

Final recommendation of the Community Governance Review of Yeovilton Parish Council and Limington Parish Meeting

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Purpose of the Report

1. To report the outcome of the final public consultation (Community Governance Review) which has taken place in the parishes of Yeovilton and Limington on the proposal to join the two parishes together (under the provisions of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007).

Public Interest

2. A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of a district to consider one or more of the following:
 - creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
 - the naming of parishes and the style (i.e. whether to call it a town council or village council etc) of new parishes;
 - the electoral arrangements for parishes – the ordinary year of election, the size of the council, the number of councillors to be elected and parish warding;
 - grouping parishes under a common parish council, or de-grouping parishes.
3. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007, sets down the principal legal framework within which councils must undertake these reviews.

Recommendations

4. That Council:-
 - a. note the results of the consultation in the parishes of Yeovilton and Limington;
 - b. agree that the final recommendation be: “To accept the vote from the people of Yeovilton and Limington and to form a single parish council to be named “Yeovilton and District Parish Council”.
 - c. agree to draw up a Reorganisation Order to give effect to this recommendation;
 - d. agree to contact the statutory agencies to notify them of the new joined parishes.

Background



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5. A valid request was received from Yeovilton Parish Council and Limington Parish Meeting in February 2019, requesting that the District Council conduct a consultation (Community Governance Review) of all the electors and local interested groups to ask if they would be agreeable to form a single Parish Council. Consultation within the parishes has now taken place and this report details the outcome of that consultation.
6. Following receipt of the requests from both Parishes, the Local Government Boundary Commission were contacted to obtain permission to accept the requests as the District Council had undergone a Ward boundary review in 2017/18 and were unsure if we could effect any further changes for 5 years. However, the Local Government Boundary Commission confirmed that the review could go ahead. It was subsequently delayed during 2020 by the Covid 19 restrictions but the full consultation process has now been completed and the Reorganisation Order will give effect to the proposed changes from 1st March 2022. This will be in time for the Parish Council elections in May 2022.

Report Detail

7. In their request, the parishes stated a number of reasons for wishing the two parishes to be grouped including:
 - Yeovilton Parish Council already encompasses the communities of Yeovilton, Podimore, Bridghampton and Speckington, and would welcome Limington as part of a bigger parish.
 - Yeoviton Parish Council recently increased the number of parish councillors from 5 to 7, and feel there would be no need to increase the number further as representation from Limington would be welcomed.
 - Limington residents would benefit from representation by regular parish council meetings and a Parish Clerk.
 - Joining the parishes will mean a wider Council Tax base which could reduce slightly the overall Council Tax per household in Yeovilton Parish, whilst not increasing by as large a margin in Limington Parish.
 - If the merger is agreed, it is proposed to amend the name of the new Parish Council to Yeovilton and District Parish Council. This will encompass all the villages in the new parish.

Consultation

8. The initial consultation period was held from 27 September to 05 November 2021 and the second consultation period was from 20 December 2021 to 19 January 2022.
9. As previously reported, a total of 107 responses were received during the first consultation period (16.5% of the total electorate). Of the 107 responses, 89 were in favour of the proposal and 18 were against it. **No responses were received during the second consultation period.**
10. Having taken into account all consultation responses made, and having regard to the need to ensure that Community Governance within the area reflects the identities and interests of the community, and is effective and convenient, the recommendation of



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officers is: "To accept the vote from the people of Yeovilton and Limington and to form a single parish council to be named "Yeovilton and District Parish Council".

Financial Implications

11. The cost of producing the consultation leaflets (675) and distributing by second class post was £488. There has been a cost in staff time in the production of the consultation leaflets and the analysis of the responses and these costs have been absorbed within the existing Democratic Services budget.
12. The second consultation on the draft proposals was through the SSDC Website, local press and posters and the cost was less than £20.
13. There is no specific budget for Community Governance Reviews and all costs have been absorbed within the existing Democratic Services budget for 2021/22. Additionally, there is no power to re-charge the cost of the review to any other Council, except by agreement. This is because the statutory power to conduct the review rests with this Council.

Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

14. This Community Governance Review has taken place under the provisions of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Council Plan Implications

15. Our Values: **Working collaboratively** - Working with partners to enhance outcomes for our communities.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

16. No implications at the current time.

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. The local government electors within the parishes of Yeovilton (including Yeovilton, Podimore, Bridghampton, and Speckington) and Limington were consulted on the proposal and their views considered as part of the consultation process. The council must have regard to the need to secure that the community governance arrangements for the area and the identities and interests of the community in the area are effective and convenient.



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<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	Yes
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	No
<i>If an EIA was not required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA was required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
Additional Comments	
All the registered electors of both parishes were consulted on this proposal. The proposal will provide the residents of Limington with representation at regular parish council meetings and the assistance of a Parish Clerk to potentially access future funding.	

Privacy Impact Assessment

18. The only personal data collected has been the names and addresses of the residents responding to the consultation, to ascertain that they are eligible (i.e. a registered elector within the parish of either Yeovilton or Limington) to participate. This information has only been processed by SSSDC staff and will be retained until the conclusion of the review. The data is held securely and will be deleted at the conclusion of the review.

Background Papers

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
 The Electoral Commission Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, April 2008
 Formal request from Yeovilton Parish Council
 Formal request from Limington Parish Meeting
 Proposed joining of Yeovilton Parish Council and Limington Parish Meeting –
 Community Governance Review Report to Council – July 2020
 Terms of Reference of the Community Governance Review of the Parish Arrangements
 for Yeovilton Parish Council and Limington Parish Meeting
 Report to Council – December 2021
