

Special Advisory Group

21 October 2016

Time 9.00 am **Public Meeting?** Yes **Type of meeting** Advisory group

Venue Committee Room 4 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Andrew Johnson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Elias Mattu
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Stephen Simkins

Conservative

Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Wendy Thompson

Liberal Democrat

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Apologies for absence |
| 2 | Declarations of interests |
| 3 | 3Minutes of the previous meeting - 21 April 2016 (Pages 3 - 4)
[For approval] |
| 4 | Matters arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting] |

DECISION ITEMS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5 | Parliamentary Boundary Review (Pages 5 - 10)
[To consider the Council's proposed response to the Boundary Commission's consultation on future parliamentary constituencies] |
| 6 | Community Governance Review (Pages 11 - 22)
[To approve a response to a formal request for a community governance review, specifically in relation to Tettenhall Wightwick and Tettenhall Regis] |
| 7 | Proposed Revised Petitions Scheme
[To recommend revised petitions arrangements following the dissolution of the Petitions Committee and the adoption of new arrangements for considering petitions from the public][report to follow] |

Attendance

Members of the Special Advisory Group

Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Tersaim Singh

Employees

Dereck Francis	Democratic Support Officer
Sara Goodwin	Interim Democratic Services Manager
Kevin O'Keefe	Director of Governance
Martyn Sargeant	Group Manager - Corporate Administration

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Chair for the meeting**
Resolved:
 That Cllr John Reynolds be elected Chair for the meeting.

- 2 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Andrew Johnson (Chair), Roger Lawrence, Stephen Simkins, Paul Sweet and Wendy Thompson.

- 3 **Declarations of interests**
No declarations of interests were made.

- 4 **Minutes of the previous meeting (10 March 2016)**
Resolved:
 That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

- 5 **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

6 **Petitions Committee**

The Group considered proposals for the future consideration of petitions received by the Council from members of the public, to be effective from the beginning of the new municipal year.

The Group Manager, Corporate Administration explained the rationale for the proposals which had resulted from a review instigated at the request of the Chair of the Petitions Committee.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed arrangements for considering petitions from the public from 19 May 2016 be approved, specifically:
 - a. Petitions with fewer than 50 signatures to be considered and responded to by employees, with a summary reported to Scrutiny Board and the relevant Cabinet Member(s).
 - b. Petitions with 50 – 2,499 signatures to be considered by the relevant scrutiny panel with recommendations made for action by employees or review by the Executive as appropriate.
 - c. Petitions with 2,500+ signatures to be considered by the Council as per the existing arrangements.
2. That the arrangements for considering petitions be reviewed in twelve months' time.
3. That the development of a protocol for the consideration of petitions by scrutiny panels, to ensure consistency in the way they are reviewed and responded to be supported.

Special Advisory Group

21 October 2016

Report title	Parliamentary boundary review	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Key decision	n/a	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Martyn Sargeant	Head of Democratic Services
	Tel	01902 555045
	Email	martyn.sargeant@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Council	9 November 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Advisory Group is recommended to:

1. Agree the response to the Boundary Commission for England's consultation on Parliamentary constituencies, specifically recommending that the proposed 'Wednesfield and Willenhall' constituency should be renamed 'Wolverhampton North, Wednesfield and Willenhall'.
2. Recommend to Council that the Managing Director should make the consultation response on its behalf via the Commission's online consultation portal.

Recommendations for noting:

The Advisory Group is asked to note:

1. The proposed changes to the Wolverhampton South-east constituency (to be renamed Wolverhampton South and Coseley) and the Wolverhampton South-west constituency (to be renamed Wolverhampton West).

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This paper sets out the Council's proposed response to the Commission's consultation on future parliamentary constituencies.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Boundary Commission for England published draft proposals in 2011 to reconfigure Parliamentary constituencies. The primary objectives were to equalise the number of constituents in each area, taking account of population changes, and to reduce the number of constituencies (in England the proposed impact under the most recent proposals is to reduce from 533 to 501, with a UK change of 650 reducing to 600). It was subsequently agreed to defer a decision until after the 2015 general election. Those proposals have now been updated, based on 2015 electorate data, and published for consultation, with a view to final agreement of the new arrangements in 2018, for implementation at the general election in 2020.
- 2.2 The Commission is conducting a 12 week public consultation exercise, running from 13 September to 5 December. In the West Midlands, this will include four public hearings. The consultation website is www.bce2018.org.uk.

3.0 Impact for the West Midlands

- 3.1 The review has considered the whole West Midlands region, with two sub-regions of (1) Staffordshire/Stoke-on-Trent and (2) everywhere else. The regional impact is a reduction of six seats, from 59 to 53, one fewer in Staffordshire/Stoke-on-Trent and five fewer in the other sub-region. Overall, the proposals pay less heed to local authority boundaries than is currently the case, which will inevitably complicate the management of national polls.

4.0 Impact for the City of Wolverhampton

- 4.1 The city currently hosts three Parliamentary constituencies – Wolverhampton South-west, South-east and North-east. Two of these areas consist entirely of City of Wolverhampton wards, with Wolverhampton South-east incorporating the Dudley ward of Coseley. Although the proposals retain three Wolverhampton constituencies, the overall picture is more complicated, with two constituencies drawing in a number of wards from Dudley and Walsall respectively.

4.2 The table below summarises the proposals:

Parliamentary constituency	Ward	Local authority
Wolverhampton West (previously Wolverhampton South-west)	Blakenhall	City of Wolverhampton
	Bushbury North	City of Wolverhampton
	Graiseley	City of Wolverhampton
	Merry Hill	City of Wolverhampton
	Oxley	City of Wolverhampton
	Park	City of Wolverhampton
	Penn	City of Wolverhampton
	Tettenhall Regis	City of Wolverhampton
	Tettenhall Wightwick	City of Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton South and Coseley (previously Wolverhampton South-east)	Coseley East	Dudley MBC
	Sedgley	Dudley MBC
	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	Dudley MBC
	Bilston East	City of Wolverhampton
	Bilston North	City of Wolverhampton
	East Park	City of Wolverhampton
	Ettingshall	City of Wolverhampton
	Spring Vale	City of Wolverhampton
Wednesfield and Willenhall (previously Wolverhampton North-east)	St Peter's	City of Wolverhampton
	Bushbury South and Low Hill	City of Wolverhampton
	Heath Town	City of Wolverhampton
	Fallings Park	City of Wolverhampton
	Wednesfield South	City of Wolverhampton
	Wednesfield North	City of Wolverhampton
	Willenhall North	Walsall MBC
	Short Heath	Walsall MBC
	Willenhall South	Walsall MBC

4.3 **Wolverhampton West:** this is effectively an extension of the existing Wolverhampton South-west constituency. Under the current arrangements it falls entirely within the City of Wolverhampton and this will continue if the proposals are approved. The revised constituency would have an electorate of 77,373 (based on existing estimates).

4.4 **Wolverhampton South and Coseley:** this is also an extension of the existing arrangement. The existing Wolverhampton South-east constituency already includes Coseley East (from Dudley) and, under the proposed arrangements, will also include two further Dudley wards. The revised constituency would have an electorate of 73,652.

4.5 **Wednesfield and Willenhall:** the current Wolverhampton North-east constituency is the subject of most change under the proposals, taking in three wards from Walsall. The revised constituency's electorate would be 77,139.

5.0 The Council's response to the consultation

5.1 The Council has the option to respond to the consultation, offering any comments, either for or against the proposals. The Commission also welcomes positive suggestions for amendments to its draft proposals.

5.2 Given that a key objective of the review is to equalise the number of constituents across constituencies, it is unsurprising that the Wolverhampton areas have seen some expansion, taking in additional wards from Dudley and Walsall. However, the choice of name for the former Wolverhampton North-east constituency is surprising. Wednesfield and Willenhall are both part of the new constituency, but it also includes Fallings Park, Heath Town, Bushbury South and St Peter's. The last of these is, of course, the city centre of Wolverhampton and not part of either Wednesfield or Willenhall.

5.3 Alternative ways of allocating wards in the city to constituencies have been considered (e.g. switching St Peter's with Bushbury North). The consistent obstacle to such a change is ensuring the electorate remains within the Boundary Commission's parameters (approximately 71,000 to 78,500). Because St Peter's is a relatively small ward compared to others in the city, almost every possible reconfiguration results in one constituency being too large (i.e. above the 78,500 ceiling) or geographically illogical (in terms of adjacent areas).

5.4 The primary concern about the draft arrangements is that the heart of a major and the Black Country's only city is going to sit within a Parliamentary constituency that does not bear its name. Wednesfield and Willenhall actually only reflects the eastern part of the proposed constituency. Therefore, the simplest solution is to suggest an alternative name for the constituency. Given that Wolverhampton South-east is to become Wolverhampton South (and Coseley), the most obvious suggestion is Wolverhampton North, Wednesfield and Willenhall.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a result of the Boundary Commission's consultation and this report. The cost of delivering Parliamentary elections is fully funded by the government, or proportionally shared when there are combined elections, and the proposed revised arrangements will not affect this.
[MK/03102016/U]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 The review is being conducted under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992) and with particular regard to the

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, which also made amendments to the 1986 Act.
[TS/03102016/V]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 The Council is responding to the Boundary Commission's consultation and it is for that body to carry out the necessary equalities analysis in respect of its proposals. However, the Council's own consideration has not identified that the proposed changes will have any detrimental impact on any particular group.

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the West Midlands,
Boundary Commission for England, September 2016

NB: full details of all boundary reviews are available at www.bce2018.org.uk.

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Special Advisory Group

21 October 2016

Report title	Community Governance Review	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Key decision	n/a	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Martyn Sargeant	Head of Democratic Services
	Tel	01902 555045
	Email	martyn.sargeant@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Council	9 November 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Advisory Group is recommended to:

1. Consider the options for a community governance review in light of the advantages and disadvantages outlined in section three.
2. Agree the draft terms of reference for a community governance review of the whole of the city, for consideration by Council.
3. Agree, in principle, subject to Council approval, to act as the lead committee for the review process, ultimately making recommendations to Council for the city's community governance arrangements.
4. Agree the proposed timetable for the review, subject to ratification by Council.

Recommendations for noting:

The Advisory Group is asked to note:

1. That the costs of the review, to include resourcing the review itself and the associated consultation, have yet to be quantified but will be reported to the Special Advisory Group in due course.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Council has received a formal request (dated 8 April 2016) for a community governance review, specifically in relation to Tettenhall Wightwick and Tettenhall Regis, to which it has a statutory obligation to respond. As the request meets the legislative criteria for triggering a review, the Council has a duty to arrange a community governance review and this report outlines the proposed approach for doing so.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, decisions on whether to implement parish council arrangements and the associated electoral provisions were delegated to principal authorities, with due regard to the views of local people. This legislation was updated in the Legislative Reform (Community Governance Reviews) Order 2015.
- 2.2 A principal authority can initiate a community governance review of its own volition or in response to a petition from local electors. Guidance from the government in 2010 recommended that a community governance review should take place every ten to 15 years. A review should consider the arrangements for parish councils (including, where they are already in existence, whether they should be discontinued) with the objective of ensuring that local government arrangements are 'effective and convenient' as well as reflecting 'the identities and interests of the community in that area'.
- 2.3 A petition from local electors can be based on a percentage of the relevant electorate (in the affected area) or from a community group that has produced a neighbourhood plan and submits a community governance 'application'¹.
- 2.4 Under new requirements introduced in 2015, the principal authority has 12 months to complete a community governance review, starting from receipt of a valid request². The review must consult local electors, as well as any other individuals or organisations that the council considers to have a reasonable interest. Guidance states that the review should consider a range of factors, including community cohesion and the size/population/boundaries of a parish area. A review can result in one of three outcomes for a particular area:

- (1) Whether a new parish or parishes should be constituted.
- (2) Whether an existing parish or parishes should be abolished or retained.
- (3) Whether an existing parish or parishes should have boundary change(s).

In addition, the review should make recommendations for the electoral arrangements for any new parishes.

¹ The request for a review has been received from the Tettenhall and District Community Council, which is a neighbourhood forum.

² The request was submitted in April 2016.

3.0 Options for conducting the review

- 3.1 Guidance on conducting a review suggests that a council should consider whether to review the arrangements across its entire area, rather than simply in respect of the area for which the request has been made. This ensures a holistic approach to considering governance requirements, rather than reacting to particular local requests in a piecemeal fashion. However, the guidance also recognises that there may be factors that mean this is not the best option at a given time.
- 3.2 When Birmingham City Council received a similar request for Sutton Coldfield, it decided to include the whole city within the scope of its review. However, it was conducted on a differentiated basis, with a general web survey for the wider city and more in-depth consultation activities in the Sutton Coldfield areas. This provided more detailed feedback about the key area in question, which was used to develop and support the ultimate recommendations.³
- 3.3 There are therefore two options:
- (1) To conduct a community governance review for the whole of Wolverhampton, but with more detailed work in the Tettenhall area.
 - (2) To conduct a review simply for Tettenhall.
- 3.4 Some of the advantages and disadvantages of the two approaches are outlined in the tables below:

Wolverhampton-wide review, with focused work in Tettenhall area	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost-effective approach, covering the whole city in one exercise. • Discharges duty to review the city's governance arrangements within 10-15 year window. • Opportunity for local people in all areas to express opinions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely to be possible to complete the review within the statutory timescale. • Could delay implementation of any recommendations for particular areas.

Tettenhall-focused review	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds effectively to presenting issue (no previous expressions of interest/demand for parish councils in any other area). • Likely to be able to meet the statutory timescale. • Less costly (in the short-term). • Experience from localised review can inform future widescale review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could trigger further requests from other groups, resulting in piecemeal approach. • Doesn't satisfy the Council's statutory obligations (i.e. would require further review in due course).

³ Sutton Coldfield Town Council came into being in March 2016 and the first elections were held in May 2016.

3.5 Whilst a more locally-focused review would be more expedient in terms of the statutory timetable, a full review of Wolverhampton will ensure the Tettenhall situation is considered within the context of the wider needs of the whole city. It will also be a more efficient approach, ensuring further small reviews do not have to be initiated in the next few years. Section four, below, outlines a proposed timetable for conducting a full community governance review.

4.0 Draft timetable

4.1 Advice has been taken from Birmingham City Council about the timetable for its community governance review in 2015. The council approved the terms of reference for the review in September 2014 and received the final recommendations at its meeting in September 2015, with implementation following in March 2016 and elections in May 2016. In between, a sub-committee of the council provided day-to-day oversight of the review process and approved the recommendations to be submitted. It is proposed that the Special Advisory Group should fulfil a similar oversight role as its constitutional remit includes advising the Council on elections and electoral arrangements.

4.2 The timetable proposed below provides for a process running from October 2016 to July 2017. This is shorter than for Birmingham/Sutton Coldfield but should be achievable given the relative size of the respective areas (the combined Tettenhall population is about 18,000, compared with about 96,000 in Sutton Coldfield), which will streamline the consultation process.

Date	Activity
Oct 2016	Draft terms of reference submitted to Special Advisory Group for approval.
Nov 2016	Terms of reference submitted to Council for approval.
Oct 2016 – Jan 2017	Preparation of detailed project plan, consultation documents and costs.
Jan 2017	Approval of consultation documents by Special Advisory Group.
Feb – April 2017	(a) Web consultation in respect of city-wide community governance review. (b) Local consultation in respect of Tettenhall community governance options.
April 2017	Report on consultation outcomes to Special Advisory Group.
May 2017	Consultative postal ballot of Tettenhall residents.
May – June 2017	Preparation of final report and recommendations.
June 2017	Consideration of report and recommendations by Special Advisory Group.
July 2017	Consideration of report and recommendations by Council.

- 4.3 It would be theoretically possible to bring forward the consultative postal ballot in Tettenhall to April 2017, by having a shorter general consultation period. However, this is deemed inadvisable because of the potential confusion caused by postal votes being sent out for the West Midlands Mayoral election on 4 May, particularly as that will be a new election with which residents will be unfamiliar.

5.0 Terms of reference

- 5.1 Under the 2007 Act, a principal authority is required to prepare and publish terms of reference for a community governance review. This document must take account of any petition/application for a review and specify the area to be considered.
- 5.2 A draft terms of reference is attached as appendix A.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 It is likely that there will be costs associated with resourcing the review and consultation process, including a consultative postal ballot. There is no additional funding available for this even though government has devolved these responsibilities to local authorities. Costs will be quantified as part of establishing the project and funding approval sought from Councillors as required. Further updates will be provided to Special Advisory Group in due course.
- 6.2 In the event that a parish council is formed as a result of the review, residents in the affected area will be subject to a precept, levied as part of their annual council tax bill. The exact amount would not be known until there was a greater understanding of the scope of the new council's responsibilities, but comparative data from other councils will be provided to residents as part of the consultation process.
- 6.3 If a parish council is formed the detail of financial arrangements will only emerge when the exact scope of the new council's responsibilities is established. This is likely to be much later in the process. In Birmingham, for example, the details of services to be provided by the new Sutton Coldfield town council are only now being agreed six months after its formation. As information becomes available any financial implications identified will be incorporated in the medium term financial strategy and reported to Councillors accordingly.

[GE/28092016/G]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The legal implications and the statutory basis for the conduct of community governance reviews are incorporated in the body of the report.

[TS/27092016/F]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The consultation process will include relevant representative groups as well as gathering equalities data from participants to ensure the eventual recommendations reflect the needs and views of the various equalities characteristics, and satisfy the Council's statutory duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no immediate human resources implications arising from this report, although longer term implications might arise from any decision to institute a parish council in one or more areas.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no immediate corporate landlord implications arising from this report, although longer term implications might arise from any decision to institute a parish council in one or more areas.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, DCLG and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 2010

Parish and town councils: recent issues (briefing paper 04827), House of Commons Library, 2015

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

**Community Governance Review
2016-17**

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The City of Wolverhampton Council is carrying out a community governance review under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ('the 2007 Act'). In response to a formal request from the Tettenhall and District Community Council, which is the neighbourhood forum for the Tettenhall area, this will focus on the Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick wards, but will sit in the context of a wider review of the community governance arrangements for the whole city.

The Council is required to have regard to the [Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#) produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, which has been considered in drawing up these terms of reference. The guidance is provided to support the review process and to ensure that the resulting community governance arrangements reflect 'the identities and interests of the community in the area under review' and are 'effective and convenient'.

What is a community governance review?

Community governance reviews provides the opportunity for councils to review and make changes to community governance in their areas. A review should consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing town or parish councils.
- The naming of and the style of new town or parish councils.
- The electoral arrangements for town or parish councils (e.g. number of councillors, wards, election frequency, etc.).
- Grouping or de-grouping town or parish councils.

The following extract from the guidance document explains how reviews are expected to work and the impact they can have:

“Community governance reviews provide the opportunity for principal councils to review and make changes to community governance within their areas. It can be helpful to undertake community governance reviews in circumstances such as where there have been changes in population, or in reaction to specific or local new issues. The Government has made clear in the 2006 white paper and in the 2007 Act its commitment to parish councils. It recognises the role such councils can play in terms of community empowerment at the local level. The 2007 Act provisions are intended to improve the development and coordination of support for citizens and community groups so that they can make the best use of empowerment opportunities.

“The 2007 Act is intended to streamline the process of taking decisions about giving effect to recommendations made in a community governance review, such as recommendations for the creation of new parishes and the establishment of parish councils, and about other matters such as making changes to parish boundaries and electoral arrangements. By devolving the powers to take these decisions from central

government to local government, the 2007 Act is intended to simplify the decision-making process and make it more local.

“Parish and town councils are the most local tier of government in England. There are currently about 10,000 parishes in England – around 8,900 of which have councils served by approximately 70,000 councillors. There is a large variation in size of parishes in England from those with a handful of electors to those with over 40,000 electors.”¹

Why is the City of Wolverhampton undertaking a review?

Under the 2007 Act, every principal authority has an obligation to review the community governance arrangements in its area every 10-15 years. However, a review can also be triggered by a valid petition from local residents or a valid application from a neighbourhood forum. The Council has received such an application from the Tettenhall and District Community Council, requesting that a community governance review consider the constitution of a new parish council and that the area to be considered should consist of the wards of Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick.

Given the obligation to conduct a periodic city-wide review, in the interests of effective and efficient governance, and in accordance with the government guidance, the Council review will consider the community governance arrangements across Wolverhampton, but with a particular focus on the Tettenhall area. A map of the Tettenhall wards to be considered is appended to this document.

The review objectives

The review will seek to fulfil the following objectives:

- (1) To satisfy the Council’s statutory obligation to undertake a community governance review in Tettenhall, following receipt of a valid application from the neighbourhood forum.
- (2) To satisfy the Council’s statutory obligation to carry out a periodic review of the community governance arrangements across the city.
- (3) To consider the Tettenhall and District Community Council’s proposal that there should be a parish council for the wards of Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick.
- (4) To enable residents and other relevant parties across the city, and particularly in Tettenhall, to have an opportunity to comment on and shape community governance arrangements through a transparent and accessible process.
- (5) To consider the impact of any potential community governance arrangements in Tettenhall in the context of the wider city.
- (6) To consider the budgetary implications of any new community governance arrangements for the affected area and the city as a whole.

¹ Paras 12-14, *Guidance on Community Governance Reviews*, DCLG and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 2010

- (7) To consider the implications of differentiated community governance arrangements in terms of delivering the Council's corporate objectives – a stronger economy and stronger communities.
- (8) If a recommendation of the review is the formation of one or more parish councils, to also recommend appropriate associated electoral arrangements.
- (9) To ensure that community governance arrangements in the City of Wolverhampton reflect the identities and interests of the community, and are effective and convenient.

Consultation and information

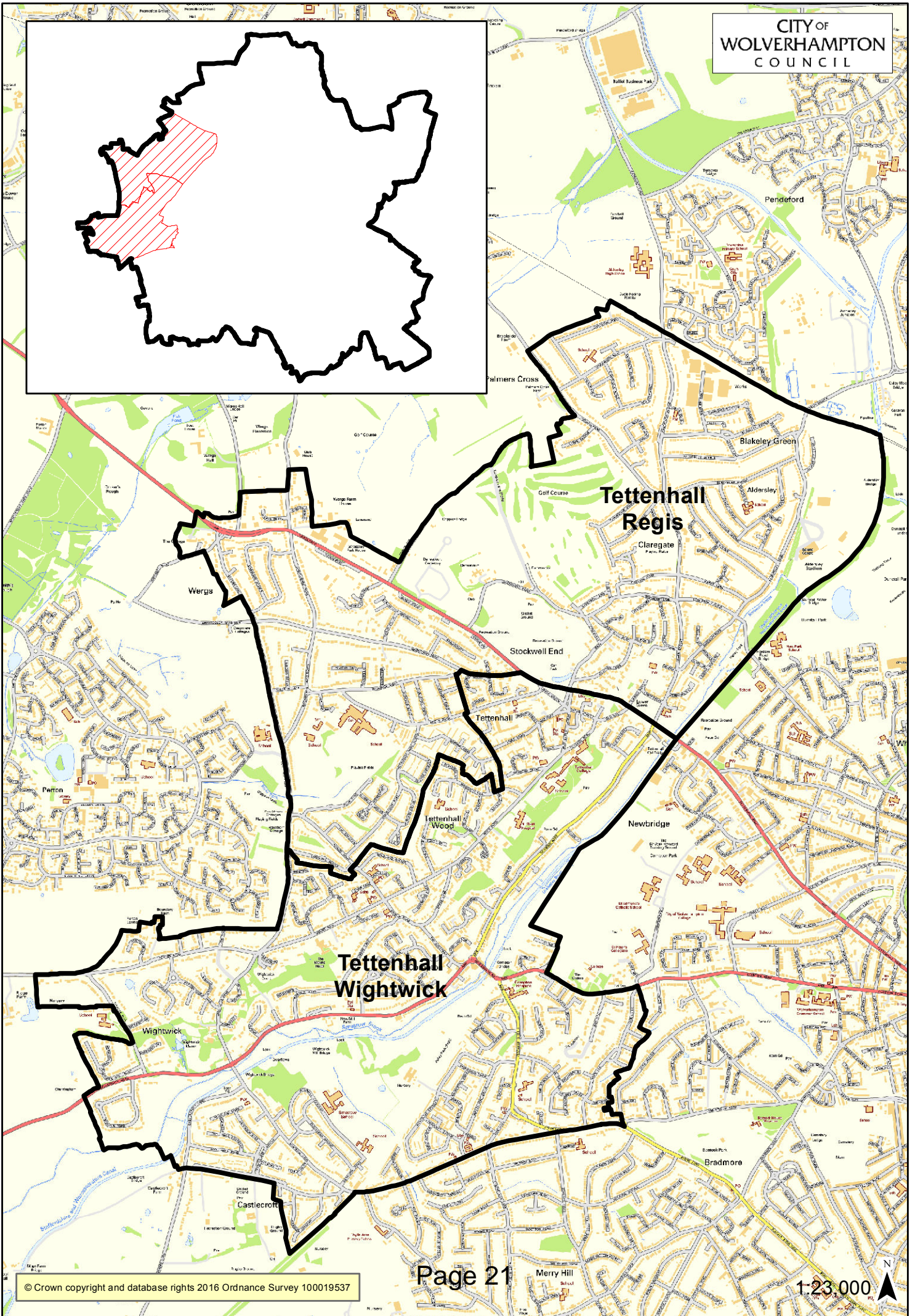
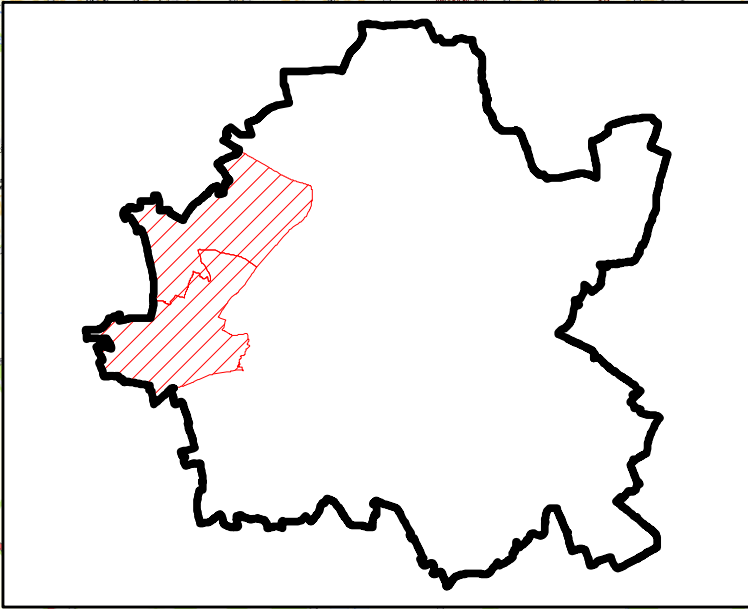
The Council is required to consult with residents in the area(s) under review, as well as any other relevant individuals (e.g. local business owners) and organisations. Consultation will take place through a variety of mechanisms, including online surveys, open community meetings and, in Tettenhall, a postal ballot. Information about the review will be available online and in hard copy format from key Council premises.

The Council wants the review to be transparent, accessible and informative. The Council's Special Advisory Group, which includes Councillors from the main political groups, will oversee the review process on behalf of the authority. The full Council itself will agree the terms of reference for the review and consider the eventual recommendations arising from it. Reports to both the Special Advisory Group and the Council will be publicly available, and the meetings of both bodies are open to members of the public to attend.

Provisional timetable

The timetable below outlines the provisional timeline for conducting the review. This may be subject to change as the review progresses:

October 2016	Special Advisory Group agrees the draft terms of reference for the community governance review.
November 2016	Council agrees the terms of reference.
November 2016 to January 2017	Development of the detailed project plan, consultation documents, communication plan and financial information.
January 2017	Special Advisory Group approves consultation documents.
February to April 2017	Consultation period in respect of (a) city-wide community governance generally, and (b) Tettenhall community governance specifically.
April 2017	Report on consultation outcomes to the Special Advisory Group.
May 2017	Consultative postal ballot of Tettenhall residents.
June 2017	Consideration of draft final report and recommendations by the Special Advisory Group.
July 2017	Consideration of report and recommendations by Council.



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