- 2) To improve community engagement and better local democracy.

The review must ensure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It must also take into account any existing arrangements such as community or resident's associations or neighbourhood councils.

The Council is keen to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identify and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

9. Timeframes

Publication of this draft terms of reference formally begins the review, and the review must be completed within twelve months.

Indicative timetable for the Review

Terms of Reference Presented to Council	13 October
Publish Terms of Reference	16 October (TBC)
Initial Consultation period	16 October to 19 January, 2018
Prepare draft proposals/recommendations	19 January to 2 March, 2018
Consult on draft proposals/recommendations	5 March to 31 May, 2018
Presentation of proposals for consultation	4 June to 29 June, 2018
Prepare final proposals	2 July to 31 July, 2018
Internal consultation and sign off of report	August/September 2018
Report to Council	Report published 5 days before full Council, October 2018
If required: Organisation of Community Governance Order	To be advised.

Appendix 1: Glossary of terms and relevant information to this review:

What role do Parish Councils perform?

Parish Councils are the most local form of government. They collect money from Council Tax payers (via the District Council) known as a “precept” and this is used to invest in the area to improve services or facilities. Parish Councils can take different forms but usually are made up of local people who stand for election as Parish Councillors to represent their area. They can be the voice of the local community and work with other tiers of government and external organisations to co-ordinate and deliver services and work to improve the quality of life in the area.

What are grouped parishes?

It may best be considered as a working alliance of parishes that have come together under a common parish council, with the electors of each of the grouped parishes electing a designated number of councillors to the Council. It has been found to be an effective way of ensuring parish government for small parishes that might otherwise be unviable as separate units, while otherwise guaranteeing their separate community identity.

The Council recognises that the grouping of parishes needs to be compatible with the retention of community interests, and notes the government’s guidance that “it would be inappropriate for it to be used to build artificially large units under single parish councils.” A grouping order is permitted under Section 11 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Parish Warding.

Parishes/towns can be divided into wards for the purpose of electing councillors. Again, this could depend upon the size and make up of a proposed council. The Government guidance requires that consideration be given to the number of and distribution of local government electors which could make a single election of councillors impractical or inconvenient or it may be desirable for areas within the town or parish to be separately represented.

The Government’s guidance is that “the warding of parishes in largely rural areas that are based predominantly on a single centrally-located village may not be justified. Conversely, warding may be appropriate where the parish encompasses a number of villages with separate identities, a village with a large rural hinterland or where, on the edges of towns, there has been some urban overspill into the parish

What is a community governance order?

The Review will be completed when the Council adopts a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. The Order will specify when it will take effect for financial and administrative purposes and when the electoral arrangements for a new or existing parish council will come into force

Copies of this Order, the map(s) that show the effects of the order in detail, and the document(s) which set out the reasons for the decisions that the Council has taken (including where it has decided to make no change following a Review) will be deposited at the Council’s offices and website.

In accordance with the Guidance issued by the Government, the Council will issue maps to illustrate each recommendation at a scale that will not normally be smaller than 1:10,000. These maps will be deposited with the Secretary of State at the Department of Communities and Local Government and at the Council’s offices. Prints will also be supplied, in accordance with the regulations, to Ordnance Survey, the Registrar General, the Land Registry, the Valuation Office Agency, the Boundary Commission for England and the Electoral Commission.

What do ‘Electoral Arrangements’ mean?

An important part of our Review will comprise giving consideration to „Electoral Arrangements“. The term covers the way in which a council is constituted for the parish. It covers:

- the ordinary year in which elections are held;
- the number of councillors to be elected to the Council;
- the division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
- the number and boundaries of any such wards;
- the number of councillors to be elected for any such ward; and
- the name of any such ward.

Is there an ideal size of a parish council?

The Government’s guidance is that “each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities,” and therefore the Council is prepared to pay particular attention to existing levels of representation, the broad pattern of existing council sizes which have stood the test of time and the take-up of seats at elections in its consideration of this matter.

Parishes wishing to increase numbers must give strong reasons for doing so. The number of parish/town councillors for each council must be not less than five but can be greater. However, each parish grouped under a common parish council must have at least one parish councillor.

The Aston Business School found the following levels of representation to the good running of a council:

Electors	Councillors
Less than 500	5-8
501-2,500	6-12
2,501-10,000	9-16
10,001-20,000	13-27
More than 20,000	13-31

Viability

The Government has a commitment to improve the capacity of the parish structure to deliver better services and to represent the community’s interests. Therefore, the Council is anxious to ensure that parishes should be viable and should possess a precept that enables them to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.

Boundaries

It will be desirable for parish/town council boundaries to be readily identifiable. This can be by reference to physical features or may follow adopted electoral ward boundaries in the District. Any changes should also take into account population shifts or additional development that may have affected community identity.

