

## Full Council

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<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Community Governance Review</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>2 August 2022</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Lizzie Fuller, Committee Services Officer</b>

### Action Required

1. To review the revised draft proposals, as recommended by SODC's Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee, and comment on the consultation.

### Background

2. In January 2022, as part of the district's Community Governance Review, Thame Town Council made a recommendation to SODC to request:
  - Thame's ward boundary be repositioned so that the North Ward includes properties north of Oxford Road.
  - Thame's parish boundary be extended westwards to include employment land on Rycote Lane, by incorporating North Weston.
3. This was subject to a public consultation in April 2022. The District's Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee met in May 2022 and have made the following recommendations for Thame:
  - Electoral warding: To amend the parish ward boundary between Thame North and Thame South wards so that there is a more equal representation (see Appendix A). SODC were of the view that this would provide a more logical division of the parish (see Appendix B).
  - Parish boundary: To make no change to the boundary between the Thame / Great Haseley parishes. SODC were of the view that the Rycote Lane employment sites / expected Cattle Market relocation site, both in Great Haseley parish, do not impact on the identity and interests of the local community or the effective and convenient representation of local residents in Thame to a greater extent than those in Great Haseley (see Appendix C).
4. SODC are now consulting (see [southoxon.gov.uk/communitygovernance](https://southoxon.gov.uk/communitygovernance)) on these draft proposals and have advised that it is important the Town Council responds to this formal consultation. The District's Committee will meet in September 2022 to agree final changes ahead of the May 2023 elections.
5. It is recommended that the Town Council supports the proposal to amend the parish boundary between Thame North and Thame South wards, to provide more equal representation.
6. The Town Council can support, oppose, or have no strong views on the proposal to make no change to the Thame parish boundary. It should be noted that Great Haseley Parish Council objected to the proposal to change the parish boundary.

## **Risk Assessment / Resource Appraisal**

- None – it is sensible that Thame takes action to consider its democratic future.

### **Legal Powers:**

- Local Government Act 1972 s111

### **Recommendation:**

- i) **To review the revised draft proposals and comment on the consultation.**