

# **Addendum – Council – 29/09/2022 - Community governance review of the unparished area of Taunton and eight neighbouring parishes – report on second stage consultation and final recommendations**

## **Introduction**

This addendum report presents updated and additional information in relation to the matters set out in the above report to the Full Council meeting on 29 September 2022.

## **Map showing the proposed changes to parish boundaries**

A plan illustrating the proposed changes to parish and parish ward boundaries that would result from implementation of the final recommendations of the community governance review was circulated at Appendix B to the Council report.

An updated copy of this plan, showing each of the areas proposed for transfer from one parish (or the unparished area) to another more clearly and aligned with the text of the draft Reorganisation Order has now been prepared and is attached to this addendum report.

## **Revised recommendation 2.4 A (xi)**

In order to clarify and more fully describe the outcome of the Working Group's deliberations in relation to the boundary between the proposed new Taunton Parish and Bishop's Hull, Recommendation 2.4 A (xi) is amended to read as follows (additional wording in italics):

xi) With the exception of *the River Tone flood plain to the east of Silk Mills Road at Longrun Meadow, Galmington Trading Estate and a small section south of the A38 near Rumwell*, no part of Bishops Hull Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish.

## **Warding of the proposed Taunton Parish**

Section 9.19 of the report includes a table recommending the warding arrangements for the proposed new Taunton Parish/Town Council. Appendix D is a map illustrating those proposed warding arrangements.

Since the publication of the report the Working Group has given further consideration to the detail of the boundary between the proposed Lyngford and Obridge wards in order to achieve greater electoral equality. For clarity it is also proposed to describe the proposed area of two of the other wards slightly more fully.

Pursuant to this and the previous item, the entries in the table at section 9.19 for five proposed wards are amended as follows:

<b>Lyngford</b>	Part of existing Priorswood district ward as shown on the map at Appendix 'D'	2508	1
<b>Manor &amp; Tangier</b>	Existing Manor & Tangier district ward plus the area around Longrow Meadow, currently in Bishops Hull Parish, and minus the small triangular residential area at the cross-section with Wellington Road (to Bishops Hull Parish)	2,426	1
<b>Obridge</b>	Part of existing Priorswood district ward as shown on the map at Appendix 'D'	1377	1
<b>Pyrland</b>	Part of existing Priorswood district ward plus a small area currently within Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish as shown on the map at Appendix 'D'	2,698	1
<b>Wellsprings &amp; Rowbarton</b>	Existing Wellsprings & Rowbarton district ward plus a small area currently within Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish as shown on the map at Appendix 'D'	4,418	2

A revised map to replace that circulated as Appendix D is attached to this addendum report.

### **The transfer of assets etc to a new Taunton Parish/Town Council**

Recommendation 2.3 of the circulated report proposes that Somerset West and Taunton Council seek Somerset County Council Executive's agreement in principle to use a phased approach to transfer the assets and services starting with those identified in Appendix I, where reasonably practicable on 1 April 2023.

Somerset County Council's Executive gave initial consideration to this matter on 21 September 2022. The Executive resolved as follows:

- 1) Endorsed and recommended the report and recommendations 2.1- 2.10 in the report of Somerset West and Taunton Council Community Governance Review Working Group to the Extraordinary meeting of the County Council on 5 October 2022.
- 2) Agreed in principle, subject to the County Council making the Order, to use a phased approach to transfer the assets and services to the proposed new Taunton parish/town council starting with those identified in Appendix I, where reasonably practicable on 1 April 2023 and that officers from the County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council work collaboratively ahead of vesting day to finalise the proposed assets and

services to transfer for consideration and approval by the Executive.

## **Draft Reorganisation Order**

The report circulated with the Council agenda includes, at Appendix A, a draft Reorganisation Order which the meeting is asked to recommend Somerset County Council to make to give effect to the final recommendations of the community governance review.

Pursuant to the above changes and updates, the text of the draft Reorganisation Order has been amended and additional information included. The revised version is attached. A number of matters of detail remain to be added and recommendation 2.5 in the report is therefore amended as follows:

- 2.5 That accordingly Somerset County Council be recommended to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order to give effect to the above recommendations based on the draft Order attached at Appendix 'A' and that the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officers be authorised to finalise the text of the draft Order to be submitted to Somerset County Council.

## **Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council**

The Council has been notified of a possible legal challenge to the recommendations of the community governance review by Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council. Any further information received prior to the Council meeting will be notified to members at the meeting. In the meantime the following document is attached to this addendum report for Members' information:

- A chronology describing the powers and duties attaching to a principal council in conducting a community governance review and how these have been discharged in relation to the current review, both generally and in relation to any considerations and recommendations in respect of Cheddon Fitzpaine.

It is understood that one concern of Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council may relate to the continuing viability of that Parish Council on its reduced boundaries in the event that the final recommendations of the review are agreed. This is a matter that was considered by the Community Governance Review Working Group when formulating its recommendations. The Working Group considered carefully the implications of its proposal to amend the boundaries of Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish and was of the view that the Parish Council would continue to be viable following the change. The Working Group noted that the changes would result in Cheddon Fitzpaine being restored to the status of a rural parish as it had been prior to the development of the Maidenbrook area and its projected electorate would be more than twice the minimum figure of 150 set out in section 94(3) of the 2007 Act for a parish council to be created in a new parish.

## **Implementation phase**

Section 13 and recommendation 2.6 of the report circulated with the Council agenda provide initial information regarding the steps necessary to create a new parish/town council for Taunton should the recommendations of the community governance review be agreed, and

propose the establishment of a Shadow Town Council to lead and oversee the work to establish the new council from 1 April 2023.

A more detailed paper has now been prepared describing the work programme and decision-making arrangements that would apply between the making of any Reorganisation Order and the vesting day of the proposed new council and this is attached to this addendum report.