

SWT Community Governance Review Working Group

01.07.21

Attendees: Cllr H Prior-Sankey (Chair), Cllr L Lisgo (Vice-Chair), Cllrs N Cavill, R Lees, L Whetlor.

Officers: A. Tregellas, M. Prouse

1. Apologies

No apologies were submitted.

2. Notes from the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 10th June 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. Draft Committee Report

The Specialist in Governance and Democracy shared the four resolutions that would be proposed to form part of the report, including a request for budget. The Governance Manager notified members that there would be a dedicated member of staff in finance to support the review.

4. Trull Boundary Issue

The Chair of the Working Group had specifically requested this item as a matter for discussion. The Specialist shared the maps which showcased the issues in relation to Vivary Ward being an incomplete unparished ward i.e. it had a tiny bit (Killams Green) which was part of Trull Parish Council. There was also an element of the forthcoming Killams Park development which would be a part of both areas.

- It was suggested that Trull Parish Council were contacted informally, perhaps through the auspices of SALC to have an initial conversation.
- It was unclear whether this issue could be looked at through this review as it may require a boundary review and be outside of the scope of the Council decision. Officers would seek further clarification and were having an informal chat with a consultant the next day.
- Officers noted there had been concerns discussed around widening the scope of the review to not just the unparished area but the adjoining parishes and potentially the electors within, whereas the Council resolution was felt to be more specific in terms of the CGR being a review of the Unparished Area of Taunton and looking at the future governance arrangements of that unit.

5. Draft revised CGR Terms of Reference

The Specialist in Democracy and Governance introduced the revised Terms of Reference. The document was broadly supported, but it was suggested that a revised set of documents was circulated after the meeting, to allow for comments to be made, taking on board the comments around the Boundary Review aspect and

the discussion with the Consultant. It was recognised that the amount of work required in doing a boundary review of the entire area, as opposed to undertaking a review on the governance arrangements for the currently unparished area would be of a greater amount within the timescales.

6. Draft Consultation Text and Questionnaire

The Specialist in Democracy and Governance introduced the proposed CGR Draft Consultation text and questionnaire. It was noted that some of the questions were more general in nature than tailored to the specific aspects related to this review. The Officer confirmed this was partly to ensure all aspects were covered at the first stage and would adjust as necessary and circulate at the end of the week for commentary before final publication.

- Comment was made that the text needed to emphasize that Taunton was the only such unparished area in Somerset and set the scene.
- Clarity was sought on whether there was a need to offer a posted element with the documentation and available on request.
- It would be helpful if the full range of costs of Town Councils from low, average and high could be provided in the document.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

The Specialist in Democracy and Governance introduced the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). Comment was made that reference should be made to offering a translation of any materials, considering the wider ethnic make-up of central Taunton.

8. AOB

N/A

9. Date of Next Meeting

This was proposed to be on the 23rd July at 10am. Councillor Cavill gave his apologies in advance due to a prior commitment.

POSTSCRIPT - email sent by Marcus Prouse on 02/07/21

Just a note to say I have had a conversation with the consultant we are in discussions with who has undertaken a review before and he was of the view that it was an entirely appropriate approach to concentrate on the unparished area and not doing that wider boundary review as yet.