

Policy and Resources Committee

Date:	11 June 2013
Title:	Community Governance Review – South Oxfordshire District Council
Purpose of the Report:	To consider any suggested changes for submission
Contact Officer:	Helen Stewart, Town Clerk

Background

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on principal authorities to ensure that community governance for the area reflects the identities and interests of local communities and is effective and convenient.

The District Council is planning a review of community governance during this year to look at the governance that is in place at parish level across the whole of the district and make any changes to improve this. The agreed terms of reference will be agreed in July with the review being completed in advance of the parish/town council elections in May 2015.

Terms of Reference

All town and parish councils in the district have been asked to put forward suggestions for any changes to the current community governance arrangements by 28 June. Below is a list of those matters that can be considered.

The terms of reference may incorporate any or all of the following:

- Altering the boundaries of a parish
- Creating a new parish
- Merging two or more parishes
- Warding or de-warding a parish
- Changing a parish name
- Dissolving a parish council
- Changing the number of councillors who sit on a parish council (the minimum number being five)
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council.

In determining proposals the district council will take the following factors into account:

- Natural and man-made boundaries that help to define clearly one community from another
- Housing developments that straddle parish boundaries, thereby resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours
- Effective representation of local residents at parish level
- The Local government Boundary Commission's proposals for the warding of South Oxfordshire for the purpose of district council elections

- The newly created county council electoral divisions
- Views expressed in relation to any changes, particularly from those people directly affected.

Legal Powers: Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To agree any such changes that the Town Council should submit for consideration.***