

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: KINGSBROOK, AYLESBURY
Councillor Mrs Macpherson
Leader of the Council and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider final recommendations for changes to the Bierton with Broughton Parish area.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the proposals for change as set out in Appendix 1 be approved for consideration by the Buckinghamshire Shadow Executive.
- 2.2 That subject to recommendation 2.1, the Buckinghamshire Shadow Authority Executive also be recommended to:
- (i) Authorise Officers to make a Reorganisation Order under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to implement the outcome of the review.
 - (ii) Authorise Officers to take any further action that may be necessary to complete the review and implement the new arrangements.

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 Community Governance Reviews (CGR) were introduced through the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and are the successor to Parish Reviews that were carried out in the past.
- 3.2 The final approval of any changes is ordinarily a matter for the relevant Council with electoral responsibilities rather than central government. However, the Government has amended legislation¹ to explicitly address situations where structural changes such as a community governance petition are received during a transition period to establish a new Council. This is the position locally and, as such, final approval of any structural changes rests with the Buckinghamshire Shadow Authority Executive.
- 3.3 The recommendations for changes from this CGR relate solely to Bierton-with-Broughton Parish area. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England still have the final say on consequential alterations that may be proposed to District wards or County divisions, although there are none stemming from this review.
- 3.4 On 2 July 2019, AVDC received a petition from Kingsbrook and Broughton electors requesting that a Community Governance Review be conducted with a view to establishing Kingsbrook as a new Civil Parish separate from Bierton with Broughton, with its own Parish Council, in time for the next Parish Council elections in 2020. The petition also suggested that Broughton Hamlet would become a Parish Meeting and that the remainder of the Bierton with Broughton Parish and Broughton Crossing be re-named as "Bierton Parish", comprising a Bierton Ward and the Oldhams Meadow Ward.

¹ Amendment to the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transition Arrangements) Regulation 2008.

- 3.5 The commencement of this review was approved by the General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 31 July 2019, with the terms of reference being to consider the following matters:-
- That Kingsbrook be established as a new Civil Parish separate from Bierton with Broughton, with its own Parish Council, in time for the May 2020 elections.
 - That “Bierton with Broughton Parish” be renamed “Bierton Parish” (consisting of two wards – Bierton and Oldhams Meadow).
 - That Broughton Hamlet become a “Parish Meeting”.
- 3.6 The draft recommendations for public consultation were approved for consultation at the Committee’s meeting on 30 September 2019. The Committee is now asked to approve the final recommendations for submission to the Buckinghamshire Shadow Authority Executive.
- 3.7 In this instance there are no matters which need to be referred to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- 3.8 The attached appendix details information in relation to the three areas mentioned at paragraph 3.5 including:-
- (i) Representations received in response to the initial consultation (held from 9 August 2019 to 6 September 2019).
 - (ii) Representations received on the draft recommendations (held from 11 October 2019 to 8 November 2019).
 - (iii) Final recommendations for consideration, including on the proposed number of Parish Councillors for the new Kingsbrook Parish Council and the Bierton Parish Council, along with reasons.
- 3.9 During the draft recommendations stage a consultation response was received from the Bierton with Broughton Parish Council with a map proposing a change to the original boundary map that had been submitted with the Community Governance Petition. This is discussed in more detail in Appendix 1 to the report with **Map A** being the original map submitted with the CG Petition and **Map B** being the map proposed by Bierton with Broughton Parish Council.
- 3.10 Following the Bierton with Broughton Parish Council response, a meeting was held on Monday 4 November, 2019, between AVDC Officers, Bierton Parish Council representatives and one of the CG petitioners to discuss the amended boundary map and some of the work that would need to be done over the coming months if a new Kingsbrook Parish Council was to be established, subject to approval in due course by the Buckinghamshire Shadow Authority Executive.
- 3.11 Following that meeting, a further communication was received from Bierton with Broughton Parish Council on Tuesday 5 November, 2019, which recognised that the main priority was to get approval of the new Kingsbrook Parish Council in advance of the 2020 elections. As such, and with a view to keeping the current consultation and process as simple as possible, the representatives from Bierton with Broughton Parish Council stated that they were content for the original map (**Map A**) submitted with the Community Governance Petition to go forward to CIG / GP Committee etc as the preferred option for the boundaries for the Bierton Parish Council, Kingsbrook

Parish Council and the Broughton Hamlet Parish Meeting. It was further acknowledged that the Parish's recent consultation response would not be put forward as the preferred option but would be duly noted.

4 Options considered

- 4.1 The timing of reviews is a matter for Councils and are usually conducted in the year preceding local elections so that any changes will be effective for those elections. However, in this instance, the Council responded to a Community Governance Petition which requested that a review be conducted with a view to establishing new arrangements in advance of the May 2020 local elections.

5 Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 The Council is bound to have regard to the need for community governance within the areas under review to:
- Reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
 - Is effective and convenient.

The reasons for each of the final recommendations is set out in the appendices.

6 Resource implications

- 6.1 There will not be any direct costs to existing Councils or the new Buckinghamshire Council in implementing the outcome of the review. Staff time will be taken up in preparing the reorganisation order and in helping to establish the new parish council for Kingsbrook.
- 6.2 AVDC's Electoral Services Manager will need to update the Electoral Register to take account of any new parishing arrangements and then re-publish them by 1 March 2020, in preparation for the local elections.

7 Response to Key Aims

- 7.1 The review will contribute to the objective of enabling communities to be vibrant, engaged and safe. Parish and Town Councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at the local level.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Craig Saunders (01296) 585043, Jo Hart (01296) 585051
CLG and AEA guidance on the conduct of reviews
Responses to initial consultation