

Community Governance Review: References from Corporate Governance Review Working Group

Cabinet

Date: 20th March 2013

Author: Leader of the Council and Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To consider recommendations arising from a meeting of the Corporate Governance Review Working Group held on 7th March 2013, and to agree the draft proposals resulting from the Community Governance Review of Swindon for submission to Council.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the Report on the Community Governance Review of Swindon submitted to the Corporate Governance Review Working Group on 7th March 2013, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Endorse the recommendations of the Corporate Governance Review Working Group on 7th March 2013, as set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 Approve the draft proposals in relation to the Community Governance Review of Swindon, as set out in Appendix 3, subject to any changes made at the Cabinet meeting.
- 2.4 Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to prepare the draft Scheme and consequential draft Parish Changes Order resulting from the Community Governance Review of Swindon, for submission to Council on 11th April 2013.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Corporate Governance Review Working Group at a meeting on 7th March 2013 received submissions made following a final consultation period that invited interested parties to make further representations expressing views on the draft proposals. Six submissions were received and noted by the Working Group at its meeting on 7th March 2013.
- 3.2 At a meeting on 7th March 2013 the Working Group considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services that presented an analysis of each of

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the final submissions for consultation as the concluding stage of the Community Governance Review process. This report is attached as Appendix 1.

- 3.3 The Working Group at its meeting on 7th March 2013 made a number of recommendations to the Cabinet on the final proposals of the Community Governance process. These recommendations are set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 The draft Proposals resulting from the Working Group's deliberations are attached at Appendix 3. Once those Proposals have been agreed by Cabinet, a draft Scheme and draft Parish Changes Order will be prepared for submission to Council on 11th April.
- 3.5 Members should contact Electoral Services if they wish to look at more detailed ward maps in order to clarify any of the submissions and recommendations of the Working Group.
- 3.6 Whilst the majority of submissions were straight forward there have been some conflicting submissions received at both draft and final stages of the review. In formulating its recommendations, the Working Group has complied with the statutory requirement to have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient, and has taken fully into account all the representations received.
- 3.7 Accordingly, the Cabinet is requested to consider the recommendations proposed by the Working Group and to authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services to prepare the draft Scheme and consequential draft Parish Changes Order resulting from the Community Governance Review of Swindon, for submission to Council on 11th April 2013.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed. The Cabinet and Council could determine to adopt other options based on the submissions it has received.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The cost of the Community Governance Review is met from within existing Electoral Services' budgets. There are no other financial implications at this stage of the process.

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Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights implications have been taken fully into account in the preparation of this report. It is considered that the recommendations of the report are compatible with Convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications associated with this report.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 There are no specific links.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has not been undertaken at this stage.

Risk Management

- 5.6 There are none linked to this report although failure to comply with the statutory procedures would be a legal and reputational risk to the Council.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Available on the Council's Website
8.2 Appendix 2 - Available on the Council's Website
8.3 Appendix 3 – Draft Proposals.

9. Key Decision/Decision in Forward Plan

- 9.1 This is not a Key Decision, as the Council will make the final decision on the Community Governance Review. The item is included within the Cabinet Work Programme / Forward Plan for March 2013..