



FULL COUNCIL

Wednesday, 25 May 2022

Subject	Community Governance Review – East Suffolk
Report by	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council
Supporting Officer	Stephen Baker Chief Executive Electoral Registration Officer Stephen.Baker@eastsoffolk.gov.uk 01394 444378 Karen Last Electoral Services Manager Karen.Last@eastsoffolk.gov.uk 01394 444324

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not Applicable
Wards Affected:	All Wards

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to ask Council to approve the draft recommendations to be put forward for consultation as part of the district-wide Community Governance Review (CGR)

At its meeting on 26 January 2022, Council approved the Terms of Reference for the CGR. Stage one of the CGR invited submissions to be put forward on future governance arrangements for towns and parishes in accordance with the terms of reference for the review.

The CGR Member Working Group met to consider the submissions received and to agree draft recommendations for consultation.

There will be a consultation period on the draft recommendations from 30 May to 8 July. Following the consultation period, there will be two months for the Member Working Group to consider the comments received, undertake any additional consultation if necessary, and to draft the final recommendations. The final recommendations will be considered by Council at its meeting in September 2022.

The draft recommendations can be found in Appendix A.

A full summary of responses can be found in Appendix B.

Options:

1. To conduct a consultation on the draft recommendations as agreed by the Member Working Group. This will enable any changes to be included in the revised register on 1 December 2022 and for amended governance arrangements to be in place for elections in May 2023, subject to Local Government Boundary Commission for England consent.
2. To amend the draft recommendations prior to consultation. Changes to the draft recommendations may impact on the timeline. A delay in the timeline could result in final recommendations being approved too late for re-publishing the register and for implementing changes for local elections in May 2023.

Recommendation/s:

1. Council agrees the draft recommendations, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be approved by Council for consultation.
2. Council agrees that the Community Governance Review Member Working Group be authorised to amend draft recommendations and re-consult where necessary.
3. Council agrees that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to request their support with any consequential changes to district warding arrangements ahead of the elections in May 2023.

Corporate Impact Assessment

Governance:

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 and Guidance on CGRs issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010.

The Draft recommendations will be considered by Council prior to a further consultation stage and the final recommendations will need to be approved by Council prior to the Re-Organisation order being made.

The Community Governance Review Member Working Group has agreed the draft recommendations to be taken to Council and will consider responses to the consultation prior to agreeing the final recommendations for Council to approve.

ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

None

Environmental:

None

Equalities and Diversity:

No impacts

Financial:

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities have responsibility for undertaking CGRs. The process is prescribed and involves officer time and other associated costs. These costs will be met from within existing budgets.

Human Resources:

None

ICT:

None

Legal:

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities have responsibility for undertaking CGRs.

Electoral arrangements put in place by the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) for England as part of the District and County review are protected for five years and will require the consent of the LGBCE before any Re-Organisation Order can be made.

Risk:

The Chief Executive will write to the LGBCE detailing proposed changes to protected arrangements, if any, to request consent. The LGBCE will consider the request and will seek to ensure that the proposals do not conflict with the original recommendations of their electoral reviews, and that they are fair and reasonable. If consent is not granted, those changes to electoral arrangements cannot be made.

External Consultees:	<p>As part of each stage of the CGR, proportionate consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders and those with an interest, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Electors / district residents • Suffolk County Council • Town and Parish Councils • Parish Meetings • District Councillors • County Councillors • Members of Parliament • Suffolk Association of Local Councils
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Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T05	Caring for our Environment		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XXX	Governance		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How does this proposal support the priorities selected?

Community Governance Reviews provide councils with an opportunity to review and make changes to community governance arrangements to ensure that town and parish councils provide for cohesive communities, improved community engagement, better local democracy and result in improved effective and convenient delivery of local services.

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts

1.1	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 transferred full responsibility for parish reviews, now called Community Governance Reviews, to principal councils in England.
1.2	East Suffolk Council has a duty to keep parish arrangements under review and it is considered good practice for a full CGR of parish arrangements to be undertaken every 10 to 15 years.

2 Current position

2.1	At its meeting on 26 January 2022, the Council agreed to commence a district-wide Community Governance Review.
2.2	Stage one of the CGR invited initial submissions to be put forward on future arrangements in accordance with the terms of reference for this review.
2.3	A Member Working Group was established to consider the submissions and to agree draft recommendations for Council to approve for consultation.

3 How to address current situation

3.1	Approving the draft recommendations for consultation will afford the Council an opportunity to review parish arrangements to ensure that parish and town councils and parish meetings provide for cohesive communities, improved community engagement, better local democracy and result in improved effective and convenient delivery of local services.	
3.2	The indicative timeline and key stages of the CGR are:	
	Stage	Action
	Commencement	Terms of Reference approved by Council.
	Stage One	Consultation with Stakeholders – initial submissions invited on future arrangements.
		Dates
		26 January 2022
		Feb-April 2022

	Stage Two	1. Consideration of submissions received. 2. Draft recommendations prepared.	April – May 2022
	Stage Three	Draft recommendations to be considered by Council and approved for further consultation.	25 May 2022
	Stage Four	1. Consultation with Stakeholders on draft recommendations. 2. Final recommendations prepared.	30 May – 8 July July – September
	Stage Five	Final recommendations to be considered by Council with resolution to make a Re-organisation Order.	28 September 2022
	Completion	Re-organisation Order made.	October 2022
3.3	It should be noted that any Order made following a CGR should, for administrative and financial reasons, take effect on 1 April following the date on which the Order is made. Electoral arrangements will come into force at the first scheduled elections following the date on which the Order is made.		

4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	The stage one consultation period invited submissions to be put forward on future local governance arrangements. The Member Working Group has considered those submissions and agreed draft recommendations which should now be put forward for consultation.
4.2	The CGR process, including consultation stages, is prescribed within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Appendices

Appendices:

Appendix A	Draft Recommendations
Appendix B	Full summary of responses to stage one consultation

Background reference papers:

Date	Type	Available From
31.03.2010	Guidance on Community Governance Reviews	Guidance on community governance reviews (publishing.service.gov.uk)