

Vale of White Horse District Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The Council has agreed to undertake a community governance review (CGR) pursuant to Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 of the whole of the district of Vale of White Horse. The 2007 Act vested powers with the Council to undertake such a review.

The Council will undertake the review in accordance with the guidance on community governance reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in April 2008 ("the Guidance").

Proposals for consideration

The Council proposes to consider the following parish matters:

Note: Additions and changes to the draft terms reference are shown in italics in this version only, which forms an appendix to the report to council on 23 October. When published there will be no italics. Similarly, the published terms of reference will not separately identify those proposals generated by the CGR working group.

Parish/Area	Matters to be considered
<i>All parishes with electorates of less than 200 that have parish councils</i>	<i>Whether the current governance arrangements remain appropriate</i> <i>CGR working group proposal</i>
<i>All parishes that straddle the London-Bristol railway line</i>	<i>Aligning parish council boundaries to the railway line, where a small part of the parish lies north or south of the railway line separated from the rest of the parish and with no or limited direct means of access</i> <i>CGR working group proposal</i>
Abingdon-on-Thames	<i>Reviewing the boundaries and names of parish wards</i>
Appleton with Eaton, Fyfield & Tubney	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land along Oaksmere currently in Fyfield and Tubney parish
<i>Besselsleigh, Cumnor and Wootton</i>	<i>Placing the whole of Henwood in a single parish, rather than splitting it between three parishes as currently</i> <i>CGR working group proposal</i>
<i>Chilton</i>	<i>Increasing the number of parish councillors</i>
<i>Besselsleigh,</i>	<i>Placing the whole of Cothill in a single parish, rather than splitting</i>

Marcham and St Helen Without	<i>it between three parishes as currently</i> <i>CGR working group proposal</i>
Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell	<i>Placing the whole of the Harwell, Oxford campus in a single parish, rather than splitting it between three as at present</i> <i>CGR working group proposal</i>
Cumnor	Revising the boundaries of parish wards and re-allocating the number of councillors per ward
Grove, East Challow	Creating a single ward parish <i>Amending the boundary of the parish to include Grove Technology Park, currently in East Challow parish</i>
Harwell	Creating a new parish of Harwell East comprising the land within Harwell parish that lies east of the A34
Harwell, Milton and Sutton Courtenay	<i>Placing the whole of the Milton Park trading estate in a single parish, rather than splitting it between three as at present</i> <i>CGR working group proposal</i>
Hinton Waldrist	Increasing the number of parish councillors to seven
Kennington, Radley	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land south of Sandford Lane, currently in Radley parish
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Fyfield & Tubney	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land south of the A420 comprising Kingston Bagpuize sports ground and Kingston Business Park currently in Fyfield and Tubney parish <i>Amending the boundary of the parish to include all land south of the A420 currently in Fyfield and Tubney parish</i> <i>CGR working group proposal</i>
Letcombe Regis	Increasing the number of parish councillors to eight
North Hinksey, Cumnor	Amending the boundary of the parish to include properties in Cumnor Rise Road, Hurst Rise Road and Hutchcomb Farm Close currently in Cumnor parish
Radley, Kennington	Amending the boundary of the parish to include Chandlings Manor school currently in Kennington parish
St Helen Without and Wootton	<i>Revising the boundary between the two parishes in the Dry Sandford area</i> <i>CGR working group proposal</i>
Wantage, Grove and	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land at Stockham

Lockinge	<p>Farm currently in Grove parish; and at Crab Hill, currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes</p> <p><i>CGR working group proposal in part</i></p> <p>Reviewing the number of councillors and warding arrangements</p>
Watchfield, Longcot	<p><i>Amending the boundary of the parish to include that part of the housing estate on Majors Road that currently lies in Longcot parish</i></p> <p><i>CGR working group proposal</i></p>

Assessment criteria

The factors that the council will take into account in making decisions are as follows:

- natural or man-made boundaries that help to define clearly one community from another
- housing developments that straddle parish boundaries, thereby resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours
- effective and convenient representation of local residents at parish level
- the LGBCE's proposals for the warding of Vale of White Horse for the purposes of district council elections
- the newly created county council electoral divisions
- views expressed in relation to any changes, particularly from those people directly affected
- the extent to which proposals reflect the identities and interests of the affected community

Why is the Council undertaking the review?

The Guidance states that it is good practice for principal councils (in this context that means this council) to undertake CGRs every 10-15 years. It is now more than 15 years since a district wide review took place. The LGBCE has also recently completed a review of district warding arrangements, which has resulted in widespread changes some of which cut across existing parish boundaries. For these reasons the council considers it timely to carry out a CGR now, in time for implementation of any changes at the next scheduled parish council elections in 2015.

Consultation

These are the final terms of reference for this review (subject to any additions made by the council's chief executive before the 30 November in accordance with the delegated authority given to him on the 23 October). As such, there is no further consultation on them.

The council has established a working group comprising six councillors to consider the parish matters identified in these terms of reference and make recommendations. Council will consider the working group's recommendations at its meeting in February 2013, when it will decide what changes it wishes to propose and will consult on these formally. This will

include those people living in properties directly affected by any changes to parish boundaries

In the period November to January the council will make these terms of reference available to interested parties and will invite comments on any of the parish matters contain therein. It will also carry out informal consultation as it sees fit on any specific proposals that the working group is minded to recommend to council.

Timetable

The 2007 Act requires that a principal council must complete a CGR within 12 months of the date of publication of terms of reference. The proposed timetable complies with the legal requirement.

Action	Completion Date
Council considers responses to consultation and agrees final terms of reference	24 October 2013
Terms of reference published and consultation commences	1 November 2013
Initial consultation closes	31 January 2014
Council agrees draft proposals for consultation	20 February 2014
Further consultation closes	4 April 2014
Council agrees changes	24 April 2014

How to make comments

Please submit any comments via email to cgr@southandvale.gov.uk. The council does not require a hard copy of any submission. For those without access to email please send any submission to:

CGR
Vale of White Horse District Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon OX14 3JE

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please contact:

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