

REPORT TITLE: NORTH WHITELEY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

10 MARCH 2022

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Neil Cutler Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Quality

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WARD(S): WHITELEY & SHEDFIELD.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR) in respect of the North Whiteley Major Development Area (MDA)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Community Governance Review be undertaken; and
2. To conduct the Community Governance Review in accordance with the Terms of Reference contained in Appendix 1 of this report.

## IMPLICATIONS:

### 1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 The establishment of a successful community at North Whiteley is a priority for Winchester City Council.

### 2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 None – other than the cost of employee resource - see below.

### 3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Consent does not need to be sought from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England if the draft terms of reference are agreed. This is due to the last Boundary Review, in the area, being completed over 5 years.

### 4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The review must be undertaken by the City Council as the principal council and staff time and resource must be dedicated to ensure an order is made within the prescribed period.

### 5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

### 6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 Full consultation exercises, of which there are at least two, will be undertaken during the process if the recommendation is agreed. Consideration has been given to Bank Holidays, School Holidays and the pre-election period in 2022 when setting out the timetable which is contained in Appendix 2 of this report.

### 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no environmental considerations arising from this report.

### 8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSEMENT

- 8.1 There are no equalities issues arising from this report. The decision to make an order, if made, will be subject to an assessment at that time.

### 9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 None required

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Financial Exposure		
Exposure to challenge As set out below failure to complete the exercise in the required timescale could bring legal challenge	Ensure resource and critical deadlines – as per the timetable in Appendix 2 – are adhered to.	To conclude the CGR effectively and efficiently, having listened and engaged with local residents.
Innovation None		
Reputation –	Ensure resources, timescales are available and realistic.	A well completed CGR could overall enhance governance arrangements of the North Whiteley MDA area. As stated
Achievement of outcome		
Property None		
Community Support If not completed within the timescales and/or if the consultation is not inclusive the City Council could be considered to have not supported the local community.	Ensure resource and critical deadlines – as per the timetable in Appendix 2 – are adhered to	To give confidence to the North Whiteley MDA area of the City Councils role in conducting and concluding a CGR.
Timescales Work must be completed within 12 months once the terms of reference are published. To not complete within the deadline would bring the risk of a legal challenge.	The timetable – Appendix 2 – has realistic timescales to allow completion of the review.	None
Project capacity None		
Other Non		

## 11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007 (LGPIH Act) devolved power to carry out a CGR which determines the creation or abolition of parishes, the boundary of parishes and the electoral arrangements of parish councils from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal councils.
- 11.2 When undertaking a CGR a principal council must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission. However, subject to this, it is for the council to decide how to undertake the review.
- 11.3 Section 93 of the LGPIH Act requires the council to ensure that the community governance within the area under review will be;
- 1) Reflective of the identities and interests of the community cohesion; and
  - 2) Is effective and convenient.  
In carrying out the review the council must also take into account
  - 3) The impact of arrangements on community cohesion; and
  - 4) The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
- 11.4 A review involves the following stages.
- 1) Establishing the terms of references of the CGR – if Committee is minded to authorise a review, suggested terms of reference are set out in Appendix 1,
  - 2) Publishing the terms of reference,
  - 3) Consultation must take place with local government electors, appropriate local authorities such as Hampshire County Council and other relevant persons including political parties and local community interest groups,
  - 4) Any representations received as a result of the initial consultation response must be taken into account,
  - 5) Prepare and publish draft proposals,
  - 6) Undertake consultation on the draft proposals with electors in the affected area(s) as well as other bodies with interest, including any affected local council,
  - 7) Consider any representations received as a result of the consultation stage,
  - 8) Make and publish recommendations; and

9) Make an order to bring into effect any decision arising from the review.

11.5 The justification for a CGR is set out below in minutes from the North Whiteley Forum;

At a meeting of the North Whiteley Forum Winchester City Council accepted there is now a requirement for a Community Governance Review

The development at North Whiteley will see 3,500 homes, two primary schools, a secondary school, retail and a community centre constructed to the north of the existing settlement of Whiteley, across parts of the parishes of Whiteley and Curdridge. At present 451 dwellings have been completed and are occupied. The Council wishes to undertake a Community Governance Review at this time because the housing development will alter the geographical spread of housing across the parishes. The resulting spatial separation between the two population centres will no longer correspond to a parish boundary that reflects a coherent “natural settlement” pattern. The resulting recommendations of the review ought to bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-None

Other Background Documents:-

Guidance on Community Governance Review – March 2010

#### APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Draft Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 - Timetable

Appendix 3 - Map