

# Full Council

## 14 December 2021

### Community Governance Review – revised timetable

#### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** J Mair, Corporate Director, Legal & Democratic

**Report Author:** Jacqui Andrews

**Title:** Service Manager, Democratic and Electoral Services

**Tel:** 01258 484325

**Email:** jacqui.andrews@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

**Report Status:** Public

#### Recommendation:

To agree an amendment to the Community Governance Review timetable as follows:

- Draft recommendations to Full Council – 15 February 2022
- Public consultation on draft recommendations – 28 February 2022 to 23 May 2022 (12 weeks)
- Final recommendations to Full Council - 14 July 2022

#### Reason for Recommendation:

To enable sufficient time to be able to consider the detailed responses that have been received to the public consultation seeking initial submissions for changes to community governance arrangements for town and parish councils, and for appropriate analysis to be carried out against the statutory criteria, ensuring that community governance arrangements within the Dorset Council area are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area, and achieve electoral equality.

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 On 15 July 2021, Full Council approved terms of reference for a Council-wide community governance review, looking at the existing governance

arrangements for town and parish councils in the Dorset Council area, and inviting representations from local councils, residents and any interested parties in respect of current and future arrangements.

- 1.2 Initial submissions were invited between 5 August 2021 and 28 October 2021. A Working Group made up of the Group Leaders and the Deputy Group Leaders are now working to prepare draft recommendations for consideration by Full Council.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 There are no financial implications to Dorset Council associated with this report.

## **3. Well-being and Health Implications**

- 3.1 There are no well-being and health implications associated with this report.

## **4. Climate implications**

- 4.1 There are no climate implications associated with this report.

## **5. Other Implications**

- 5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

## **6. Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:  
Current Risk: Low  
Residual Risk: Low

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 A detailed Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared in respect of the Community Governance Review and can be found at Appendix 2 to the report to Full Council on 15 July 2021 [here](#).

## **8. Background papers**

- 8.1 [Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#)  
[Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#)

## **9. The Review**

- 9.1 The review commenced on 22 July 2021 when Dorset Council published terms of reference together with a timetable for the review.
- 9.2 Although the review formally commenced on 22 July 2021, town and parish councils were all notified in February 2021 of the intention to carry out the review, starting in July, as it was recognised that many of the towns and parishes would appreciate as much notice as possible so that they could consult with local residents on any proposals that they wished to submit.
- 9.3 In excess of 500 responses have been received during the consultation period, and whilst officers commenced analysis work on submissions when the public consultation opened on 5 August 2021, over half of the responses were received in the last few days of the consultation.
- 9.4 It is important that all responses are considered carefully and some of the submissions are complex and will require a great deal of work to ensure they meet the statutory requirements for reviews, the Guidance issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, and also achieve electoral equality.

## **10. Timetable**

- 10.1 It was originally intended to bring draft recommendations to Full Council in December 2021. However, to enable full and detailed analysis of the responses received it is intended to bring draft recommendations to Full Council in February 2022.
- 10.2 Draft recommendations will then be subject to a further period of public consultation between 28 February 2022 and 23 May 2022 (12 weeks).
- 10.3 A further report of final recommendations will then be brought to Full Council on 14 July 2022, having taken into account responses received to the draft recommendations.
- 10.4 Any changes to governance arrangements agreed by Full Council in July 2022 will not take effect until the next scheduled elections in May 2024 so no parishes will be disadvantaged by the 3 month change in the timetable, but this will enable considered draft recommendations to be prepared.

### **Footnote:**

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.