

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Referred from the Local Government Reform Advisory Committee	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All Kettering Town wards; Barton, Queen Eleanor and Buccleuch, Burton Latimer	6 th March 2019	
Title	COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – KETTERING TOWN		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Council approval to commence a Community Governance Review (CGR) in respect of the unparished area of Kettering Town and the adjacent parishes of Cranford, Barton Seagrave and Burton Latimer.

2. INFORMATION

2.1 The Local Government Reform Advisory Committee (LGRAC), at its meeting on 30th January considered a report on the desirability of reviewing the unparished area of Kettering, to see if there was an appetite to create a Town Council for Kettering, to come into being if and when Kettering Borough Council was abolished.

2.2 The Committee decided that:-

“A report be submitted to the February meeting of Council to formally ask for the approval of the commencement of a Community Governance Review to consider the possibility of parishing Kettering town and to fix its boundaries”.

2.3 This report sets out the rationale for that recommendation, proposes Terms of Reference for the review and an intended timetable.

3. RATIONALE

3.1 With the impending reform of local government in the county, previous debate at Council has touched on the possibility of creating a town council for the currently unparished area of Kettering, to give the town the same status as other parishes once the Borough Council has ceased to exist. Similar debate has taken place within both Corby and Wellingborough Councils in respect of their unparished areas.

3.2. The Local Government Reform Advisory Committee was advised of the process and timetable for conducting a CGR, which is the statutory process leading up to a decision about whether a town council should be created. They agreed that if a review was not started now, then it was unlikely that the matter would be resolved

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for some time after 2020.

- 3.3. A further consideration is that a CGR should not overlap with a boundary review conducted by the Boundary Commission into ward boundaries. A boundary review could take place in 2021/22 if requested by the new Council, so the window for a CGR in 2020/21 was very tight.
- 3.4 The last CGR was conducted in 2014. One of the matters it considered was the need to change the current boundary between Kettering unparished area and Cranford Parish Council, to recognise the impact the East Kettering urban extension would have on the identity of the latter parish. It was agreed in principle that the boundary would change to accommodate all of the urban extension within the unparished area, either from 2018 or from the point at which houses were being built within Cranford's current area. That development has just begun.
- 3.5 However, there are other parishes directly affected by East Kettering SUE, principally Barton Seagrave and to a lesser extent Burton Latimer. The attached plan (**Appendix 1**) shows the overlay of existing parish boundaries and the urban extension and the need to review these is therefore clear. Barton Seagrave Parish Council has also recently asked for a review of its boundaries with Burton Latimer and Kettering unparished area to be carried out at the next opportunity.
- 3.6 The intention of this review is to resolve the future status of Kettering town and to address its eastern boundary with adjacent parishes, and take the opportunity to be clear about the relationship of the urban extension to affected parishes. It is not intended to be a wider Borough wide review. This is because:-
- no other parish councils have requested any review
 - there is insufficient resource available to carry out a full review in the time available (see also; resource implications).

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TIMETABLE

- 4.1 The proposed terms of reference, reflecting the narrative above, including the procedure for a review and the proposed timetable is set out in **Appendix 2**.

5. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The review will be conducted during the period March-December 2019. It will be a challenging piece of work given the extensive preparatory work required to ensure that the transition to a unitary authority results in safe and legal service delivery on 1st April 2020. The staff engaged on this work will also be engaged on early preparation for the new authority, and for council and PCC elections in 2020. If there is national electoral event in 2019, then the review will, in practical terms, have to be re-scheduled.

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5.2. The costs of a review are largely officer time, and the costs of any material produced in order to carry out the consultation. Clearly, the more extensive the consultation, the greater those costs and officer time will be.

6. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is recommended to carry out a Community Governance Review in accordance with the attached terms of reference, with a view to it concluding by December 2019.

Background Papers:

Reports to Local Government Reform Advisory Committee
Terms of reference and reports to Corby and Wellingborough Councils in respect of their reviews.

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Local Government Reform Advisory Committee meeting 30th January 2019.

Date: 11th February 2019
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