

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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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	24 th July 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 – Timetable

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Borough Council held on 6th March 2019, it was unanimously resolved *‘that a Community Governance Review be carried out in accordance with the terms of reference attached to the report, with a view to it concluding by December 2019.’*
- 2.2. Since then, the Local Government Reform Advisory Committee (LGRAC) has been considering the consultation process and timetable for the Community Governance Review (CGR). This review concerns the potential creation of a Town Council for Kettering town, and ancillary boundary changes, civic and electoral arrangements.
- 2.2. The original timetable, to conclude the review by December, was adversely affected by the calling of European elections, so a revised timetable and a draft consultation document were submitted to the LGRAC at its meeting in June. Additionally, in May it was announced by the Secretary of State that the commencement date for the new unitary authorities has been moved back a year until 2021. This affects the process, in that the travelling assumption in the original review is that any changes arising out of the community governance review would be implemented in April 2020.
- 2.3 The LGRAC is recommending to Council that the conclusions of the current review should now be implemented in April/May 2021, rather than 2020, This has 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 had been drafted to assist the discussion at the LGRAC, as follows:

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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 process chosen by LGRAC is set out in the third column above. It is worth emphasising that even this timetable would be 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.
- 2.6 At the time of writing, neither Corby nor Wellingborough Councils have formed a final 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. A separate election would therefore need to take place in May 2021 for any new town council.

3. INFORMATION – Consultation

- 3.1 A draft consultation document is separately attached to this report. It sets out the questions to be posed to local stakeholders. Final changes to it will be made after this meeting.
- 3.2. The consultation document will be available on line and in hard copy. It is intended to make residents aware of the consultation through normal media and communication channels, but also to send out advertising flyers to:-
- all residents in Barton Seagrave and Cranford parishes who are likely to be affected by being moved from one parish area to another

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- all residents in Kettering town area who might be moved into Barton Seagrave parish

3.3 Hard copies and a link to the online version will be sent to:-

- all affected town and parish councils,
- members of the East Kettering Liaison Forum
- all relevant statutory agencies and neighbouring Councils, plus NCC
- Community and other groups such as
 - community associations, tenants and residents groups
 - Civic Society
 - Churches, Temple and Mosque
 - Business representative groups

3.4 Other hard copies and flyers will be distributed in libraries, KBC offices, and GP surgeries and any other suitable outlet. Anyone who prefers a hard copy to the online version will be provided with one on request.

4. **POLICY and RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

Council is recommended to agree the timetable set out in the report leading to implementation in May 2021, and to endorse the consultation process outlined in this report.

Background Papers:

None

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Local Govt Reform Advisory Cttee 30th January, 10th April and 19th June 2019

Council 6th March 2019.

Date: 24th June 2019
Contact Officers: Martin Hammond; Ian White