



DRAFT Work Outline

Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Our key questions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) What have we learned from the experiences of setting up Birmingham's parish councils that will assist both BCC and communities in the development of any future parish councils or other localised or devolved governance models?2) How is the relationship between BCC and the parish/town councils working currently? What needs to be done next to enhance constructive and effective relationships? Should a general framework agreement or charter document be produced to clarify the parameters and support processes between the two?
1. How is O&S adding value through this work?	<p>Birmingham currently has two parish/town councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council (NFIB), established in May 2000;• Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC), established legally on 1st March 2016 and first elected in May 2016. <p>There have been suggestions that other areas of the city may wish to follow suit; and Assistant Leaders have been tasked with consideration of the "development of new governance models (such as town and parish councils) and the agreement of devolution to those bodies".¹</p> <p>It is therefore a good time to review the experience so far, both in terms of the process of engaging with residents interested in developing this form of local government, setting up new governance arrangements, and the current processes to support effective joint working, to support any further developments in setting up new parish councils or other local or devolved governance arrangements.</p>
2. What needs to be done?	<p>Key lines of enquiry;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) "Lessons Learned"<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) When the parish councils were set up, how effective were the formal Community Governance Review and Re-organisation Order

¹ Establishment of Cabinet Committee Local Leadership report to Cabinet, June 2016



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	<p>processes, and methods of public engagement, from the perspectives of both those within BCC and petitioners and other stakeholders supporting the set-up of the parish councils?</p> <p>b) What lessons have been learned within Birmingham, and more widely in England, that can be applied to any future proposals to set up new parish councils or other devolved local governance arrangements?</p> <p>2) "Working together"</p> <p>a) What are the interfaces between BCC and parish/town councils?</p> <p>b) What is the scope and limitations of current legislation within which BCC and parish/town councils will have to work, including the general power of competence, appropriate transfer of assets or services, and due diligence requirements, governing the interaction?</p> <p>c) Are accompanying processes widely understood and followed?</p> <p>d) What issues are coming up / what other powers could be transferred – e.g. asset transfer, shared services or service agreements – and how will these be dealt with? How will "double taxation" be avoided?</p> <p>e) Would a written agreement / memorandum² to formalise the support BCC will offer to parish/town councils be useful. If so, what should this look like, and how far could it apply to other forms of local governance?</p>
3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?	<p>The work will be undertaken by a task and finish group (to be determined).</p> <p>Evidence gathering will take place over March/April and the group will report in June/July</p>
4. Potential Witnesses	<p>To be confirmed:</p> <p><i>BCC officers: Jacqui Kennedy, Chris Jordan, Steve Hollingworth, Tony Smith, Robert Connelly and Stuart Evans</i></p> <p><i>RSCTC: Olive O'Sullivan plus members from across the political groups elected Ken Rushton</i></p> <p><i>NFIB: Roger Griffiths (clerk) and members</i></p>

Member / Officer Leads

Lead Member:	TBA
Lead Officer:	TBA
Membership:	TBA

² Such as the Charter between Leeds City Council and the Parish and Town Councils within the administrative area of Leeds City Council



Time Frame for Core Phases of the Review (SCRUTINY REVIEWS ONLY)

Meetings and evidence-gathering sessions:	March/April
Drafting the report:	May
Consideration of the draft report by the Committee:	May/June
8-Day rule: Executive Comment:	May/June
Reporting to the City Council:	June/July ?

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