

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Transformation	Community Governance Review Committee	7 June 2011

## CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BUCKSHAW CGR

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To report back on the first stage of consultation on the Community Governance Review and to use the information to help formulate draft recommendations for the next stage of the Community Governance Review for Buckshaw.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Committee notes the consultation responses received and the views expressed during this preliminary stage of the Community Governance Review for Buckshaw.
- That the Committee considers the new information about the potential for a Boundary Review for Buckshaw in deciding on a way forward for the review.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	/
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			/

### BACKGROUND

- The Community Governance Review process is set out in the Terms of Reference document which was published on 7 April 2011. Following the closure of the preliminary stage of the review, this next stage is to draw up specific recommendations on the future community governance of Buckshaw taking into account consultation responses. These recommendations will then be subject to a further period of consultation of 3 months before drawing up final proposals in line with the Terms of Reference document. The timetable

indicates that the expected date for publication of this next stage is 17 June with a two month consultation period. A copy of the timetable is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.

## CONSULTATION PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

6. During the period 7 February 2011 (when the Terms of Reference were published) to 7 April 2011 (when the consultation period came to a close) the following activity took place
  - a. The Terms of Reference (ToR) document was circulated with details of the consultation process as detailed in the consultation strategy which is set out in para 2.8 in the ToR document.
  - b. Officers of the Council attended a meeting of Euxton Parish Council on 17 February 2011 for an item on the review and to answer public questions. Updates have also been provided in Euxton Parish Council's newsletter.
  - c. Whittle le Woods Parish Council also discussed the issues but did not require officer attendance. It is proposed to include an update article in their newsletter in June.
  - d. The Chair of the Community Governance Review Committee and officers of the Council attended a meeting of the Buckshaw Village Community Association on 24 February and gave a presentation on the review and answered public questions.
  
7. A significant number of written representations have been received and these are all attached to this report in full in **Appendix 2** including a covering schedule. It is important that Members read each response in detail to help inform the draft recommendations stage. Some responses have been done as a direct response to the consultation questions and therefore a copy of those questions has been included for ease of reference. A very brief summary of the key outcomes are summarised below.
  
8. In summary :
  - a. *There were responses from both Parish Councils, the Buckshaw Village Community Association (which included their own survey with responses from 92 residents), County Councillor and Borough Councillors and a number of Euxton residents. A total of 105 responses including those under the BVCA survey were received.*
  
  - b. *Whilst there is support for a Parish Council for Buckshaw, the majority felt that this should be for the whole of Buckshaw and that a decision should await the review of the Council boundary with Buckshaw Village under one local authority area. A number of Euxton residents felt that the parish of Euxton should exclude Buckshaw residents.*
  
  - c. *Of the 92 Buckshaw Village respondents which came through the BVCA survey 64% currently reside in Chorley with the remaining 36% being residents of South Ribble. They responded to a BVCA questionnaire which posed specific questions – rather than the generic consultation questions.*
  
  - d. *There was some support for deparishing the existing areas if a new Parish Council is not created.*

## BOUNDARY REVIEW

9. There appears to be a key theme from the consultation – the wish for Buckshaw Village to be under one rather than two local authority areas. There is reasonable support for a Buckshaw Village Parish Council if this were to be the case. The message given to date is that although the Council made the request for a Boundary Review in this area some years

ago, there was no indication by the Local Government Boundary Committee for England (LGBCE) as to when this might take place and it could well be a number of years off.

10. Since the closure of the consultation, the Council has received correspondence from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England indicating that if both Chorley and South Ribble Councils are in agreement to a review of the boundary between the two Councils in the Buckshaw area, then they are willing to look at this. It should be emphasised that this is early stage correspondence with no timescales and firm commitment to a review. However this is welcome news and will be a key consideration in taking this Community Governance Review forward. It is an issue raised in the ToR document and a change in boundary would certainly have a major impact on this review.
11. In view of recent elections, no discussion with Borough Councillors in Chorley has yet taken place and no formal discussion has been held with South Ribble Council about their position. These are issues which the Council will obviously need to consider in addition to holding discussions with the LGBCE on their intentions, timescales and the remit of their potential review. In view of these circumstances Members of the Committee may want to consider whether to take the unusual step of pausing the review in order to allow discussions to take place about a potential boundary review. The review could be resumed when the position on whether a boundary review is to take place and when, is known. If the Committee wishes to continue with the review rather than pause it, then draft recommendation should be drawn up for publication in line with the timetable on 17 June 2011.
12. It should be noted that once draft recommendations have been published the consultees for this stage of the review are as set out in Annex 2 of the Terms of Reference and are as follows:

*Copies of the full Draft Recommendations Document to:*

- *Euxton Parish Council*
- *Whittle le Woods Parish Council*
- *Buckshaw Village Community Association*
- *RMG Management Company*
- *Redrow Homes*
- *Barratt Homes*
- *Lancashire County Council*
- *Borough Council Ward Councillors (Astley and Buckshaw Ward and Clayton le Woods and Whittle le Woods ward)*
- *County Council Divisional Ward Councillor (Chorley North Division)*

*A summary leaflet to all Buckshaw residents in the affected area of Polling Districts of 2C and 10C and any individual or organisation who made a submission or comments at the preliminary stage*

*Inform the remaining residents of Euxton and Whittle le Woods Parish Councils by other means to be agreed with the Parish Councils eg parish newsletter.*

Members of the Committee are requested to consider the position.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

13. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	/	No significant implications in this area	

## COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

14. The review is fulfilling all of its legal obligations in relation to the conducting of a community governance review under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and other relevant legislation. The news of the potential LGBCE boundary review in this area is obviously timely and given the consultation responses received, should be treated as a material consideration. A pause in the CGR would not enable the completion of the proposed local authority boundary review but would allow the Council to be clear about whether one is to be undertaken. The review could be resumed once this information is known.

**GARY HALL**  
**DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION**

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Carol Russell	5196	24 May 2011	

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Terms of Reference	Published 7 April 2011		Website <a href="http://www.chorley.gov.uk">www.chorley.gov.uk</a>

## Appendix 1

### COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW TIMETABLE (para 2.6 in the terms of Reference)

Stage	Action	Dates
<b>Start of review</b>	Community Governance Committee meets to agree Terms of Reference	Community Governance Committee, Monday 31 January 2011
	Publish Terms of Reference (ToR) and invite submissions – 2 months	7 February until 7 April 2011
<b>Preliminary stage</b>	Offer briefings to inform key interested parties and invite submissions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buckshaw Village Community Association</li> <li>• Euxton Parish Council</li> <li>• Whittle le Woods Parish Council</li> <li>• RMG Management Company</li> </ul>	From 7 February 2011
<b>Stage 1</b>	Receive submissions over 2 month period and develop Draft Recommendations	Community Governance Committee to meet late May/early June 2011 to consider submissions received and agree Draft Recommendations.
<b>Stage 2</b>	Publish Draft Recommendations and start 2 month consultation period.	Friday 17 June 2011 until 17 August 2011  Community Governance Committee meets end August 2011 to consider responses and agree Final Proposals.
<b>Stage 3</b>	Publish Final Proposals and start 1 month consultation period.	Friday 2 September 2011 until 2 October 2011  Community Governance Committee meets mid October 2011 to consider responses and agree Final Proposals for consideration by full Council.
<b>Stage 4</b>	Council resolves to agree the Final Proposals and to make a Reorganisation Order (if required).	Full Council Meeting
<b>Stage 5</b>	Implementation of any change by 1 April 2012	

**SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**  
(pages numbers refer to the Terms of Reference document)

**Question 1 (page 8)**

Are the proposed timescales within the Review appropriate?

**Question 2 (page 8)**

Should any bodies or organisations be added to the consultees listed in Annex 2?

**Question 3 (page 10)**

Is the suggested method of consultation sufficient, balancing the need to secure wide interest within reasonable costs to the Council?

**Question 4 (page 11)**

Are these appropriate measures of the current and forecasted electorate for the CGR area?

**Question 5 (page 17)**

Does the area of Buckshaw Village have a separate, distinctive and recognisable community of identity of its own, separate from the existing parishes?  
How is this demonstrated in the provision of community and neighbourhood facilities on Buckshaw?

**Question 6 (page 17)**

Do you think a Parish Council serving just part of the Buckshaw development would operate effectively?

**Question 7 (page 18)**

Do you feel that the proposed boundaries would be appropriate for a new Parish Council or what alternative boundaries should be considered?

**Question 8 (page 20)**

How would the creation of a Parish Council for the Chorley part of Buckshaw impact on the effectiveness of community organisations serving the area? Could the organisations work effectively together?

**Question 9 (page 21)**

What are your views on the name and style of a new Parish Council for Buckshaw and the names of wards within the Parish Council?

**Question 10 (page 23)**

If you think that a Parish Council should be created for Buckshaw, do you agree with the Council's suggested councillor allocation as given above?  
Where you are proposing a specific number of councillors, please provide reasons for your proposal.

**Question 11 (page 23)**

Do you consider that unparishing the area of Buckshaw under review would be the right way forward?  
If so, what are the alternative community governance arrangements in place?

**Question 12 (page 27)**

The Council invites comments on these consequential arrangements – bearing mind the requirements of the regulations.

## SCHEDULE OF ATTACHED RESPONSES

	<b>Responder (name/organisation)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Euxton resident</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Buckshaw resident</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lancashire County Council</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>County Councillor Mike France (Leyland Central Division)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Local business in Euxton</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Euxton resident</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Euxton resident</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Buckshaw Village Community Association – including 92 residents</b>  Questionnaire used, plus a summary of responses from 92 residents (59 from the Chorley Council area and 33 from the South Ribble Council area)
<b>9</b>	<b>Euxton residents</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Whittle le Woods Parish Council</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>County Councillor Mark Perks</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Councillor Alan Platt, Astley and Buckshaw Ward Councillor</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Euxton Parish Council</b>

*Please note that the names and house numbers of individual residents have been omitted from the attached responses*