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KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 112

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| Committee:- | Council |
| Date:- | 24 th April 2024 |
| Author:- | Martin Hammond, Town Clerk |
| Report Title:- | Community Governance Review, Town and Parish Councils |
| Wards Affected:- | All |

1. Purpose of Report

To consider a consultation by North Northamptonshire Council .

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to determine if it feels a community governance review would be helpful.

3. Information

- 3.1 The process for fixing town and parish council boundaries and ward boundaries within them is covered by a statutory process called a community governance review, which is undertaken by each principal council (NNC).
- 3.2. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England conducted a ward boundary review for North Northamptonshire Council. The changes to electoral arrangements arising from this review will come into effect for the scheduled local government elections in May 2025. The LGBCE's final recommendations which were taken forward into the [North Northamptonshire \(Electoral Changes\) Order 2024](#) also impacts some Parish and Town Council ward boundaries. The impacts

on Kettering Town Council wards were outlined in a report to Council in July 2023, and are summarised in Appendix A below.

- 3.3. In light of the potential impact on local Parish and Town Council electoral arrangements, North Northamptonshire Council is considering preparations to undertake a Community Governance Review. They are seeking to understand the level of interest from Parish and Town Councils in undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements in each area. Initially they would like to hear views on whether each Town and Parish Council would like to form part of the Community Governance Review. Their deadline for a response is 15th May 2024.
- 3.4. The relevant factors in submitting views are
- Should any parish councils be merged with another parish council or parish meeting?
 - Are any changes required to the existing boundaries of a parish to better reflect local communities? (this may be particularly relevant in areas where there has been housing development for instance.)
 - Are there any parish councils that should be renamed to better reflect the communities they represent?
 - Does the number of councillors on the Parish or Town Council still meet the administrative or business needs of the council?

What would not be within the scope of this review:

- The ward boundaries of North Northamptonshire Council
- Parliamentary boundaries
- The conduct or membership of individual parish councils or meetings.

[National Guidance on the Community Governance Review process can be found here](#)

- 3.5. Relevant factors for this Council might include
- Are the Town Council's boundaries now right ?
 - should the boundary with Barton Seagrave be adjusted, particularly around Constable Drive?
 - should the north Kettering business park be within Kettering Town area given it serves the urban area of Kettering?
 - Are the ward boundaries that the LGBC proposed for Kettering correct? They are shown in the appendix and the map attached to it.
 - The Hanwood Park ward was created to reflect that part of Kettering Town's area which will be represented by Councillors also representing Barton and Burton Latimer and



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- There was a view that the Kettering Central ward remained very large and could be split - at town council level – into some of its component parts
- Is 20 the right number of members for the Town Council?

4. Consultation and Engagement

We are the consultee.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1. A review would need to be conducted fairly briskly if it was to produce changes ahead of the 2025 local government elections and there would need to be some detailed work done by members and officers of the Town Council to inform a review.
- 5.2. The cost of the Town Council elections in 2025 is likely to be about £75,000, for which provision will have been made by then. The size of the Council or the configuration of wards is unlikely to make much difference to the cost, although expanded or reduced boundaries would have a marginal impact.

6. Climate change implications

None directly

7. Policy Implications

The Council's representative role, to represent the town to other agencies and as a civic leader, requires there to be a coherent and understandable geography which people recognise as "Kettering". It is not unreasonable to suggest that where the urban area spills over our boundary, then it is worth examining if it is in the right place. Similarly, the arrangement of wards needs to be understandable as well as equitable and reflect genuine communities.

Background Papers

Report to Council July 2023
LGBC report for North Northamptonshire
Email from NNC of 11th April 2024

APPENDIX A

Extract from Boundary Commission Report on Town Council wards

Parish electoral arrangements

97 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

98 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, North Northamptonshire Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

99 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Barton Seagrave, Corby, Kettering, Rushden and Wellingborough parishes.

We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kettering parish.

Draft recommendations Kettering Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

| New Parish ward | No of parish councillors | Described on map below as | Old wards |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Avondale Grange | 2 | G | Largely the same |
| Hanwood Park | 1 | H | South eastern part of Ise |
| Ise | 3 | I | As now minus ward above |
| Kettering Central | 4 | J | Wm Knibb, Northfield and southern part of All Saints |
| Kettering North | 3 | K | Brambleside and northern part of All Saints |
| Pipers Hill | 2 | L | Largely as now |
| St Michaels | 2 | M | Northern part of St Michaels/Wicksteed ward |
| St Peters | 2 | N | As now |
| Wicksteed | 1 | O | Southern part of St Michaels/Wicksteed ward |
| | | | |

Plan showing the new NNC and town council ward boundaries is [here](#)