



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Council 14 October 2019

Community Governance Review of arrangements within Deene and Deenethorpe Parish - Terms of Reference

Purpose of report

To inform councillors of the proposed terms of reference and programme for a review of governance arrangements within Deene and Deenethorpe Parish.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft Terms of Reference for the review.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 22 July 2019 Council considered the receipt of a valid petition from registered electors in the Deene and Deenethorpe area of the District. It requested the overall number of councillors be increased from 6 to 7 councillors and that all 7 councillors represent the whole of the parish area. This request would require the existing wards of Deene and Deenethorpe to be removed, leaving a single parish area. The Council noted that a review of arrangements within the Deene and Deenethorpe Parish area would now take place and that the Terms of Reference, for this review, would be brought to this meeting.
- 1.2 The request petition was signed by 44.6% of the electors in the Deene and Deenethorpe area, the threshold being 37.5%. The proposed new single parish area would comprise 86 properties with a current electorate of 168.
- 1.3 The process for the creation, amendment or deletion of a parish is known as a Community Governance Review and is set out in Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This requires this council to publish terms of reference for the review, which cover:
- How the review will be conducted
 - Expected timescales
 - What the review will focus on
 - What the key considerations will be
 - Factual electoral and parish information
- 1.4 The council is required to complete the review within 12 months of receipt of the petition i.e. by 13 June 2020.

2.0 Next Steps

- 2.1 Terms of reference have now been drafted for Council's approval, attached to this report as Appendix A. The review will look at all options for future parish governance arrangements within the Deene and Deenethorpe area. These will include:
- Keeping the status quo and the current parish ward boundaries;
 - Merger of the existing wards into a single parish area;
 - Any other arrangements which come out of the consultation process.

2.2 The council is required to ensure that the community governance within the area under review will be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. In doing so, the review is required to take into account the impact of community governance on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of the area.

2.3 It should be noted that there are two stages for consultation with affected residents and other stakeholders. These will take place in accordance with the timetable below.

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>What happens</u>	<u>Timescale</u>
Stage 1	Mon 21 October – Sun 1 December 19	Terms of reference are published and initial submissions are invited	6 weeks
Stage 2	Mon 2 December – Sun 5 January 2020	Consideration of submissions received and draft recommendations prepared	5 weeks
Stage 3	Mon 6 January – Sun 16 February 2020	Draft recommendations are published and consulted upon	6 weeks
Stage 4	Mon 17 February – Sun 1 March 2020	Consideration of submissions received and final recommendations are submitted	2 weeks
	2 March 2020	Final recommendations are considered by East Northamptonshire Council for endorsement	
End of Review	9 March 2020	Final recommendations are published, concluding the review	
	7 May 2020	Any changes as part of the review come into force at the next parish and town council elections	

2.4 The council will comply with the statutory consultative requirements by:

- Consulting with local government electors for the Deene and Deenethorpe Parish area. It is proposed to include in any consultation Attainers (16 and 17 year olds) who are on the Electoral Roll;
- Consult with any other person or body which appears to have an interest in the review. This will include Deene and Deenethorpe Parish Council, neighbouring Parish Councils, ward councillors from the affected and neighbouring wards, and other elected representatives such as MPs, MEPs, County Councillor and Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Notifying and consulting the County Council and Corby Borough Council, which covers the relevant parliamentary constituency; and
- Taking into account any representations received in connection with the review.

3.0 Equality and Diversity issues

3.1 The process to be followed is laid down in legislation, supplemented by guidance. Every attempt will be made to engage all registered electors in the process through a Consultation Strategy to be developed by officers with final recommendations considered by full Council. An Equality Impact Assessment will be produced as part of the review.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 The process for the conduct of the Review is defined in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972, together with the related guidance. These are reflected in the Terms of Reference.

5.0 Privacy Impact Implications

5.1 There are no discernible privacy impact implications arising from this review.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 There are no known new risks arising from the information contained in this report.

7.0 Resource and Financial Implications

7.1 There will be resource implications in terms of staff time in undertaking this review but it is anticipated that any additional financial implications for consultation activity will be met from existing budgets.

8.0 Constitutional Implications

8.1 There are no proposed changes to the Constitution as a result of this report.

9.0 Implications for our Customers

9.1 There are no specific customer services implications arising from this report at this stage.

10.0 Corporate outcomes



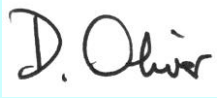
10.1 The work reported here contributes to the corporate outcome of Effective Community Leadership by responding to a request for consideration of a change to Parish arrangements in part of its district.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 The Council is asked to:-

- a) Approve the draft terms of reference (attached as Appendix A to this report) and commencement of a review of governance arrangements in accordance with the timetable at paragraph 2.3 of this report;
- b) Delegate authority to undertake the review to the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager, following consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the local member for King's Forest Ward at stages 2 and 4 of the review, prior to final consideration by this Council.

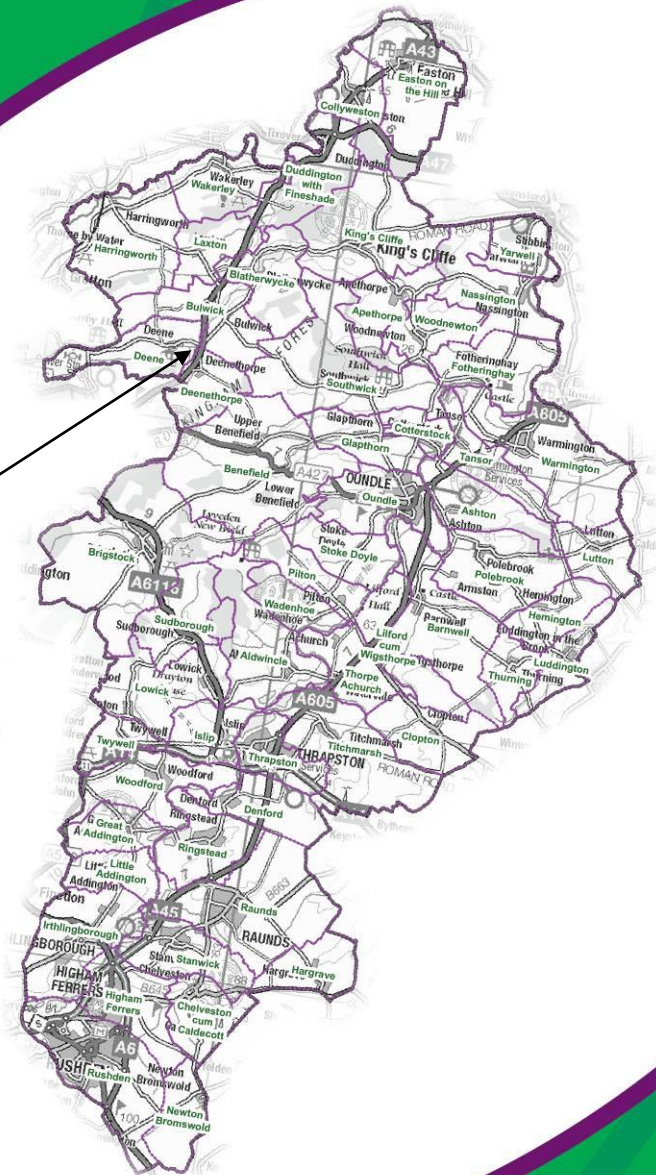
(Reason: To ensure Councillors are aware of this process and are kept informed in relation to the key stages of the requested review.)

Legal	Power: Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Local Government Act 1972				
	Other considerations: Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, March 2010				
Background Papers: Petition for Review; Report to Council – 22 July 2019					
Person Originating Report: Ben Smith, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager ☎ 01832 742113, ✉ bsmith@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 03/10/19					
CFO 3/10/19		MO 3/10/19		CX 3/10/19	



East Northamptonshire Council

Community governance review



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2019/20 Review of Community Governance Arrangements for Deene and Deenethorpe

REVIEW OF PARISHES AND RELATED MATTERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

Following receipt of a valid petition, East Northamptonshire Council resolved at its full council meeting held on 22 July 2019 to undertake a review of community governance arrangements for the Deene and Deenethorpe Parish Council area.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides for a principal council (such as East Northamptonshire Council) to conduct a community governance review (a review of parish arrangements) at any time and has a duty to carry out a community governance review if it receives a valid community governance petition for the whole or part of the council's area.

The Department for Communities and Local Government' Guidance on community governance reviews 2010 states that:-

“...it would be good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years – except in the case of areas with very low populations when less frequent reviews may be adequate.”

The last district wide review of parish arrangements was conducted relatively recently in 2013 and came into effect in 2014. The full Council agreed at its meeting of 22 July 2019 that there is not presently a need or demand to undertake a district-wide review, with no further requests having been received.

This Review will therefore focus on the Deene and Deenethorpe area only and take as its starting point a valid petition from registered electors in that area of the District requesting the overall number of councillors be increased from 6 to 7 councillors and that all 7 councillors represent the whole of the parish area. This request would require the existing wards of Deene and Deenthorpe to be removed, leaving a single parish area.

Receipt of a valid petition requires the Council to undertake a Review in accordance with Section 83(2) of the 2007 Act. In undertaking the Review, the 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, Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010, and the following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the Review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625); Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626). (The 2007 Act has transferred powers to the principal councils which previously, under the Local Government Act 1997, had been shared with the Electoral Commission's Boundary Committee for England.)

The Council is required to have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. This Guidance was published in March 2010. This has been carefully considered in drafting the Terms of Reference.

Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to publish its Terms of Reference in a Review. The publication of the Terms of Reference marks the start of the Review. These Terms of Reference are being published on the Council's website (www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk). For the purposes of public consultation, this link will be communicated to all electors and attainers within the Deene and Deenethorpe Parish area, and will be brought to the attention of any other interested parties. The government also expects the Terms of Reference to set out clearly the matters on which a Community Governance Review is to focus. This is done later in this document.

Why is the Council undertaking the Review?

The Council has received requests from electors within the Parish area of Deene and Deenethorpe to undertake a review of their electoral arrangements.

The request petition was signed by 44.6% of the electors in the Deene and Deenthorpe area, the threshold being 37.5%. It requests the overall number of councillors be increased from 6 to 7 councillors and that all 7 councillors represent the whole of the parish area, rather than across the current two wards. The proposed new single parish area would comprise 86 properties with a current electorate of 168.

The background for the request, as stated by the petitioners, can be summarised as;

- Over the next 5 years there is likely to be significant development in both of the current wards of the parish (at Tresham and Priors Hill). Removing the warding would enable a 'whole' council approach and reduce the risk of 'lop-sided' representation as these developments proceed at different paces;
- There have been difficulties in recent years of getting people to stand in a specific ward when vacancies arise.

What is a Community Governance Review?

It is a review of the whole or part of the district area to consider one or more of the following:

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

Parish governance in our area

The Council wants to ensure that parish governance in our district continues to be robust, representative and effectively representing communities as they develop. The potential activities of parish councils have been expanded through the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and the Council is looking to enable parish councils to meet the opportunities that will arise as a result. Furthermore, it wants to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of parishes are appropriate, equitable and understood by their electorate.

Who undertakes the Review?

An officer working group has been established, led by the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager, and will consult with the local ward member for King's Forest in considering representations received during the review period and recommend to Council the final recommendations.

CONSULTATION

How we propose to conduct consultations during the Review

This document lays out the aims of the review, the legislation that guides it and some of the policies that the Council considers important in the review.

In coming to its Recommendations in a Review, the Council will need to take account 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 by judging them against the criteria in the Local

Government and Public Health Act 2007.

The Council invites all households and interested parties in the Deene and Deenethorpe parish area, including the parish council, to make initial submissions regarding its boundary and electoral arrangements within the district. 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.

The Council will publish all decisions taken in the Review and the reasons for taking those decisions in the interests of transparency.

In accordance with the Act, representations received in connection with the Review will be taken into account and steps will be taken to notify consultees of the outcome of the Review (either individually or as part of a general communication of information). We will publish details of the Review at key stages on the Council's website, locally with the parish council, general press releases and via the Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Key documents will be on deposit at the Council's office in Thrapston. We will also notify Northamptonshire County Council and Corby Borough Council that the review is being undertaken.

The review timetable is shown below and indicates that the review starts with comments and proposals being invited from interested parties. These will be taken into account by the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager in formulating the draft recommendations. A further consultation will take place on the draft recommendations again inviting submissions and proposals. Any representations received will be considered by the Democratic and Electoral Services in formulating the final recommendations, which will then be considered by East Northamptonshire's full council.

How to contact us

You can contact us or give your views about the review in the following ways:

By email: bsmith@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

By telephone: 01832 742113

By post: Democratic Services - Review of Parish Arrangements
East Northamptonshire Council
Cedar Drive
Thrapston
Northants
NN14 4LZ

In person: By handing any correspondence into one of the Council's three offices:

Thrapston Customer Service Centre (see postal address)

Rushden Customer Service Centre
Newton Road
Rushden
Northants
NN10 0PT

Oundle Customer Service Centre
4 New Street
Oundle
Northants
PE8 4ED

The Review Timetable

Publication of this Terms of Reference formally begins the Review. The timetable for the Review is set out below:

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>What happens</u>	<u>Timescale</u>
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Please note that this is an estimated timeframe and whilst we will endeavour to keep to the dates, any changes will be published on the Council's website.

Any submissions received outside of the public consultation periods will not be taken into account. Please note that the consultation stages of this review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, the Council will make available for public inspection full copies of all representations it takes into account as part of this review at the Council's office in Thrapston and on the Council's website. Please note that we cannot accept anonymous comments and therefore you will need to provide a contact name and address on any comments you submit. However personal details will be redacted before any publication.

You should be aware that your comments will be made available for other people to see. Under the terms of the Access to Information Act 1985, comments/correspondence are not considered to be confidential and will be scanned and posted on our website.

The Council believes that inclusive consultation is important and will therefore use a wide range of methods to encourage comments from as many residents as possible and every effort will be made to ensure the involvement of people who may be under-represented in consultation exercises.

ELECTORATE FORECASTS

The electorate and electorate forecasts for the parish

The Council has used the Register of Electors as of October 2019 providing the existing parish/parish ward electorate figures.

When the Council comes to consider the electoral arrangements of the parishes in its area, it is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of the electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts. Electorate forecasts have been prepared using extant planning permissions and the Local Development Framework to project the five-year electorate forecast.

It is the government's guidance that these forecasts should be made available to all interested parties as early as possible in the review process so that they are available to all who may wish to make

representations. These are presented below.

Parish or Town Council (unless otherwise specified)	Housing Stock (base 2018)	Electorate January 2018 (actual)	Electorate per household (average)	Projected housing growth (next 5 years)	Projected electorate growth (next 5 years)	Electorate 2023 (estimated)	% increase in electorate
Deene	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Deenethorpe	**	**	**	**	**	**	**

THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE PARISH AND ITS ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Parish of Deene and Deenethorpe is served by a single Parish Council which is made up of Parish Councillors who are local residents.

Parish Councillors serve a four year term. People on the electoral role can be co-opted on to the Parish Council if there are insufficient candidates at an election for all the seats to be filled or if a vacancy occurs during a four-year term.

There are currently six members of the Parish Council and the next scheduled elections are in May 2020.

Further details of the Parish and its electoral arrangements can be found at:

<http://www.deeneanddeenethorpeparishcouncil.org.uk/>

PARISH AREAS

Introduction

The legislation requires that the Council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Is effective and convenient; and
- Takes into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area

Parishes

The Council considers that parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity.

Boundaries

The Council considers that the boundaries between parishes will normally reflect the area between communities represented by areas of low population or pronounced physical barriers. These barriers will either be natural or man-made; they might include natural features such as rivers and marshland, or man-made features such as parks or major roads– those barriers that oblige the residents of an affected area to have little in common with the remainder of the parish to which they may have been allotted.

The Council considers that ‘natural’ settlements or settlements as they are defined in the Local Development Framework should not in normal circumstances be partitioned by parish boundaries.

The Council will endeavour to select boundaries that are and are likely to remain easily identifiable.

Viability

The Council is anxious to ensure that parishes should be viable and should possess a precept (council tax base) that enables them to actively and effectively promote the wellbeing of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.

Some parishes are keen to participate in measures such as attaining Quality Parish status, or the development of neighbourhood plans. The Council sees these initiatives as important measures of effective, convenient and appropriate local government and will respect them in this Review.

The Council recognises that, in its rural area, a strong sense of community can prevail over an extensive but otherwise sparsely populated area. Parishes in these areas may have limited capacity to facilitate service provision and effective local government; even so, arrangements in these areas, when they accord with the wishes of the inhabitants of the parish, will at least represent convenient local government.

The Council is committed to ensuring that the Review leads to parishes that are based on areas which reflect community identity and interest and which are viable as an administrative unit.

NAMES AND STYLES

The naming of parishes

With regard to the names of parishes, the Council will endeavour to reflect local or historic place-names, and will give a strong presumption in favour of names proposed by local interested parties.

There are legal requirements, particularly with regard to subsequent notification, with regard to the naming of parishes, and the Council will be mindful of these.

Alternative styles

The 2007 Act has introduced 'alternative styles' for parishes. If adopted, the 'alternative style' would replace the style 'parish'. However, only one of three prescribed styles can be adopted: "community", "neighbourhood" or "village". The implications of a change of style can be illustrated: The Community of Greenfield; Whitewell Neighbourhood Council or The Village Councillors for the Village of Redstone. In addition, it should be noted that the style of "town" is still available to a parish. However, for as long as the parish has an 'alternative style', it will not also be able to have the status of a town and vice versa.

Where a new parish is being created, the Council will make recommendations as to the geographical name of the new parish and as to whether or not it should have one of the alternative styles.

Where an existing parish is under review, the Council will make recommendations as to whether the geographical name of the parish should be changed, but it will be for the parish council or parish meeting to resolve whether the parish should have one of the alternative styles.

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

What does '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;
- The name of any such ward

Ordinary year of election

The Local Government Act 1972 states that ordinary election of parish councillors shall take place in 1976, 1979 and every fourth year thereafter (i.e. 2015, 2019 and 2023 etc). However, the government has indicated that it would want the parish electoral cycle to coincide with the cycle for the district council, so that the costs of elections can be shared. Local Government reorganisation in Northamptonshire has meant the delay of town and parish councils until May 2020 and it is expected that a new pattern of 2025, 2029 and so on will be the norm thereafter. If the Review finds that it will be appropriate to hold an election for parish councillors, for example to a newly formed parish, at an earlier date than the next scheduled ordinary elections, the terms of office of any newly elected parish councillors will be so reduced as to enable the electoral cycle to revert to the normal cycle in the district at the next ordinary elections.

A council for a parish

The legislation lays down the different duties that the Council has with regard to the creation of a council for a parish:

- Where the number of electors is 1,000 or more – a parish council must be created;
- Where the number of electors is 151-999 – a parish council may be created, with a parish meeting being the alternative form of parish governance;
- Where the number of electors is 150 or fewer - a parish council is not created

What considerations cover the number of parish councillors?

The Council notes that the number of parish councillors for each parish council shall not be less than five. There is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocations of councillors. 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:

<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Councillor Allocation</i>
Less than 500	5 – 8
501 – 2,500	6 – 12
2,501 – 10,000	9 – 16
10,001 – 20,000	13 – 27
Greater than 20,000	13 – 31

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has suggested that the minimum number of councillors should be seven and the maximum 25.

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.

The government makes a point "that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors". In parishes where there has been a history of uncontested elections and/or the need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies, the Council will give careful consideration to whether the present levels of representation are appropriate.

By law, the Council must have regard to the following factors when considering the number of councillors to be elected for the parish:

- The number of local government electors for the parish;
- Any change in that number which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts

The Council may also consider any of the following factors:

- Ensuring that the allocation of councillors to parishes is broadly equitable across the district, whilst acknowledging that local circumstances may occasionally merit variation;
- The different demands and consequently different levels of representation are appropriate between the urban and the rural parishes in the district;
- Any discrepancies that may exist in levels of representation among the urban parishes, using a sliding scale as a guide to the allocation of councillors;
- Any discrepancies that may exist in levels of representation among the rural parishes, using a sliding scale as a guide to the allocation of councillors
- A high precept and high levels of service provision;
- Where representation may be required to meet the challenges of population sparsity;
- The traditional scale of representation in a particular parish;
- Supporting a warding arrangement in a particular parish and achieving a good parity of representation between wards

Parish warding

The Act requires that in considering whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections of the parish council, the Council should consider the following:

- Whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impractical or inconvenient;
- Whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council

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".

With regard to urban parishes, the government has suggested that "there is likely to be a stronger case for the warding of urban parishes...in urban areas, community identity tends to focus on a locality, whether this be a housing estate, a shopping centre or community facilities. Each locality is likely to have its own sense of identity". The Council will be mindful of this guidance and will endeavour to ensure that such urban wards focus on localities of distinct identity. Each case will be considered on its merits and on the basis of the information and evidence provided during the course of the review.

The Council believes that warding arrangements should be clearly and readily understood by and should have relevance for the electorate within a parish and that they should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish – one parish but comprising different parts. Furthermore, ward elections should have merit: not only should they meet the two tests laid down in the Act (outlined above) but they should also be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. They should not be wasteful of a parish's resources.

The number and boundaries of parish wards

In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards, the Council will take into account community identity and interests in an area and will consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. Equally, the Council, during its consultations and in this Review, is mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages.

The Council has noted the desirability of fixing boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which might be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries. The Council believes that ward boundaries should be clearly understood and that they

should represent the most appropriate parting of local attachments within a parish that comprises different parts.

The guidance has suggested that a relevant consideration for the Council when undertaking a review is that the district wards and county electoral divisions should not split an unwarded parish and that no parish ward should be split by such a boundary. The relevant legal provisions do not apply to reviews of parish electoral arrangements but the Local Government Boundary Commission has previously requested the Council to bear this in mind, which the Council will do.

In the naming of parish wards, the Council will be mindful of existing local or historic place names, and there will be a presumption in favour of ward names proposed by local interested parties.

The number of councillors to be elected for parish wards

The Council has noted that it is required to have regard to the following when considering the size and boundaries of the wards and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward:

- The number of local government electors for the parish
- Any change in the number, or distribution, of the local government electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts

The government has advised, and this Council concurs, that “it is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimated competing factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors”. While there is no provision in the legislation that each parish councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors, the Council considers that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.

The Council is likewise anxious to avoid the risk that, where one or more wards of a parish are over-represented by councillors, the residents of those wards (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council. During the Review process and in its consultations, the Council is committed to consistently showing the ratios of electors to councillors that would result from its proposals.

The foregoing considerations of being equitable will also guide the Council when it considers the number of councillors to be elected to a common council by each parish within a grouping arrangement.

Naming of parish wards

With regard to the naming of parish wards, the Council will endeavour to reflect existing local or historic place-names, and will give a strong presumption in favour of ward names proposed by local interested parties.

REORGANISATION OF COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ORDERS AND COMMENCEMENT

The Review will be completed when the Council adopts the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. 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, libraries, contact points and on the Council’s 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 for Communities and Local Government and at the Council’s offices at Thrapston, Rushden and Oundle. 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 Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The provisions of the Order would take effect, for financial and administrative purposes, from 1st April in the designated year.

The electoral arrangements for a new parish or existing parish council will come into force at the next elections to the parish council, namely May 2020.

CONSEQUENTIAL MATTERS

General principles

The Council notes that a Reorganisation Order may cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the Order. These may include

- The transfer and management or custody of property
- The setting of precepts for new parishes
- Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities
- Provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters

In these matters, the Council will be guided by the Regulations that have been issued following the 2007 Act.

In particular, the Council notes that the Regulations regarding the transfer of property, rights and liabilities require that any apportionments shall use the population of the area as estimated by the proper officer of the Council as an appropriate proportion.

Furthermore, the Council notes the Regulations regarding the establishment of a precept for a new parish and their requirements.

District ward boundaries

The Council is mindful that it may be necessary to recommend to the Local Government Boundary Commission to make alterations to the boundaries of district wards or county electoral divisions to reflect the changes made at a parish level. The Council notes that it will be for the Local Government Boundary Commission to decide if related alterations should be made and when they should be implemented, and that the Commission may find it appropriate to conduct an electoral review of affected areas.

The Council notes that the Local Government Boundary Commission will require evidence that the Council has consulted on any such recommendations for alterations to boundaries of district wards or county electoral divisions as part of the Review. Such recommendations for alterations may only become apparent during the course of the Review. The Council will endeavour to include any such draft recommendations for alterations at the earliest possible opportunity for consultation that will arise after they become apparent.

Where any such consequential matters may affect Northamptonshire County Council, the Council will also seek the views of that council with regard to alterations to electoral division boundaries in accordance with the government's guidance, and will also bear in mind the recent electoral review of the County Council.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE

** ***** 2019