

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 (LGBC) in April 2008 ("the Guidance").

Proposals for consideration

The council is considering the following parish matters:

	Parish	Matters to be considered
CGR1	Buscot, Coleshill, Kingston Lisle, Little Coxwell, West Challow	Whether the current governance arrangements remain appropriate.
CGR2	Twenty-one parishes straddling the London-Bristol railway line	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.
CGR3	Abingdon-on-Thames	Reviewing the boundaries and names of parish wards.
CGR4	Appleton with Eaton, Fyfield and Tubney, Besselsleigh, Marcham	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land along Oaksmere currently in Fyfield and Tubney parish.
CGR5	Wootton, Cumnor, Besselsleigh	Placing the whole of Henwood in a single parish, rather than splitting it between three parishes as currently.
CGR6	St Helen Without, Besselsleigh, Marcham	Placing the whole of Cothill in a single parish, rather than splitting it between three parishes as at present.

CGR7	Chilton	Increasing the number of parish councillors.
CGR8	Chilton, East Hendred, Harwell	Placing the whole of the Harwell, Oxford campus in a single parish rather than splitting it between three as at present.
CGR9	Cumnor	Revising the boundaries of parish wards and re-allocating the number of parish councillors per ward.
CGR10	Great Faringdon	Warding of the parish.
CGR11	Great Faringdon, Great Coxwell	Amending the boundary of Great Faringdon parish to incorporate any proposed housing developments that are directly adjacent to the current boundary.
CGR12	Grove	Creating a single ward parish.
CGR13	Grove, East Challow	Amending the boundary of Grove parish to include Grove Technology Park, currently in East Challow parish.
CGR14	Harwell, Sutton Courtenay	Creating a new parish of Harwell East comprising the land within Harwell parish that lies east of the A34.
CGR15	Harwell, Milton, Sutton Courtenay	Placing the whole of Milton Park trading estate in a single parish, rather than splitting it between three as at present.
CGR16	Hinton Waldrist	Increasing the number of parish councillors to seven.
CGR17	Kennington, Radley	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land south of Sandford Lane, currently in Radley parish.
CGR18	Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Fyfield and Tubney	Amending the boundary of the Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor parish to include land south of the A415 comprising Kingston Bagpuize sports ground and Kingston Business Park currently in Fyfield and Tubney parish; or amending the boundary of the parish to include all land south of the A415 currently in Fyfield and Tubney parish.

CGR19	Letcombe Regis	Increasing the number of parish councillors to eight.
CGR20	North Hinksey, Cumnor	Amending the boundary of North Hinksey parish to include properties in Cumnor Rise Road, Hurst Rise Road and Hutchcomb Farm Close, currently in Cumnor parish.
CGR21	Radley, Kennington, Sunningwell	Amending the boundary of the parish to include Chandlings Manor School, currently in Kennington parish.
CGR22	St Helen Without and Wootton	Amending the boundary between St Helen Without and Wootton parishes in the Dry Sandford area.
CGR23	Wantage	Reviewing the number of councillors and warding arrangements.
CGR24	Wantage, Grove and Lockinge	Amending the boundary of Wantage parish to include land at Stockham Farm, currently in Grove parish, and at Crab Hill, currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes.
CGR25	Watchfield, Longcot	Amending the boundary of Watchfield parish to include that part of the housing estate on Majors Road that currently lies in Longcot parish.

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 some years since a district wide review took place. The LGBC 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, as amended by council at its meeting on the 19 February 2014. There is no further consultation on them.

The council has established a working group comprising five councillors to consider the parish matters identified in these terms of reference and make recommendations. Council considered the working group's provisional recommendations at its meeting in February 2014, and decided what changes it wishes to propose. Formal consultation on these will commence in March and end on 31 May 2014. The council will consult directly those people living in properties that it is proposing moving from one parish to another.

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 below complies with the legal requirement.

Action	Completion Date
Council considers responses to consultation and agrees final terms of reference	23 October 2013
Terms of reference published and consultation commences	1 November 2013
Initial consultation closes	31 January 2014
Council agrees draft proposals for consultation	19 February 2014
Further consultation closes	31 May 2014
Council agrees changes	16 July 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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