



Report to: General Purposes Committee – 19 June 2025  
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Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	Community Governance Review – Newark Town Council
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To consider submissions on Draft Recommendations following the second stage of the Community Governance Review of Newark Town Council and to make Final Recommendations to Full Council.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That the General Purposes Committee approve the Final Recommendations as set out at Appendix B to the report, for submission to the Full Council Meeting on 15 July 2025.
<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.
- 1.3 In accordance with the timetable for the review, the draft recommendations were agreed by the Committee at their meeting held on 20 March 2025 and these were published on 24 March 2025 for a further period of consultation. This second stage consultation closed on 2 May 2025 and the responses are set out in **Appendix A** to the report.
- 1.4 In total, 8 responses were received from residents, and Nottinghamshire County Council. Representations from residents were around the sizes of the various Wards and Member representation which has been explored as part of the review process. There were also questions around how historic boundaries were drawn and suggestions of mergers with neighbouring parish councils, which were outside the scope of this review.

- 1.5 The County Council referred to the appropriateness of the review, given impending Local Government Reorganisation. However, this was raised at the first stage of the review, where it was advised that the review was required to rationalise electoral arrangements ahead of the scheduled elections to be held in May 2027. Reference was also made to the Middlebeck area becoming a parish council in its own right, which was again outside the scope of the review, but something that could be motivated by residents at any point through a petition to the Council.
- 1.6 Although no formal response was submitted by Newark Town Council, the Town Clerk had confirmed that the Town Council did review the draft recommendations which were supported.

## **2.0 Proposal/Options Considered**

- 2.1 The Local Government & 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.
- 2.2 Given the consultation responses on the draft recommendations, no changes to these are being proposed. The final recommendations are attached as **Appendix B** to the report.

## **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.

### **Legal Implications (LEG2425/8220)**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The General Purposes Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

## **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.

Reports to General Purposes on 12 December 2024 and 20 March 2025  
Terms of Reference for the Review  
Draft Recommendations