

South Oxfordshire District Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The Council has agreed to undertake a community governance review (CGR) pursuant to Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 of the whole of the district of South Oxfordshire. The 2007 Act vested powers with the Council to undertake such a review.

The Council will undertake the review in accordance with the guidance on community governance reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in April 2008 (“the Guidance”).

Proposals for consideration

The council proposes to consider the following parish matters:

Parish	Matters to be considered
All parishes with electorates of less than 200 that have parish councils	Whether the current governance arrangements remain appropriate
Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe	Creating a single parish council to cover both parishes
Benson, (Ewelme)	Amending the boundary of Benson parish so that the whole of RAF Benson lies within the parish
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell (Wallingford)	Moving land east of the Wallingford by-pass (but not bounded by the by-pass) into Wallingford parish Amending the boundary of the parish to incorporate land north-east of Wantage Road, currently in Wallingford parish Amending the boundary of the parish to incorporate land either side of Hithercroft Road, west of Wallingford by-pass, currently in Wallingford parish
Clifton Hampden,	Amending the boundaries of Clifton Hampden and

Culham	Culham parishes to enable Culham Science Centre to sit wholly within one or other parish
Crowmarsh Gifford, (Wallingford)	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land east of the River Thames in the vicinity of Wallingford Bridge, currently in Wallingford parish CGR working group proposal
Didcot, (East Hagbourne, Long Wittenham, West Hagbourne)	Amending the boundary of the parish to incorporate that part of the Millbrook estate that is currently in East Hagbourne parish and parcels of land allocated for housing in Long Wittenham and West Hagbourne parishes
East Hagbourne	Creating a single ward parish
Goring	Reducing the number of parish councillors to 10 and renaming the parish Goring-on-Thames
Great Milton, Waterstock	Creating a more logical boundary between Great Milton and Waterstock parishes in the vicinity of Oxford Services on the M40
Harpsden, (Henley-on-Thames)	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land south of Rotherfield Road, currently in Henley-on-Thames parish
Henley-on-Thames, (Harpsden)	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land north of Gillott's Lane and land south of Greys Road, both areas currently in Harpsden parish
North Moreton, (South Moreton)	Amending the boundary of the parish to include properties along Dunsomer Hill, currently in South Moreton parish
Rotherfield Peppard, (Sonning Common)	Amending the boundary of the parish to include a triangle of land bounded by Peppard Road, Widmore Lane and Blounts Court Road, currently in Sonning Common parish
Shiplake, (Harpsden)	Amending the boundary of the parish to include land south of Bolney Lane and land north of Woodland Road, both areas currently in Harpsden parish
Sonning Common, (Eye and Dunsden, Kidmore End,	Amending the boundary of the parish to include Chiltern Edge school, currently in Kidmore End parish

Rotherfield Peppard)	<p>Reviewing the boundary with Rotherfield Peppard parish along Shiplake Bottom and Blounts Court Road</p> <p>Reviewing the boundary with Kidmore End and Eye and Dunsden parishes at the junction of Kennylands Road and Peppard Road.</p> <p>Revising upwards the number of parish councillors</p>
South Moreton (Aston Tirrold)	Amending the boundary of South Moreton parish to include properties in Moreton Road, currently in Aston Tirrold parish
Tiddington with Albury, (Waterstock)	Amending the boundary of Tiddington with Albury parish in the vicinity of Oxford Road to create a more logical boundary with Waterstock parish
Wallingford, (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Cholsey)	<p>Amending the boundary of the parish to include land bounded by the Wallingford by-pass, currently in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and Cholsey parishes</p> <p>Moving land west of the by-pass along Hithercroft into either Brightwell-cum-Sotwell or Cholsey parish</p>
West Hagbourne, (Didcot)	Moving land forming part of the Great Western Park development (but not including the buffer zone) into Didcot parish
Wheatley, (Holton)	Amending the northern boundary of the parish to align with the A40, incorporating land currently in Holton parish
Woodcote, (Goring Heath)	Amending the southern boundary of the parish to include land south of Shirvells Hill, currently in Goring Heath parish

Assessment criteria

The factors that the council will take into account in making decisions are as follows:

- natural or man-made boundaries that help to define clearly one community from another
- housing developments that straddle parish boundaries, thereby resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours

- effective and convenient representation of local residents at parish level
- the LGBCE's proposals for the warding of South Oxfordshire for the purposes of district council elections
- the newly created county council electoral divisions
- views expressed in relation to any changes, particularly from those people directly affected
- the extent to which proposals reflect the identities and interests of the affected community

Why is the Council undertaking the review?

The Guidance states that it is good practice for principal councils (in this context that means this council) to undertake CGRs every 10-15 years. It is now more than 15 years since a district wide review took place. The LGBCE has also recently completed a review of district warding arrangements, which has resulted in widespread changes some of which cut across existing parish boundaries. For these reasons the council considers it timely to carry out a CGR now, in time for implementation of any changes at the next scheduled parish council elections in 2015.

Consultation

These are the final terms of reference for this review (subject to any additions made by the council's chief executive before the 30 November in accordance with the delegated authority given to him on the 24 October). As such, there is no further consultation on them.

The council has established a working group comprising six councillors to consider the parish matters identified in these terms of reference and make recommendations. Council will consider the working group's recommendations at its meeting in February 2013, when it will decide what changes it wishes to propose and will consult on these formally. This will include those people living in properties directly affected by any changes to parish boundaries

In the period November to January the council will make these terms of reference available to interested parties and will invite comments on any of the parish matters contain therein. It will also carry out informal consultation as it sees fit on any specific proposals that the working group is minded to recommend to council.

Timetable

The 2007 Act requires that a principal council must complete a CGR within 12 months of the date of publication of terms of reference. The proposed timetable below complies with the legal requirement.

Action	Completion Date
Council considers responses to consultation and agrees final terms of reference	24 October 2013
Terms of reference published and consultation commences	1 November 2013
Initial consultation closes	31 January 2014
Council agrees draft proposals for consultation	20 February 2014
Further consultation closes	4 April 2014
Council agrees changes	24 April 2014

How to make comments

Please submit any comments via email to cgr@southandvale.gov.uk. The council does not require a hard copy of any submission. For those without access to email please send any submission to:

CGR
South Oxfordshire District Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon OX14 3JE

Should you require any further information, or need clarification on the review process, please contact:

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