

COUNCIL - 26 FEBRUARY 2019

PART I - DELEGATED

4. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – ABBOTS LANGLEY

1 Summary

- 1.1 The Council commenced a Community Governance Review for Abbots Langley Parish in response to a request from the Regulatory Services Committee to address electoral inequalities following boundary changes which are due to come into effect in May by The Hertfordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2015 (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The Council has followed the process for carrying out the Review as set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Guidance produced by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
- 1.3 A public notice of the Review was published on 15 January 2019 (Appendix 2) with the consultation process commencing.
- 1.4 Council is asked to make a final decision on the Community Governance arrangements for the Abbots Langley parish by making minor amendments to the parish wards of Abbots Langley West, Hunton Park and Hunton Bridge & Langleybury in order to provide for good electoral equality in the Abbots Langley Parish (Appendix 3 & Appendix 4).
- 1.5 The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:
 - a) Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
 - b) Is effective and convenient

2 Details

- 2.1 Following an electoral review of Three Rivers' county divisions by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), a number of changes were introduced in May 2016. This had a knock on effect to some of the District's parish boundaries including Abbots Langley.
- 2.2 The effect of the LGBCE Order would be to create unacceptable levels of electoral inequality as detailed in the Terms of Reference (Appendix 5).
- 2.3 The review has been widely publicised with information on each stage published on the Council's website and with key documents available at Three Rivers House. <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/consultations>
- 2.4 The consultation process ended on 31 January 2019. Representations were received from: Abbots Langley Parish Council, Councillor Stephen Cox (Leader, Three Rivers Labour Group), and Councillor Matthew Bedford (Abbots Langley & Bedmond Ward Councillor) (Appendix 4).

2.5 Detailed below is the indicative timetable for the Review:

Commencement of CGR – Terms of Reference published	15 January 2019
Initial consultation stage	15 to 31 January 2019
Consideration of submissions received	4 February 2019
Draft recommendations published	8 February 2019
Consultation on draft recommendations	11 to 15 February 2019
Final recommendations prepared	18 February 2019
Final Recommendations considered and approved by full Council	26 February 2019
Community Governance Order made	1 March 2019
Any approved community governance arrangements come into force	2 May 2019

3 Financial, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

3.1 None specific.

4 Legal Implications

4.1 The Council must carry out a CGR in accordance with the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act and related Guidance.

4.2 Following the CGR a Reorganisation order will be required to give effect to any agreed changes which must be made as soon as possible and the necessary procedural steps taken.

4.3 The 2007 Act requires Councils to make available a document setting out the reasons for the decisions it has taken (including where it has decided to make no change following a community governance review) and to publicise these reasons.

5 Recommendations to Council

5.1 That Abbots Langley Parish boundaries be revised from the LGBCE proposed 7 parish wards to 6 parish wards retaining the same number of seats as follows:

Abbots Langley	4 seats
Bedmond	1 seat
Abbots Langley West	2 seat
Hunton Bridge	1 seat
Leavesden	5 seats
Primrose Hill	2 seats
Total No.	15 seats

5.2 That the proposed following amendments be agreed which all the responding parties are in full agreement with:

1. Abbots Langley West to increase its representation from 1 to 2 parish councillors to address the significant under-representation in the parish ward.
2. Hunton Bridge & Langleybury and Hunton Park wards to amalgamate into one single parish ward to be called Hunton Bridge Ward to be represented by 1 parish councillor. This re-unites the Hunton Bridge community.

5.3 That the existing wards, county division and polling district boundaries along with Polling Stations remain unchanged.

5.4 That the proposal in regards to a boundary change to run down the centre of Upper Highway (Appendix 3) which was objected to by the parish council, be not included.

5.5 To delegate to The Returning and Electoral Services Manager to take any and all necessary steps in the CGR process to implement the recommendations from the Review, including the making of the Reorganisation Order and to publicise the outcome of the CGR Review and recommendations.

Report prepared by: Michael Summerville, Electoral Services Manager
on behalf of The Returning Officer

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: The Hertfordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2015

Appendix 2: Notice of Community Governance Review

Appendix 3: Draft Recommendations

Appendix 4: Map showing proposed Parish ward boundaries

Appendix 5: Terms of Reference of Review