

 <b>Regulatory Committee</b> <b>Monday 15 July 2013</b>		<b>Agenda Item No. 4</b>
<b>Title</b>	Warwick District Community Governance Review 2013 – Terms of Reference	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Chris Elliott (01926 456000) chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Regulatory Committee 17 December 2012 – minute 30	
<b>Background Papers</b>		

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality &amp; Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No (If No state why below)
The process is about ensuring electoral equality so there is no further need to undertake an equalities impact assessment.	

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		Chris Elliott
Head of Service		
CMT		Andrew Jones; Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		Andrew Jones/Graham Leach
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		Group Leaders & Deputy Leader
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
On commencement of the District wide Community Governance Review, Warwick District Council will consult Parish and Town Councils, District and County Councillors and Members of Parliament for the District. It will take into account the views of members of the public and any other responses received in connection with the Review.		
<b>Final Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To agree the terms of reference for the District wide community governance review due to be undertaken in 2013.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the terms of reference for the community governance review set out in Appendix 1 be approved as the basis for consultation on the local governance electoral arrangements.
- 2.2 That the residents of the Warwick Gates housing estate are consulted, to seek their views on the current electoral arrangements for their electoral area being currently divided between 3 Parishes; each with their own precept and approach.

## 3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The District Council has recently completed a review of its own electoral warding arrangements and wishes to conduct a community governance review to ensure that electors are able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident, ensuring as far as practicable that electoral area boundaries at all levels of local government are coterminous.
- 3.2 The first stage in undertaking the review is to agree the terms of reference and are attached at Appendix 1 for consideration. The terms of reference cover both those matters required by legislation but also issues such as the principle of co-terminosity of parish and District ward boundaries. The formal review process will start on 16 July 2013 and the terms of reference will be published. The terms of reference have been drafted in line with the relevant legislation.
- 3.3 At its last meeting when discussing the outcome of the District ward review, the Committee felt that the outcome regarding the Warwick Gates area was not satisfactory and asked that the Boundary Commission be asked to consider a partial review in a 4 to 5 years' time to help resolve this outstanding matter. The verbal response from the Commission to the Chief Executive of this Council was to suggest that such a review might be justified if it arose out of the planned community governance review. It is suggested therefore that within this District wide community governance review a specific household survey of residents in the Warwick Gates area is undertaken to try to understand if there is any desire for change and if so what sort of change.
- 3.4 Consequently recommendation 2.2 is to seek authority to consult with the residents of the Warwick Gates housing estate to take into account their views on the electoral arrangements for their electoral area currently being divided between 3 Parishes; each with their own precept and approach and whether they wish those arrangements to be reviewed and if so how? i.e. all to be within one of the existing Town Council/Parish Council areas, and if so which one; to have one of their own; or no change.
- 3.5 The current situation will otherwise continue under the new warding arrangements to fall between 3 Parishes, 3 District wards and 3 County electoral divisions and this does nothing to provide clarity of community identity or leadership; to improve community engagement or processes for Councillors and Parishes to actively and effectively promote well-being of residents or

contribute to the real provisions of delivering services economically or efficiently.

- 3.6 We are conscious that the District Local Plan proposals may change further the extent of this large coherent area.

#### 4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – The report does not have impact on the Council’s Policy Framework but is consistent with its priority regarding community involvement.
- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – The recommendation has no impact on the Council’s Fit for the Future programme but will contribute to the vision of making Warwick District a great place to live work and visit as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

#### 5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 On 19 June 2013 Executive agreed the earmarked reserve request of £18,500 remaining from the completed District electoral arrangements review to be transferred to the Community Governance Review.

#### 6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 There is no alternative as the Council has already agreed to undertake the community governance review following completion of the Boundary Commission review for District electoral arrangements, in order to bring in line Pariah and Town boundaries with new District ward boundaries.
- 6.2 However, the Committee could decide within certain parameters to change the terms of reference or decide not to proceed with the household survey of residents of the Warwick Gates area. Previous decisions and concerns expressed are reflected in the recommendations put forward and so alternatives may well run counter to those earlier decisions.