

Harborough District Council

Report to Council Meeting of 26 February 2024



Title:	Community Governance Review – Mowsley
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	N/A
Report Author:	Electoral Services Manager Sheena Mortimer
Portfolio Holder:	Corporate Portfolio Holder – Councillor Paul Beadle
Appendices:	Appendix A Terms of Reference Appendix B: Map of parish area Appendix C: Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (The Local Government Boundary Commission for England)

Executive Summary

Council is asked to approve the undertaking of a Community Governance Review under Section 100 of the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 to consult on the creation of a parish council for Mowsley.

Recommendations

That the Council agree to carry out a community governance review to establish a parish council for the parish of Mowsley.

Reasons for Recommendations

A request has been received under The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 chapter 3 part 4 that a Community Governance Review is undertaken with a view to establish a parish council for Mowsley.

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval of Council to carry out a Community Governance Review to establish a parish council for Mowsley.

2. Background

At its meeting on 4th October 2023 Mowsley Parish Meeting agreed to request that Harborough District Council undertake a Community Governance Review to create a parish council for Mowsley. Mowsley Parish is situated within the Harborough Parliamentary Constituency, Fleckney District Ward and Bruntingthorpe Division of Leicestershire County Council. The Parish has 193 registered electors as at 1st February 2024 and is an active Parish meeting.



3. Details

A Community Governance Review (CGR) provides the opportunity for the Council to review and make changes to the existing governance arrangements within the district to ensure that parish governance is robust, representative and able to meet new challenges. A CGR can consider a number of issues, in this case whether to create a new parish within Mowsley.

When considering this criteria the Council should consider a number of factors including

1. The impact of community governance arrangements within the area under review
2. The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
3. Legislation specifies the process to be followed including two consultation stages as set out in the timetable below

The Council must determine the terms of reference under which the CGR is to be undertaken. The terms of reference must specify the area under review and legislation requires that a CGR must be completed within 12 months of publication of the terms of reference. Before making any recommendations of publishing final proposals the council will take account of the views of local people and other stakeholders.

Once the review has been completed any changes to the governance arrangements will be implemented in combination with the Leicestershire County Council Elections on 1st May 2025.

Stage	Action	Timescale
Commencement	Publish terms of reference	3 March 2024
Consultation stage 1	Initial submissions invited	3 March 2024 to 26 May 2024
Stage 2	Consideration of submissions received and draft recommendations prepared	27 May to 22 June 2024
Consultation Stage 3	Draft recommendations published and consulted on	23 June to 17 August 2024
Stage 4	Consideration of submissions received final recommendations prepared	18 August to 2 September 2024
Final stage	Recommendations submitted to full council for approval	Autumn 2024

4. Implications of Decisions

4.1 Corporate Priorities

Community leadership to create a sense of pride and belonging.

4.2 Financial

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolved the power to take decisions on the creation of parishes through a Community Governance Review. The CGR will be undertaken within existing resources and budgets; it is estimated that the process of consultation will take about 10 months; which will equate to circa 10 days of officer time; as this is a statutory role of the District Council this work is not rechargeable. A decision to create a parish council for Mowsley would entail the running of an election to put the newly created council in place. The cost for this election would be recharged to the parish council.

4.3 Legal

The Council has responsibility for conducting community governance reviews under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The legislation and

government guidance sets out how such reviews should be conducted and will be taken into account when conducting any review.

4.4 Policy

None identified.

4.5 Environmental Implications including contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

None identified

4.6 Risk Management

If Council agrees to carry out a Community Governance Review it must be completed with 12 months of the date the notice of the review is published. Resources will have to be in place to ensure that this timetable can be met (see 4.2).

4.7 Equalities Impact

The Council has a statutory duty to consider and demonstrate equalities impact in all of its activities. The review is aimed at ensuring that parish governance arrangements best meet the needs of the local area.

4.8 Data Protection

None identified.

5. Summary of Consultation and Outcome

The Council will comply with the consultative requirements by

1. Consulting local government electors and residents within the area
2. Consulting any other persons or bodies which appear to the council to have an interest in the review
3. Notify and consult with Leicestershire County Council
4. Take into account any representation received in connection with the CGR

6. Alternative Options Considered

Taking no action – this would not reflect the wishes of the parish meeting

7. Background papers

Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (LGBCE)

Correspondence from Mowsley Parish Meeting