



Report to: General Purposes Committee – 12 December 2024

Director Lead: Sue Bearman, Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services

Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	Community Governance Review – Newark Town Council
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To consider the Terms of Reference, including timetable, to undertake a Community Governance Review of Newark Town Council.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That the Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved for the first stage of public consultation.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To undertake a community governance review of Newark Town Council to ensure the ward boundaries and electoral arrangements remain effective and convenient for the local community.

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 In accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the Council has the responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews.
- 1.2 The boundaries for Newark Town Council were last considered in a similar review in 2017. However, the East Ward (established following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review of the electoral arrangements for Nottinghamshire County Council in 2017) still has minimal electors with no prospect of significant development ahead of the next scheduled elections in 2027. In addition, the South Ward is continuing to see development growth and therefore an increase in electors.

## 2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on the Council to have regard to the need to secure that any Community Governance Review reflects the identities and any interests of the local community and that it is effective and convenient. Relevant considerations which influence judgements against those two principal criteria include the impact on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed area.

3.2 If a decision is made to conduct a review at this time as is recommended, the first stage of the Review as prescribed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, would be to establish Terms of Reference which will set out the matters on which the Review is to focus. A draft terms of reference is attached as **Appendix A** to the report. This document includes a timetable for the Review.

### **3.0 Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

### **3.1 Legal Implications**

The review proposed, takes into account the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Guidance on Community Governance Reviews. The review provides for a transparent and accessible consultation process, for a reasonable period, to ensure that the views of local electors and other stakeholders are fully considered.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Former Community Governance Review Documents