

Terms of Reference (Scope)

Community Governance Review 2017

Review of community governance arrangements within the Borough of Eastleigh

Eastleigh Borough Council is conducting a Review of Community Governance Arrangements within the Eastleigh Local Authority area in accordance with Part 4 Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council is required to have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance was considered when drawing up these Terms of Reference (TOR).

What is a Community Governance Review?

It is a review that can take place for the whole or part of the Borough to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Is effective and convenient.

In doing so the community governance review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

Why undertake this Community Governance Review?

This review is taking place partly as a result of the electoral ward review undertaken in 2016 and also the current situation of some of the parish arrangements given population movements and housing growth.

The Council believes that parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at the local level and wants to ensure that parish governance within the Borough continues to be robust, representative and enabled to meet new challenges.

Furthermore, it wants to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of parishes – the warding arrangements and the allocations of councillors – are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by their electorate.

To that end, the Council is also reviewing unparished areas of the Borough to obtain views as to enabling community empowerment at local level which could include the Council devolving power and responsibility to neighbourhood level and extending localism to those parts of the town that do not presently benefit from their own local councils.

Areas to be reviewed

The review covers all parish wards of the Borough and unparished wards.

Who will undertake the review?

The Borough Council is responsible for conducting a review within its electoral area. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Community Governance Review Project Team, will be responsible for making both draft and final recommendations during the process. The Council will be required to approve the final recommendations prior to the Community Governance Order being made.

A full consultation process will form part of the Review to take full account of the views of local people.

Next steps

The next steps in the Community Governance Review [are subject to decisions being made at the Administration Committee meeting on 20th November and the indicative timetable (below) will be revised or agreed along with the Terms of Reference of the review.

Indicative timetable for the Community Governance Review

Action	Timeline	Outline of Action
Publication of the Terms of Reference	6 December 2017	Council publishes Notice of the Review and notifies stakeholders
Initial Consultation Period	6 December 2017 – 30 January 2018	Initial submissions invited
Stakeholder Meeting	3 January 2018	Meet with stakeholders to answer questions relating to the Terms of Reference
	1 February 2018 – 2 March 2018	Consider submissions. Prepare draft recommendations
Final Consultation Period	4 May 2018 – 8 June 2018	Draft recommendations published and comments sought
	9 June 2018 - 18 June 2018	Consider final submissions and prepare recommendations
Final recommendations	July 2018	Publish Final recommendations
Implementation Order	August 2018	Council to make Order

Electorate forecasts for the Borough

This Review will be conducted using electoral data taken from the December 2017 electoral register.

Representations

The consultation period for the first stage of the Community Governance Review commenced on 6 December 2017, when the initial submissions are invited. The second consultation stage will commence in May 2018 and the draft recommendations will be published and comments will be sought.

If you have any questions of feedback please email: cgr@eastleigh.gov.uk