

Community Governance Review of the unparished area of Taunton and eight neighbouring parishes

Amended recommendations (amendments shown in red) agreed at Somerset West and Taunton Council meeting on 29 September 2022

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council confirms that it has considered and taken into account the responses received to the second stage consultation on the community governance review of the unparished area of Taunton and eight neighbouring parishes together with the considerations and recommendations of the Community Governance Review Working Group as set out in this report and appendices as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 2.2 That the Council notes that in the context of local government reorganisation it is the responsibility of Somerset West and Taunton Council to agree the final recommendations of the community governance review and the responsibility of Somerset County Council to make any Reorganisation Order to give effect to those recommendations.
- 2.3 That Somerset West and Taunton Council seek Somerset County Council Executive's agreement in principle to use a phased approach to transfer the assets and services starting with those identified in Appendix I, where reasonable practicable on 1 April 2023.
- 2.4 That the Council adopts the Community Governance Review Working Group's proposals for the final recommendations of the community governance review as follows:

- A. That a new parish be created to include the currently unparished area of Taunton and that in addition:
- i) Comeytrove Parish Council be dissolved, and the entire area of Comeytrove Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;
 - ii) The Killams Green area, currently within Trull Parish Council area, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;
 - iii) The part of the forthcoming development in the south-west corner of Taunton that falls within Trull Parish, including the whole of the development north of Dipford Road, should be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;
 - iv) The boundary of Trull Parish to the north-west of Cotlake Hill be altered to follow the green wedge around the Sherford urban area, with the small area to the south of that boundary that is currently within the unparished area of Taunton becoming part of Trull Parish.
 - v) The urban area within the Maidenbrook Ward of Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish, including sites earmarked for housing development in the near future, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish.
 - vi) The urban parts of Staplegrove Parish, including the entirety of the forthcoming development in the north-west corner of Taunton, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;
 - vii) The slim part of Staplegrove Parish jutting to the west of Silk Mills Lane be included within the boundary of Norton Fitzwarren Parish;
 - viii) The remaining area of the existing Staplegrove Parish be included within the boundary of Kingston St. Mary Parish;
 - ix) Staplegrove Parish Council be dissolved.
 - x) A small southern portion of the Kingston St Mary Parish area, representing that part of the proposed Staplegrove East development that falls within the parish, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish.
 - xi) With the exception of **the River Tone flood plain to the east of Silk Mills Road at Longrun Meadow**, Galmington Trading Estate and a small section south of the A38 near Rumwell, no part of Bishops Hull Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;
 - xii) The small triangular residential area at the cross-section with Wellington Road, currently within the unparished area, be included within the boundary of Bishops Hull Parish;
 - xiii) The boundary between Norton Fitzwarren Parish and Bishops Hull Parish, just north of Mill Cottages, be amended to follow the route of the railway line;
 - xiv) The Hankridge Retail Park, Creech Castle and the associated Toneway Road, currently within West Monkton Parish, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish, which should run along the railway to the M5;
 - xv) With the exception of the above, no part of the existing area of West Monkton Parish be included in the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish.
 - xvi) No part of the existing area of Norton Fitzwarren Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish.
 - xvii) the boundary between West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine parishes between Maidenbrook and Yallands Hill south of the Country Park be

amended to following the A3259 and new relief road westwards to Maidenbrook Lane.

- B. That the new parish be named 'Taunton Parish' and that a parish/town council be established to serve the new parish with effect from 1 April 2023.
- C. That the first elections to the proposed new parish/town council for Taunton should be held on the ordinary day of elections (the first Thursday in May) in 2023.
- D. That the proposed new Taunton Parish be divided into wards for the purposes of electing parish/town councillors.
- E. That the total number of councillors to be elected to the proposed Taunton Parish/Town Council be 20 and the warding arrangements for the council and the number of councillors to be elected to represent each ward, be as set out at section 9.19 of this report.
- F. That the electoral arrangements of certain other parish councils in the area under review be amended as set out at section 9.20 of this report.
- G. That save as set out at A to F above, the existing parishes in the review area and the names, boundaries, council size and other parish governance arrangements in respect of those parishes remain unchanged.
- H. That the budget requirement for the new Taunton Parish/Town Council for the financial year 2023/24 be set at £2.114m as set out at section 11.7 of this report.
- I. That temporary parish/town councillors as listed at section 11.20 of this report be appointed to serve as members of the new Taunton Parish/Town Council from 1 April 2023 until the councillors elected on 4 May 2023 take up office.
- J. That the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be requested to make changes to the boundaries of the relevant Somerset Council electoral divisions as necessary to ensure consistency between those boundaries and the revised Parish and Parish Ward boundaries made in this Community Governance Review.

2.5 That accordingly Somerset County Council be recommended to make a **Reorganisation of Community Governance Order 2022 to give effect to the above recommendations based on the draft Order attached at Appendix 'A' and that the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer be authorised to finalise the text of the draft Order to be submitted to Somerset County Council.**

2.6 That a Shadow Taunton Town Council be established with effect from 14 October 2022 and with membership as set out at section 13.6 of this report, to lead and oversee the work to establish on 1 April 2023 the new Taunton Parish/Town Council.

2.7 That the Community Governance Review Working Group be wound up once the Reorganisation Order has been made, concluding the review.

- 2.8 That authority be delegated to the SWTC Chief Executive Officer and SWTC Monitoring Officer or Deputy, after consultation with the Leader of Somerset West and Taunton Council and the Chair of the Shadow Taunton Town Council (if any), to take any action necessary to conclude the community governance review in accordance with legislation and statutory guidance and to secure the implementation of the final recommendations of the review as set out in the Reorganisation Order.
- 2.9 That Council agrees Somerset County Council's S151 Officer will notify the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the request Alternative Notional Amount for Council Tax purposes, reflecting the transfer of costs from current district council budget to the budget of the new parish/town council.
- 2.10 A plan illustrating the proposed changes to parish and ward boundaries that would result from implementation of the final recommendations above is set out at Appendix 'B' to this report. In addition, full details of the Working Group's considerations, the reasons for each of its recommendations and detailed maps illustrating each proposed change are at Appendix 'C' to this report.