

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (introduced by the Executive Leader)	Executive Cabinet Council	23 June 2011 19 July 2011

PRINCIPAL AREA BOUNDARY REVIEW - BUCKSHAW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform Members of the Council that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has indicated that there is a possibility that a Principal Area Boundary Review will be undertaken of the boundary between Chorley and South Ribble Councils regarding the Buckshaw Village Development.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the Executive Cabinet recommends to the next meeting of full Council that they agree in principle that the area of Buckshaw Village should be located entirely in one local authority area and that this be confirmed to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
3. That discussions continue with South Ribble Borough Council who are undergoing a full ward review by the Boundary Commission.
4. That it be noted that the Community Governance Review Committee has paused its Community Governance Review into whether or not to create a Parish Council for Buckshaw, to enable the Council to consider its position.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

5. The Council wrote to the LGBCE in 2008 requesting that a review take place of the boundary between South Ribble and Chorley to resolve the anomaly of Buckshaw Village being located across two Council areas. The response received of 20 April 2011 is the first indication that a boundary review could take place and is therefore to be welcomed.
6. The review will only proceed if both Chorley BC and SRBC agree one is required (although it does not appear to be necessary for them to be in agreement on the location of the new boundary)

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

7. If the Council does not support the principle of this review, Buckshaw Village would continue to be in an anomalous situation where the boundary cuts through actual properties and residents in the same cul-de-sac receive services from different Councils. This situation ignores the community identity of Buckshaw Village and does not provide effective and convenient local government - a key factor in determining local authority boundaries.



CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8. 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

9. The Buckshaw Village Development started in 1999 on the 900 acre site of the former Royal Ordnance Factory. The boundary between South Ribble and Chorley Councils goes through the existing residential development – and can be seen on the attached map (Appendix 1). Currently there are around 1200 completed housing units on the Chorley part of Buckshaw, along with significant commercial development. Further significant residential and commercial development is planned in future years. Most of this planned development is on the Chorley side of Buckshaw Village.

REQUEST FOR A BOUNDARY REVIEW

10. The Council formally requested that the Boundary Commission reviewed the boundary between South Ribble and Chorley in part because of the anomaly over service delivery. Buckshaw is one community but services are delivered by two Councils – with Chorley currently providing refuse collection services to South Ribble’s Buckshaw residents. The Council was initially told that a boundary review could well take a number of years before it was programmed to commence. On that basis the Council recently started a Community Governance Review in response to requests for a Parish Council for Buckshaw.
11. The Community Governance Review is underway. The preliminary round of consultation suggests there are mixed views on whether or not there should be a Parish Council, but overriding support for any decision to be postponed until the local authority boundary is reviewed to put all of Buckshaw under one Council area. The Community Governance Review Committee met on 7 June 2011 and has decided to pause the Community Governance Review to allow the Council time to consider its position and to start discussions with the Boundary Commission and South Ribble Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND

12. The correspondence from the LGBCE is attached as Appendix 2. It gives no clear indication of timescales but does indicate that a review will only take place if both South Ribble and Chorley Councils are in agreement that one should take place. At this moment in time South Ribble have not indicated where they stand on the issue, they are also undergoing a full ward review by the Boundary Commission. If there was an agreement between the two Councils on a new boundary, the letter suggests there could be earlier implementation. However it is thought likely at this very early stage, that both Councils will strive to have all of Buckshaw Village located within their area.

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 DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION / HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

14. The conducting of a Principal Local Authority Boundary review would be undertaken in line with the technical guidance issued by the LGBCE and in line with the Local Government and Public Involvement in health Act 2007 as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. This is new guidance published in May 2011 and officers are currently analysing it with a view to seeing how the Council would be required to evidence the case it wishes to put forward.
15. There are some financial implications in undertaking a Boundary Review and putting together robust evidence to support the Council's case. This can be done within existing resources. There are clearly significant financial implications in a change in a Council boundary and these will be investigated in detail if a review is undertaken and once the Council has decided how it wishes to move forward.

DONNA HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Carol Russell	5196	8 June 2011	***

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review of Buckshaw	Feb 2011	***	www.chorley.gov.uk