

Briefing Note

Community Governance Review March 2019

1.0 Background

1.1 The earlier review of divisional boundaries is complete and was signed off by Cornwall Councillors in December 2018. The final outcome was that:

Cornwall should be represented by 87 councillors, 36 fewer than there are now. The boundaries of all divisions should change; none will stay the same.

1.2 It is a condition of these divisional reviews that there should then be an additional examination of towns and parishes. This is called a Community Governance Review, and gives parish councils the opportunity to make changes to their size (number of councillors), their name or their boundaries. As a start to this process, on 24 December 2018 the Cornwall Electoral Review Panel sent out a request to parish clerks asking them to consult with their councillors and agree an Expression of Interest in the CGR process.

At its public meeting on 17 January 2019, Menheniot parish councillors resolved not to call for a review. This decision was reported back to the Electoral Review Panel on 18 January 2019.

1.3 By 16 February 2019, the ERP had received responses from 160 councils. Although most had not requested a change in their governance, the majority of those in favour wanted their boundaries reviewed. Because of impact this would have on adjacent boundaries, the ERP decided to review every boundary of every town and parish council across Cornwall.

2.0 Liskeard Town Council

2.1 Liskeard Town Council has since confirmed its wish to redraw the boundaries it shares with Menheniot Parish Council, and Dobwalls & Trewidland Parish Council. At the full council meeting of Liskeard TC on 26 February, councillors agreed to pass their proposals to their own Planning Committee and subject to their decision, onto the Finance, Economic Development and General Purposes Committee for approval.

2.2 The Planning Committee met on 11 March 2019 and agreed to support the proposal and pass it to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee meets next on 19 March 2019 where councillors will be asked 'to receive the recommendations of the 11th March Planning Committee regarding the options to be discussed with the neighbouring parishes'. The decision of the Finance Committee is binding on full council, which will meet next on 30 April 2019.

Details of the Liskeard submissions are attached in Appendix 1.

2.2 Following discussions with the Liskeard Town Clerk, his suggestions is that both parishes set up a joint working group to consider the proposals and then make recommendations to their respective councils.

3.0 Electoral Review Panel

3.1 The ERP has issued a draft schedule of its tasks, which is expected to be confirmed at its meeting on 21 March 2019. The critical date appears to be May 2019 which is the deadline for councils to submit applications for change or no change, together with suggestions or proposals for the changes. Parishes which could be affected any recommendations will be given a period (yet unknown) within which to make their response.

3.2 Any proposals that are supported by the ERP will be out for consultation in November 2019, with their final recommendations passed to Cornwall Council for approval in June 2020. Any changes that are agreed will be implemented from March 2021.

4.0 Options

Note: Participation in any negotiating process (with the ERP, Liskeard Town Council or Cornwall Council) is not compulsory.

4.1 For Menheniot Parish Council to set up a Working Group to examine the proposals and agree a response to Liskeard Town Council.

4.2 For the Working Group to agree delegates to meet with Liskeard Town Council and make representations on behalf of the parish council.

4.3 For the Working Group to agree two delegates to act as contacts for the ERP.

5.0 Attachments

5.1 Proposal to Liskeard Town Council Finance Committee

5.2 Map of proposed area for consideration

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