

# Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee

Report of head of legal and democratic services

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To: Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee

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## Community Governance Review – final decisions

### Recommendations

1. to agree final decisions in relation to each item subject to a community governance review, which are set out in the schedules attached to this report
2. to authorise the head of legal and democratic services to make a reorganisation of community governance order to implement the changes agreed by the committee, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
3. to authorise the head of legal and democratic services to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to change district wards and county divisions to reflect the changes made to parish boundaries

### Purpose of report

1. To invite the committee to make final decisions in respect of a number of community governance reviews.

### Background

2. This report represents the final element of the community governance reviews that this committee commenced in 2016.
3. This committee agreed to undertake a number of community governance reviews at its meetings on 13 October 2015 and 17 October 2016. Terms of reference for these were published on 5 December 2016. The council undertook an online

consultation exercise on the issues between December 2016 and January 2017 the results of which were reported to this committee. The committee agreed draft proposals for consultation at its meeting on 14 August 2017. Properties affected by any of the proposals were consulted. Officers have considered the results of that consultation and formulated final recommendations for consideration by the committee. The committee must now make final decisions on these reviews.

## **Final recommendations**

4. The recommendation for each of the items under review are set out in the schedules attached – this also includes a map where relevant. Once the committee has made final decisions, work will commence to make the necessary order to bring the changes into effect in time for the 2019 parish council elections. This will include seeking the prior consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to make changes that impact on arrangements put in place by its review of the electoral arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council. On receipt of consent the council will make applications to the LGBCE to make related alteration orders to make district wards and county divisions coterminous with such changes. The committee is invited to authorise the head of legal and democratic services to undertake this work.

## **Financial Implications**

5. The cost of making legal orders and producing high quality maps to show new boundaries and adjusting council tax records will be met from existing budgets.

## **Legal Implications**

6. The community governance reviews have been undertaken in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the joint guidance on community governance reviews published by the Communities and Local Government Department and LGBCE.
7. The agreed changes will be implemented by the council making a reorganisation of community governance order. Where the changes impact on arrangements put in place by the LGBCE's reviews of the electoral arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council, LGBCE will need to grant consent before an order can be made.
8. Once the order has been made, officers will request the LGBCE to make a related alterations order to make district wards and county divisions coterminous with the revised parish boundaries.

## **Risks and Options**

9. There is a risk that someone could challenge the outcome of a particular review item through judicial review. Council officers have mitigated against this by ensuring that at all times the council has followed the requirements laid down in the 2007 Act and guidance.

## **Conclusion**

10. The council has completed a number of community governance reviews. The committee is invited to consider each of the schedules which set out the consultation responses and recommendations and make final decisions on these.

## **Background papers**

- Reports to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee at its meetings on 13 October 2015, 17 October 2016 and 14 August 2017