

Text for Community Governance Review information document

Version control:

Version	Date	Author/reviewer	Comments
0.1	7 Dec 2016	Martyn Sargeant	First draft
0.2	15 Dec 2016	Martyn Sargeant	Inclusion of foreword and finance information
0.3	22 Dec 2016	Martyn Sargeant	Additional precept information included
1.0	4 Jan 2017	Martyn Sargeant	Following review meeting with Cllr Johnson; version for circulation to Special Advisory Group

A: Foreword

The City of Wolverhampton is made up of over a quarter of million people of different ages, beliefs, races and lifestyles. The role of the Council is to represent each of those individuals and make every effort to ensure that today's city and tomorrow's city are shaped to reflect their needs and priorities.

The Council's research tells us that satisfaction with the Council is improving, but Wolverhampton is a big city and often residents can feel their needs get missed and their viewpoints are not heard. And that's why local democratic structures are so important, providing tailored governance arrangements that enable each community to focus on its specific challenges and opportunities, engaging effectively with ward Councillors and the Council organisation.

We live in a constantly changing nation and world, and it's right that our democratic structures should evolve to reflect those shifting contexts. As Councillors, we want the very best for our city and the people who live, work and visit here

Local people are at the heart of local democracy: the services provided by a local authority are for their benefit and they elect representatives to be their voice, influencing and shaping how services are delivered. In the past decade, successive governments, of differing political viewpoints, have emphasised the importance of effective local governance arrangements, ensuring that residents can both have a say and play a part in dealing with and responding to the issues that are important in their communities.

This community governance review will enable us to engage with people across Wolverhampton, to hear their views about what's right for their area, as well as the wider city. The review will shape the Council's specific response to the proposal for a parish council in Tettenhall, but it will also help us form a view about what is best for the whole of Wolverhampton over the coming years.

We want to know what you think, so I encourage you to read this document and then make your views known through the various mechanisms outlined on the following pages. Community governance will play an important role in shaping Wolverhampton over the next few years, so don't miss your opportunity to shape community governance.

Cllr Andrew Johnson
Chair of the Special Advisory Group (on Constitutional Matters)

[PICTURE]

B: The purpose of this consultation and how to respond

This consultation lies at the heart of the City of Wolverhampton Council's community governance review (the CGR). It consists of two distinct elements:

- (1) With regards to the wards of Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick, should there be a parish council to further develop the community governance arrangements for the area?
- (2) With regards to the wider city, what community governance arrangements will best serve the City of Wolverhampton in the coming decade?

How to respond

The consultation will run from XXXXXXXX to XXXXXXXX.

There are a variety of ways in which residents and other interested parties can contribute.

For the Tettenhall review:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Web | Visit the consultation website at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX |
| Email | Send your views to tettenhallCGR@wolverhampton.gov.uk |
| Post | Send your views to:
Tettenhall CGR
Electoral Services
Civic Centre
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH |
| In person | Attend one of the community meetings: |

Venue 1 (Tett Wightwick) – Date/time 1

Venue 2 (Tett Regis) – Date/time 2

For the citywide review:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| Web | Visit the consultation website at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX |
| Email | Send your views to wolverhamptonCGR@wolverhampton.gov.uk |
| Post | Send your views to:
Wolverhampton CGR
Electoral Services
Civic Centre
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH |

As part of the consultation, the Council has also commissioned a survey to gather views from a representative group of residents in Tettenhall and across the wider city.

All the views and comments received from the consultation will be summarised in a report to be considered by the Council's Special Advisory Group, which is overseeing the community governance review.

C: Background and context

Different types of local council

Local councils are the first formal tier of English local government. They are elected corporate bodies. All parish councils have the same powers and duties. After 1974 many larger parish councils covering whole towns began calling themselves town councils. There is no difference in their powers, but the Chair can style themselves “Town Mayor”. However, because of their larger scale and therefore income they tend to have a staff and other resources that smaller local councils do not. (Sutton Coldfield is a town council.)

The 2007 Local Democracy and Public Involvement in Health Act brought in the right to set up parish councils in London for the first time. To encourage more local councils in cities generally the act also enabled them to be called “neighbourhood” or “community” councils (the name “village council” is also available). They are not to be confused with Parochial Church Councils that administer the parishes of the Church of England, though they may cover the same area, particularly in rural locations.

The community governance review¹

A formal community governance review is carried out by a local authority to determine changes to local arrangements, such as parish councils, town councils and area committees. A review can be initiated by the council itself or in response to a qualifying request from residents or a residents’ group. Such a review must take into account the wider context of local governance and the impact that any changes will make.²

The City of Wolverhampton Council has received a qualifying request for a community governance review from the Tettenhall and District Community Council, asking that:

- ‘The area to be considered consists of the wards of Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick, which form the area of our neighbourhood forum.’
- ‘The review considers the constitution of a new parish.’

On 9 November 2016, the Council agreed to undertake a community governance review on whether to accept the Community Council’s proposal. However, given its statutory duty to undertake a periodic review of community governance arrangements across the city, the Council also decided this would be an appropriate time to consider all the current arrangements for local democracy. The terms of reference for the review are outlined in section XX.

The current arrangements

The current arrangements for community governance in Wolverhampton include:

- The full city Council, which consists of 60 Councillors across 20 wards. The Council approves the long term strategy and annual budget, which shape the delivery of services. It also holds the Leader and Cabinet to account and receives significant petitions submitted by residents.

¹ More information on community governance reviews can be found in the guidance from the Local Government Boundary Commission at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance>

² Amendments to the community governance review process were included in the Legislative Reform (Community Governance Reviews) Order 2015, which is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/998/made>

- A Leader and Cabinet system for strategic decision making and oversight of the Council's functions.
- A Scrutiny Board, with oversight of six scrutiny panels, to hold the Cabinet to account and support the development of policy.
- Neighbourhood forums (such as the Tettenhall and District Community Council), which are community-led and enable residents to meet together and highlight local issues, as well as take action to improve the neighbourhood. Residents' and tenants' associations perform a similar role.
- Wolverhampton Homes, overseeing the running of the Council's housing stock across the city and liaising with tenants about the delivery of those services.
- Tenant management organisations, overseeing the running of housing in various parts of the city.

How the context has changed

The backdrop against which local services are delivered has changed significantly in recent years and it is important that local governance arrangements reflect that. Key developments in the last decade include:

- Drastic reductions in funding for local government, which means that the Council has to consider which services it can afford to deliver, and how to do so most cost-effectively.
- Rapid improvements in technology, which are changing the way in which people communicate, interact with services, form communities and take part in politics and democracy.
- Changes in society – locally, regionally and nationally – with much greater diversity of population, and a significant increase in the number of older people.
- Changes in the economy, which are altering the nature of work and the skills needed by employers, with implications for the relationships between schools, colleges and universities, and businesses.
- The desire of some local communities to be able to exert a greater influence over their neighbourhood and the services available, and to make a bigger contribution to tackling local issues.
- The recognition of the need to provide more joined-up services and focus on prevention and early intervention, working more closely with service users and communities.
- A central government agenda to devolve decision-making to a local level, encouraging the formation of parish councils, particularly in urban areas, where there have previously been few such structures, and implementing legislation (e.g. the Localism Act 2011), giving new rights to community groups to own assets and develop neighbourhood plans.

All of these issues have important implications for the ways in which services are delivered, and the mechanisms through which residents inform and influence decision-making.

Regional context

Wolverhampton is the 18th largest city in the UK, but it is part of a much larger urban area – the Black Country – as well as the wider West Midlands region. People travel across and into those areas on a daily basis, for business and for leisure. Any consideration of governance arrangements must take account of the wider picture, which is a complex, inter-connected and inter-dependent web of individuals, companies and organisations.

Governance works at three levels across Wolverhampton and the conurbations of which it is part:

West Midlands region: Wolverhampton was one of the founding authorities of the West Midlands Combined Authority, which came into being on 17 June 2016. It is responding to the government's drive for devolved regional decision-making and recognises the importance of addressing issues that cross multiple local authority boundaries and have implications for millions of people (e.g. transport, skills, education, health).

City: The City of Wolverhampton Council has worked with its partners to develop [Vision 2030](#), which outlines how the city can achieve a sustainable, successful future for the next generation of Wolverhampton residents. This goes beyond the Council's own corporate plan, which has a narrower focus, and recognises the need for key organisations and individuals from the public, private and voluntary sector to work collaboratively. Cllr Roger Lawrence, Leader of the Council, said:

We face many significant challenges and these are best dealt with by working together. There are huge opportunities in our city and future success is all the better when it's shared by all.'

Local areas: This consultation sits within the context of the city and West Midlands region but focuses on the local level. The Council wants to encourage and facilitate the role of residents in making a bigger contribution to the running of the city, in shaping and delivering responsive and integrated local services.

The governance arrangements at all three levels are important. And they depend upon each other. For example:

- effective joint planning arrangements at a regional level on housing growth can help shape housing development, providing employment opportunities and vibrant neighbourhoods;
- effective development and management of strategic transportation can improve the city's work and leisure travel arrangements, boosting regional growth and improving quality of life for residents;
- good design of community services at the neighbourhood level can help improve employment prospects and contribute to the overall skills profile of the city workforce.

Transforming our City: the vision for Wolverhampton

The City of Wolverhampton faces a range of challenges, including raising educational attainment, stimulating growth in skilled jobs, regenerating the economy and providing quality care to those in need, particularly the elderly and disadvantaged. The Council's corporate plan sets out how Councillors want to transform the city over the coming years.

At the heart of the corporate plan is a desire to deal with the things that really matter to local people. The Council aims to work together with city, regional and national partners to create an even stronger economy and more resilient communities, building on the solid foundations laid in recent years.

The plan prioritises economic development and regeneration to bring jobs, growth and opportunity to local people and businesses. It also tackles some of the social challenges the city faces. Safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our communities continues to be a top priority for the council alongside transforming the aspirations of residents and valuing fairness and equality in everything we do.

This plan is consistent with, and complements, the City of Wolverhampton's Vision 2030 – a strategic blueprint commissioned by the Council and developed in close collaboration with key partners. It's about achieving real outcomes for the citizens of Wolverhampton and is underpinned by solid and sustainable plans, ensuring the Council can be held to account for what it has promised to deliver.

The key objectives of the plan are:

Place: stronger economy

- Delivering effective core services that people want.
- An environment where new and existing businesses thrive.
- People develop the skills to get and keep work.

People: stronger communities

- People live longer, healthier lives.
- Adults and children are supported in times of need.
- People and communities achieve their full potential.

All this is underpinned by developing the Council organisation to be confident and capable, ready and able to deliver the change the city needs.

A full copy of the corporate plan is available on the Council's website at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/corporateplan.

The community governance review can play a key part in helping deliver the corporate plan, so that people and communities achieve their full potential and the services delivered reflect what people want.

D: Community governance review – terms of reference

The terms of reference for the review, agreed by the Council on 9 November 2016, are:

- (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.
- (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.

E: Parish councils

What is the role of a parish council?

Town and parish councils can provide neighbourhoods, villages and towns with a voice and a structure for taking local action – real people power at grassroots level. They can tackle specific local issues of concern and residents can work closely with their parish/town councillors to improve their locality.

Parish councils should work towards supporting responsiveness to community needs and interests. Their activities fall into three main categories:

- Representing the local community.
- Delivering services to meet local needs.
- Striving to improve quality of life and community wellbeing.

What *must* a parish council do?

The list of things a parish council must do is fairly short. It must:

- Have councillors and hold elections.
- Hold an annual meeting, and at least three other meetings every year.
- Appoint such employees as are required for the discharge of its functions, including somebody with specific responsibility for financial management.
- It must have appropriate rules around financial management and obtaining goods and services (procurement).

What *can* a parish council do?

Parish councils have the option to exercise a variety of powers and duties³ including the delivery of a small number of specific local services that add to those provided by the principal council such as:

Bus shelters	Allotments
Public toilets	Control of litter
Community transport	Community centres
Parks and open spaces	Crime prevention
Festivals and fetes	Traffic calming measures
Tourism activities	Markets

A parish council can choose not to deliver any services and instead act purely as a means of influencing local service provision made by the principal council or other partners such as the police. Alternatively, a parish council can provide additional services to those provided by the principal council such as the provision of car parking with the consent of the principal council.

When a parish council is formed (e.g. if Tettenhall was to have a local council) it can enter into discussions with the principal council (in this scenario, the City of Wolverhampton Council) about the transfer of some services, budgets and assets. However this is subject to mutual agreement and securing “best value” by law.

Parish and town councils can also exercise the Community Right to Bid⁴, to purchase assets of community value.

Finally, parish councils can work with the principal council (the planning authority) to create a plan for their area. The plan sets out policies and priorities for the physical development of the area and must be in accordance with the development plan for the wider area approved by the planning authority and Secretary of State. Tettenhall already has such a plan. The only other one in Wolverhampton is for Heathfield Park (Heath Town).

What *can't* a parish council do?

A parish council is not a replacement for a principal council and will not deliver complete independence and autonomy. While it is possible for a parish council to deliver services beyond those outlined above, there are such legal constraints, challenges and risks involved that this is made unlikely on a significant scale. Parish councils are the most local level of government. They provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action. Their role is not to operate as a council that would hold the budget for and deliver virtually all services provided in the locality – that is the role of the principal council.

The establishment of a parish council may therefore not:

- Involve the transfer of significant funds, services, land or other assets.
- Give significant power over the current services provided in the areas of refuse collection and highways.

³ A more comprehensive overview of parish councils' powers and duties is available at <http://www.localgov.co.uk/Parish-council-responsibilities/29135>. The full list, containing references to legislation, is contained in the report *Local Councils Explained (2013)*, which is available to purchase from the [National Association of Local Councils](http://www.localgov.co.uk).

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/14880/Community_Right_to_Bid_-_Non-statutory_advice_note_for_local_authorities.pdf

- Give power to bypass the planning authority or the City of Wolverhampton's development plan.
- Create a major role, input or power in the delivery of medical, police, education or fire services.

Parish councils are not tasked with statutory responsibilities relating to the provision of housing, social care, education and waste collection, etc. They are a statutory consultee in relation to planning, but they do not determine planning applications.

How is a parish council run?

A parish council requires:

- A finance officer, who is responsible by law for ensuring the proper management of the parish council's funds.
- The appointment of parish councillors, from which a chair and vice chair are elected. For example:
 - Kenilworth Parish Council (which comes under Warwick) and has a population of about 22,000, has 17 elected councillors.
 - Great Sankey (part of Warrington) has a population of about 25,000 and 15 councillors.
 - Perton (South Staffordshire) has a population of 11,500 and elects 15 councillors.

It is for the parish council to decide the desirable number of councillors, which will usually be determined by population and geographic factors. Councillors can be volunteers and receive expenses or the parish council can decide to pay an allowance. Parish councillors are in addition to those elected to the principal authority (e.g. in Wolverhampton, there are six Councillors elected across the two Tettenhall wards).

How much does a parish council cost?

Parish councils are funded principally through an annual precept – an additional council tax paid by those that live in the parish council area. The money raised by the precept belongs to the parish council (not the principal council), which will make decisions on how it is spent, within its legal remit.

A parish council will use its available funding for two purposes:

- (1) To provide the administration and governance necessary for the effective running of the council (e.g. holding parish council meetings, allowances and expenses for councillors, salaries for any employees, conducting elections).
- (2) Delivering additional services to enhance those provided by the principal council (e.g. extra bin collections or street cleaning, extended opening hours for community centres, installing speed bumps, holding community events).

Every parish council is different, providing different services and having varying numbers of councillors, and it is consequently very difficult to accurately predict what the financial implications would be for residents, if there was to be a parish council in their area. Section **XX** provides several case studies by way of example, to illustrate the potential impact on council tax.

The average band D precept for a parish council is £57.40. Of the 8,564 parish councils (2016/17 data):

- 397 charge more than £100 (5%)
- 2,174 charge £50-100 (25%)
- 3,577 charge £25-50 (42%)

- 2,416 charge less than £25 (28%)

The extra council tax charged as a precept depends on various factors, including the services delivered by the parish council, number of residents, etc.

F: Tettenhall community governance review

Introduction

The Tettenhall and District Community Council was formed in **XXXX**, having grown out of the Tettenhall Neighbourhood Forum, which had worked with the Council to develop the Tettenhall area plan. As a formally constituted neighbourhood forum, the Community Council is entitled to request a community governance review and did so in April 2016, asking that:

- ‘The area to be considered consists of the wards of Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick, which form the area of our neighbourhood forum.
- ‘The review considers the constitution of a new parish.’

As part of its consultation on the proposals, the Council is seeking the views of Tettenhall residents, as well as those living in other parts of Wolverhampton. The key consultation questions are outlined in the box below:

Consultation questions

- **What are the benefits or drawbacks of having a parish council for Tettenhall, with regard to the services it could provide and the way in which it would impact on local democracy?**
- **What would be a reasonable council tax supplement for residents in Tettenhall to pay to have a parish council?**
- **What would the impact of a parish council in Tettenhall be in terms of the governance of Wolverhampton as a whole?**

There are a variety of ways in which residents can contribute to the consultation. See [page XX](#) for more details.

What might a parish council cost in Tettenhall?

As outlined earlier in the document, there are core costs associated with having a parish council that have to be met by local residents. Even if a parish council undertakes the bare minimum of activities, there will still be costs to run the organisation (administration, councillors, elections, etc.). The way parish councils are run varies widely across the country, from those that deliver no services and simply review local planning applications, through to those that deliver quite a significant range of services.

The average national precept for a band D property is £57.40.⁵ This represents the extra cost to each property in the parish council area. The table below details what this would cost for different council tax bands:

National average parish council precept	
Band A	£38.27
Band B	£44.64
Band C	£51.02
Band D	£57.40
Band E	£70.16
Band F	£82.91
Band G	£95.67
Band H	£114.80

Because parish councils differ so much, there is also a big difference in precepts. The largest precept in the country is £2,117,238 (Dunstable Town Council), for which the band D additional council tax precept is £175.21. The lowest precept is £4 (Heapham), for which the band D charge is £0.10.

The case studies below provide examples of the precept costs for two existing parishes that would be comparable with Tettenhall.⁶

Case study 1: Woodley

Woodley Town Council has nine parish wards and is served by twenty five councillors. Woodley Town councillors are not paid for their work as members of the town council. The estimated population of Woodley is over 36,000.

Services:

- Meeting places
- Community centres and village halls
- Parks and open spaces
- Allotments
- Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and lighting
- Representations on matter and consultations
- Bus shelters
- Public conveniences (Local Loo scheme)
- Sports and recreation
- Support to young people and outreach youth work
- Grants
- Events

Band D equivalent precept charge was £106 per annum for 2015/16.

⁵

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512402/Council_tax_levels_set_by_local_authorities_in_England_2016-17.pdf

⁶ The comparison is calculated using the council tax base, which takes into account not simply population but the different numbers of different types of property, using council tax bands.

Case Study 2: Holme Valley Council

Holme Valley Parish Council is the first tier of local government covering the administrative area of the Holme Valley. It serves a population of nearly 30,000 in the towns and villages of Holmfirth, Honley, Brockholes, Cinderhills, Hade Edge, Hepworth, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmbridge, Holme, Jackson Bridge, Netherthong, New Mill, Scholes, Thongsbridge, Upperrthong and Wooldale. As Holme Valley Parish Council covers quite a large civil parish, it is divided into parish wards, with separate elections for each ward. Councillors are elected representatives, often living in the village or locality they represent.

The council's main aim is to improve the quality of life of the residents of the Holme Valley. It works in partnership with many organisations to promote the Valley to make it a thriving place to live, work and play in, as well as an attractive area to visit.

Services:

- Represent and consult the residents of the Holme Valley on developments in the Valley including the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan and the district authority's Local Plan
- Local events and community organisations through providing financial grants and assistance
- Minibus service
- Public toilets
- Red phone box
- Libraries/information points
- Public seats
- Stone bus shelters
- A closed churchyard
- Allotments

Band D equivalent precept charge was £12 per annum for 2015/16.

Case study 3: Lichfield City Council

Lichfield has a population of 32,000. Lichfield City Council is one of the largest 'parish' councils in England. It is one of eight parish councils which have city status.

Services

Services:

- Markets
- Allotments
- Open spaces
- Civic services
- Guildhall
- Planning
- Samuel Johnson Museum
- Freedom of information
- Community centres
- Christmas lights
- Customs and traditions
- Representative role
- Payments

Band D equivalent precept charge was £53 per annum for 2015/16.

G: Wolverhampton-wide review of community governance

The involvement of local people lies at the heart of an effective democratic system. As part of its obligation to periodically review the community governance arrangements across the city, the Council is keen to hear from residents and workers in all parts of the city. This section of the paper outlines a variety of different models of community governance, many of which can work effectively together.

The key consultation questions are outlined in the box below:

Consultation questions

- **How effective are the existing community governance arrangements in Wolverhampton at representing the views of local people and shaping services accordingly?**
- **What would improve community governance in your area of the city?**
- **What could Councillors do to improve community leadership?**

There are a variety of ways in which residents can contribute to the consultation. See [page XX](#) for more details.

There is a wide range of different community governance models, not just in the UK but across the world. The following is not exhaustive but provides an overview of some of the most common:

Ward councillors: elected by local people, the ward councillor is at the heart of democracy across the UK, and provides the primary link between residents and the council organisation, helping to shape and influence services.

Neighbourhood forums: Wolverhampton has only two forums – Tettenhall and Heathfield Park. Neighbourhood forums are community-led organisations, including not just residents but representation from the business community. They focus on local issues and engage with elected representatives to seek to address them.

Parish councils: parish councils are the lowest tier of local government in the UK. They are familiar in rural areas but less so in cities. There are currently no parish councils in Wolverhampton. More information about the operation of parish councils is provided in [section XX](#).

Area committees: such committees, which can be made up of local residents and ward councillors, are usually sub-areas of a local authority. For example, Birmingham has ten area committees (known as districts) because it is such a large area. They can operate in a similar way to neighbourhood forums, identifying and seeking to address local issues, or they can oversee a budget and services delegated from the principal authority.

Tenant management organisations (TMO): a TMO is created when residents of council or housing association homes take on legal responsibility for managing the homes they live in, usually with an elected committee. Wolverhampton has a number of TMOs across the city (e.g. Bushbury Hill, Dovecotes and New Park Village).

Residents' associations: through a residents' association, local people from a specific area can come together to address issues and provide a voice for the community. A residents' association is a less formal structure than either a neighbourhood forum or a TMO.

H: Examples of other community governance reviews

This section provides two examples of community governance reviews in other areas, including a recent example from Birmingham, where the Sutton Coldfield Town Council was formed after a community governance review, and Fareham, in Hampshire, where the decision was made not to set-up a parish council.

Example 1: Fareham Borough Council – Funtley Community Governance Review

On 30 July 2015 Fareham Borough Council agreed to undertake a community governance review in response to a petition signed by residents of Funtley, which requested that a specific area be designated as a parished area and that a parish council be established. The first phase of the consultation ran from 21 September 2015 to 14 December 2015 which consisted of 565 questionnaires being delivered to each registered elector, plus businesses and community organisations within the defined area. A Community Action Team meeting was also held which was attended by 20 residents. Draft recommendations were made for consideration at this point for the current governance arrangements to stay the same.

The second phase of the consultation ran from 23 May 2016 to 20 June 2016 in which it asked residents for their views on the recommendations made. The response rate for this was very low and only 32 residents (5.6% of the population of Funtley) said they were against the council's recommendation.

After considering the responses to the public consultation, it was concluded that there was no clear and sustained level of local support although acknowledgement was given to the achievements of the existing Funtley Village Society and this was supported by the relatively low response to the consultation compared to the overall size of the electorate and the decreasing support for the parish council proposal over the period of consultation and the low turnout at the public Community Action Team meeting held by the council to engage with the community on the issue during the consultation period.

It was decided that, given the relatively small size of Funtley, the creation of a parish would not adequately reflect the identities and social cohesion of the wider conurbation. Whilst Funtley was geographically definable, it was not sufficiently distinct to avoid the risk of creating unnecessary social barriers with neighbouring communities.

Having regard to the small size of the Funtley electorate, a parish council would not constitute the most effective or convenient way of engaging the community and empowering it in relation to its contribution to wider Fareham Borough. The Council decided that the perceived benefits of a parish council would be outweighed by the added layer of bureaucracy and cost associated with the set up and running of an additional layer of governance. Some residents expressed concerns about whether they or others could afford to pay the precept on top of council tax.

Example 2: Sutton Coldfield Town Council - Community Governance in Birmingham

Residents in Sutton Coldfield presented a valid petition to Birmingham City Council requesting the establishment of a new Sutton Coldfield Town Council within the existing Sutton Coldfield and Parliamentary constituency boundaries. On 19 September 2014 Birmingham City Council resolved to carry out a community governance review including but not restricted to, the proposals for a Sutton

Coldfield Town Council. The review considered the question of whether Sutton Coldfield should have a town council, but did so as part of a much wider review of governance in the city.

Residents were asked to weigh up the benefits proposed within the wider community governance review and the benefits of having a town council either alongside or instead of those benefits. Furthermore, they were asked to consider whether a town council in Sutton Coldfield was something they felt would benefit Birmingham as a whole or whether other options would provide greater benefits.

A range of consultation activities was undertaken between 25 February and 30 March 2015. These activities were jointly facilitated by an independent external facilitator who produced a report detailing the outcomes and an analysis of the consultation. Response to the consultation was deemed disappointing therefore a postal ballot was recommended.

A postal consultative ballot for all residents on the electoral register in Sutton Coldfield took place between 25 June 2015 and 16 July 2015 which led to Birmingham City Council recommending the establishment of the town council. Of the 75,431 eligible voters, 29,851 valid votes were counted, of which 20,871 voted 'yes' in favour of a town council.

Birmingham City Council agreed the recommendation of the community governance review, namely that a new parish should be constituted for the area designated within the existing Sutton Coldfield constituency boundaries, called 'Sutton Coldfield Parish Council' with the proposal that it would consist of 24 councillors.

The additional council tax precept for Sutton Coldfield for 2016/17 is:

Band A	£33.31
Band B	£38.86
Band C	£44.41
Band D	£49.96
Band E	£61.06
Band F	£72.16
Band G	£88.27
Band H	£99.92

Glossary of words and phrases

Boundary Commission	The Local Government Boundary Commission is the body responsible for reviewing electoral arrangements in local councils and making recommendations to central government about changes.
Combined Authority	A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries ¹ .
Community Governance Review	A review of local governance arrangements such as parish councils conducted by a local authority. It may be triggered by a petitioner by the council itself.
Community	The term used to describe the leadership in local areas shown by a range of

Leadership	people in community organisations, businesses, public services or elected positions. This might include driving local projects, inspiring people to participate or bringing people together in partnerships.
Community Rights	<p>A range of rights granted to community organisations in the Localism Act of 2011. They are:</p> <p>Community Right to Challenge – to take over the running of a local service from a public body</p> <p>Community Right to Bid – the power to have an asset placed on a register kept by the council and then to bid for it if it comes up for sale. This covers private assets (e.g. pubs) not just public ones (e.g. libraries).</p> <p>Community Right to Build – enables communities to propose small developments.</p>
Electoral Review	A review carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission or by the Boundary Commission for England in the case of Parliamentary seats.
Governance	The word used to describe the way in which places are governed by both elected politicians and a wider set of organisations and groups. It has a wider meaning than “government” which refers just to the elected politicians or the state.
Leader and Cabinet system	Under the Local Government Act 2000, the system of strategic leadership used by many councils and similar to that used by national government. A Leader is appointed by the majority group and the whole council and she/he then appoints a Cabinet of up to nine other councillors. The Leader and Cabinet form the “Executive” of the council and make most day-to-day decisions not delegated to officers.
Neighbourhood Forum	A voluntary community organisation formed to enable local people to have more influence on decision-making and to carry out their own initiatives to improve the neighbourhood. The City Council has a set of standards and a kite mark for forums that it recognises.
Neighbourhood Management	Different local services and organisations working together with residents and businesses in a neighbourhood to focus on priorities and share resources. Sometimes a Neighbourhood Manager is appointed to ensure co-ordination and provide a single point of contact for residents.
Neighbourhood Plan	A plan setting out policies for the physical development of a neighbourhood. Under the Localism Act 2011, it may be drawn up by recognised local bodies, such as a forum or parish council. They must be in line with Local Development Plans and national planning policy
Scrutiny Panel	Alongside the Leader and Cabinet system, the 2000 Act introduced overview and scrutiny committees (known as scrutiny panels in Wolverhampton) to hold the executive to account and to conduct reviews of new or existing policy. These are presented to the Cabinet.
Parish or Neighbourhood Council	The lowest tier of local government in England. Since 2007 parish councils can be called “neighbourhood”, “community” or “village” councils.
Town Council	A parish council that covers a whole town, usually a much larger area and population than most parishes (e.g. Sutton Coldfield).
West Midlands Combined Authority	The WMCA is made up of the seven metropolitan councils of the West Midlands and provides a robust framework to deliver the co-ordinated decision-making needed for modern economic governance.
West Midlands	The West Midlands region is the wider urban area beyond Wolverhampton,

Region	which incorporates the Black Country, Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry.
---------------	--

Appendix – Map of Wolverhampton wards