

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	Local Government Reform Advisory Committee	Item 7	Page 1 of 3
Report Originator	Martin Hammond	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All Kettering wards, Burton Latimer ward, Barton ward and Queen Eleanor and Buccleuch ward	19 th June 2019	
Title	COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW TIMETABLE		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider and agree a timetable for the consultation on a Community Governance Review and the potential start date for any new Town Council for Kettering.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the last meeting, members considered and agreed the terms of the consultation on a community governance review, but noted that the announcement of the European Election had thrown the original timetable into question. It was agreed to bring a revised timetable back to this meeting.
- 2.2 A further complication has now arisen in that the commencement date for the new unitary authorities has been moved back a year until 2021.
- 2.3 The Committee is therefore now being asked whether it wishes the suggested changes proposed within the community governance review to come into effect in May 2020, as originally expected, or in May 2021. Clearly this decision can have an impact on the timetable for the CGR consultation process, although not an extensive one as the review must be concluded within twelve months, and it commenced in March 2019.
- 2.4 Two alternative timetables have therefore been drafted to assist the discussion as follows:

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	Local Government Reform Advisory Committee	Item 7	Page 2 of 3
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Stage	May 2020 start	May 2021 start
Consultation plan submitted to Council	24 th July 2019	24 th July 2019
Consultation period	29 th July to 15 th September 2019 (7 weeks)	1 st September to 31 st October 2019 (8 weeks)
Results of consultation reported to Council	25 th September 2019	11 th December 2019
Publish draft recommendations for further consultation	1 st October to 15 th November 2019	15 th December to 15 th February 2020
Final recommendation to full Council	11 th December 2019	28 th February 2020
Council fixes precept for town council	26 th February 2020	February 2021

- 2.5 The timetable for 2020 is tight and would be completely destroyed by any further national electoral event, in which case the review would have to be aborted and started again, as it could not be completed within the 12 month period. A 2021 start date would then have to be the default position.
- 2.6 At the time of writing, neither Corby nor Wellingborough Councils have formed a view about whether any new town councils created in their areas should start in 2020 or 2021.
- 2.7 Under the proposals for local government reform, town and parish council elections will take place in May 2020, with a five year term envisaged for those elected. Depending on the route chosen, elections for any new town council could take place either alongside these in May 2020, or a year later in May 2021, giving a shorter term of four years in the latter instance.
- 2.8 Any town council which commenced in May 2020 would not have the benefit of the Mayoralty gifted to it for its first year of existence. .
- 2.9 A draft consultation document will be shared at the meeting for members to comment on.

3. POLICY and RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Capacity to conduct a Community Governance Review remains vulnerable to national electoral events, as already proved this year.

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	Local Government Reform Advisory Committee	Item 7	Page 3 of 3
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4. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to form a view about its preferred start date for the conclusions of the Community Governance Review and select which timetable would therefore apply.

Background Papers:

None

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Local Govt Reform Advisory Cttee 30th January and 10th April 2019

Council April 2019.

Date: 6th June 2019
Contact Officers: Martin Hammond; Ian White .