

<b>Committee:</b>	Governance, Audit and Performance Committee	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 9 October 2018
<b>Title:</b>	Community Governance Review 2018		
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## Summary

1. At its meeting on 26 July 2018, the Committee resolved to approve terms of reference and timetable of a limited community governance review. The reasons for undertaking the review are set out in the original report. The timetable provided for consideration of submissions received during the first consultation.
2. The Committee is now asked to approve publication of recommendations which take into account representations received, to enable any interested parties to make representations on such recommendations.

## Recommendations

3. In respect of the boundary review at the development known as Sector 4 at the Woodlands Park development at Great Dunmow which is located in the parish of Little Easton and shown in brown on the map at Appendix 3:
  - a. That the existing parish boundary between Little Easton parish and Great Dunmow North ward, which is shown in green on the map, be altered as indicated on the map by a broken line marked in red, so that the area shown marked in brown, comprising the development known as Sector 4, be transferred from the parish of Little Easton to Dunmow North ward;
  - b. That in order to give effect to the outcome of the Community Governance Review of the parish boundary, a polling district for local government elections be designated in respect of the area marked in brown, The Dourdan Pavillion be designated as a polling place for such polling district;
  - c. That recommendations be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission and Electoral Commission to make a consequential changes Order to give effect to alterations to align the boundary of the district ward and county division with the modified parish boundary.
  - d. In respect of the electoral arrangements which apply to the Great Dunmow North ward, to increase the number of the parish councillors by two.
  - e. In respect of the electoral arrangements which apply to the parish of Little Easton, to make no change in the number of the parish councillors.

4. In respect of the electoral arrangements review for the parish of Aythorpe Roding, to increase the number of parish councillors by one.

### **Financial Implications**

5. None

### **Background Papers**

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report: none.

### **Impact**

- 7.

Communication/Consultation	Consultation has been carried out in accordance with the terms of reference of the review.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	Thaxted and The Eastons, Great Dunmow, High Easter & The Rodings
Workforce/Workplace	None

### **Situation**

8. At its meeting on 26 July 2018, the Committee resolved to approve terms of reference and timetable of a limited community governance review. The reasons for undertaking the review are set out in the original report. The timetable provided for consideration of submissions received during the first consultation. The Committee is now asked to approve publication of recommendations which take into account representations received, to enable any interested parties to make representations on such recommendations.
9. For ease of reference, the previous report to the Committee is included as Appendix 1.

10. The first consultation was published in accordance with the agreed terms of reference and timetable, on 30 July 2018. The first consultation finished on 31 August 2018.
11. During the first consultation, representations were received from those parish councils whose parish boundaries and electoral arrangements are the focus of the review. Comments were also received from members of the Committee during the meeting at which the report was considered. All the representations affirmed support for the proposals. In response to the supply of a more detailed map of the proposed boundary change to the Parish Councils of Little Easton and Great Dunmow, support was expressed by both those Councils that the proposed boundary (Appendix 3) was acceptable.
12. The next stage is a second consultation to publicise recommendations which take into account any submissions received.
13. The District Council, as principal authority, has power to change parish boundaries and parish electoral arrangements by Order.
14. In respect of the increase in the number of parish councillors for the parish of Aythorpe Roding, it is considered an increase of one, rather than two, parish councillors, is appropriate, to enable the parish council to overcome the difficulties it has reported in arranging meetings which are quorate. If, however, electoral arrangements were changed to increase the size of the parish council by two parish councillors, there could be a risk of failing to elect or co-opt all places on the parish council.
15. In respect of the alteration to the parish boundary transferring Sector 4, consideration must be given as to whether any change would be required to the electoral arrangements for each of the parishes affected by the boundary change.
16. No change is recommended in respect of the representation for the parish of Little Easton.
17. As the parish of Great Dunmow is warded, it is necessary for the District Council, as principal council, to be mindful of whether the proposals could result in imbalance of representation between the North and South wards within Great Dunmow. Whilst there is no provision in legislation that each parish councillor should represent the same number of electors, guidance on the legislation indicates that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England believes 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 following paragraphs set out the existing levels of representation for the Great Dunmow North and South wards, and set out how such representation would be impacted by population growth. The transition of Sector 4 to the North ward is included in the forecast figures.

▪	Ratio of Parish Councillors to Electors		Difference North/South
	North Ward	South Ward	
Existing electorate and existing representation (i.e. 7 councillors for the North ward and 9 for the South ward)	1:505	1:454	51
Five-year forecast increase in electorate, with no change to representation	1:653	1:495	158
Five-year forecast increase in electorate, with increase in number of parish councillors in North ward to 8, no increase in number of parish councillors for South ward	1:571	1:495	76
Five-year forecast increase in electorate, with increase in number of parish councillors in North ward to 9, no increase in number of parish councillors for South ward	1:508	1:495	13

18. The existing representation in terms of parish councillors for the Great Dunmow North ward is seven members, and for the South ward it is nine members. It is considered that the current Great Dunmow electoral scheme should be altered to take account of the change in the electorate based on the five year forecast, as otherwise there would be an imbalance in representation levels between the two wards. An increase in the number of parish councillors in the North ward by two would correct the imbalance.
19. The Committee is therefore invited to approve the recommendations set out above for second stage consultation. That consultation will take place from 15 October to 26 October 2018. The Order to be made, incorporating such recommendations and taking into account any further representations received, will be a matter for the Committee's approval at its meeting on 15 November.

## Risk Analysis

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That identities and interests of the local community are not reflected, and that community governance is not effective or convenient	2	2	To conduct a limited community governance review in time to take effect for the ordinary local government elections in May 2019

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

## APPENDIX 1

### [Report to Governance, Audit and Performance Committee of 26 July 2018](#)

## APPENDIX 2

### Responses received to first consultation

<p>▪ <b>In respect of the boundary review at the development known as Sector 4 at the Woodlands Park development at Great Dunmow</b></p>	
<p>▪ <b>Representation</b></p>	<p>▪ <b>Consultee</b></p>
<p>▪ This revised map makes sense and I would be grateful if you would put the proposal through to the next stage of the consultation.</p> <p>▪</p>	<p>▪ Clerk to Great Dunmow Town Council, by email dated 13 August 2018</p>
<p>▪ No further comments since the agreement to move the parish boundary. To incorporate the roundabout within the Dunmow boundary.</p>	<p>▪ Clerk to Little Easton Parish Council, by emails dated 9 and 10 August and 19 September 2018</p>
<p>▪ Agreement to the proposals</p>	<p>▪ Councillor G Barker, verbal comment at the meeting of the Committee on 26 July 2018</p>
<p>▪</p>	<p>▪ Councillor Davey, verbal comment at the meeting of the Committee</p>
<p>▪ <b>In respect of the electoral arrangements review for the parish of Aythorpe Roding</b></p>	

▪ <b>Representation</b>	▪ <b>Consultee</b>
▪ Agreement to the proposals	▪ Councillor G Barker, verbal comment at the meeting of the Committee on 26 July 2018 on behalf of Councillor S Barker
▪ Acknowledgement of proposals	▪ Councillor S Barker, by email dated 26 July 2018

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