

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**PUBLIC REPORT**

Report to:	COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report of: Date of Decision:	Service Director Localisation 20 October 2015
SUBJECT:	POLITICAL GOVERNANCE MEMBER REVIEW GROUP

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To approve the establishment of a new cross-party Political Governance Member Review Group to take on the remit of the Community Governance Review Group in relation to community governance arrangements including the emparishment of Sutton Coldfield and potential further emparishment arrangements in the city, refinements to the Council's devolution arrangements together with governance arrangements at city and sub-regional level.
- 1.2 To approve the membership of the new Political Governance Member Review Group and its role and remit.

2. Recommendations :

- 2.1 That Council Business Management Committee approves the creation of a cross party Political Governance Member Review Group to undertake the functions and responsibilities in the terms of reference in para 3.7.
- 2.2 That Council Business Management Committee approve that the new Political Governance Member Review Group is comprised of twelve members on a proportionality basis (eight Labour, three Conservative and one Liberal Democrat).
- 2.3 That Group Leaders be asked to nominate membership in line with recommendation 2.2 above.

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3.	Relevant background/chronology of key events.
3.1	Following the submission of a validated petition from the residents of Sutton Coldfield for a Town Council, in December 2013 Council Business Management Committee approved the creation of a cross party working group to determine the terms of reference for a Community Governance Review.
3.2	The terms of reference for the Community Governance Review were approved by Full Council in September 2014, when the remit for the Review was expanded to examine the Council's wider devolution structure. Council also approved that the Cross Party Governance Working Group (subsequently called the Community Governance Review Group) would agree the work programme for the Community Governance Review and submit final recommendations of the Review to Full Council.
3.3	The recommendations of the Community Governance Review Group were approved by Full Council in September 2015. Council approved the creation of a parish council for Sutton Coldfield, for an Interim Council to be established on 1 March 2016 and for the first elections to the new parish Council to be held in May 2016.
3.4	Council also agreed the establishment of a steering group of key local stakeholders to act as a consultative body and take forward the planning and implementation of the proposed new parish council until the new parish council is formally created and elections to the parish Council are held. Council agreed that the steering group would report to the proposed new Political Governance Member Review Group and that the Member Review Group would consider the draft re-organisation order, which will formally create the parish council, prior to its submission to Council Business Management Committee on 17 November 2015.
3.5	Council were advised that the Community Governance Review Group would be submitting a report to Council Business Management seeking approval to change the remit of the Review Group and for a new Political Governance Member Review Group to be established, with the same membership as the existing group.
3.6	Further policy development of community governance at the neighbourhood level has been incorporated as part of the Future Council programme through a Political Governance Sub Group with links to other sub programmes where necessary.
3.7	Proposed terms of reference:
3.7.1	Oversight of the work to establish the Sutton Coldfield Parish Council ¹ and bring recommendations to CBM in relation to the delegations made by Full Council in September 2015 to agree the Draft Reorganisation Order;
3.7.2	Receive work undertaken by the Steering Group and City Council officers in relation to functions and responsibilities and refer proposals for agreement at CBM/Full Council/Cabinet as appropriate;

¹ Following Full Council's approval of the Recommendations of the Community Governance Review in September 2015.

- 3.7.3 Consider options for further emparishment across Birmingham building on the learning from Sutton Coldfield and wider afield;
- 3.7.4 Consider options for effective community leadership at a ward level taking into account commitments in the Council's Improvement Plan and forthcoming changes in ward boundaries and electoral arrangements of ward councillors;
- 3.7.5 Consider wider governance arrangements at city and city regional level as appropriate linked to the Council's triple devolution model, commitments in the Improvement Plan and work on the Combined Authority and Devo Deal.

Signatures of approval to submit the report to Committee:

Signed:

Title:

Dated:

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):