

# Harborough District Council

## Report to Council Meeting of 9 December 2024



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Returning Officer Draft Recommendations - Community Governance Review – Mowsley</b>
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Report Author:</b>	Electoral Services Manager Sheena Mortimer
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Corporate Portfolio Holder – Councillor Paul Beadle
<b>Appendices:</b>	1 Community Governance Review (CGR) Guidance 2 Correspondence received Mowsley CGR First round of consultation

### Executive Summary

At its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Council agreed to request that Harborough District Council undertake a Community Governance Review to create a parish council for Mowsley. This was undertaken following a request from their Parish at its annual meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to carry out a review to consider the creation of a parish council. The first period of consultation has now ended and responses are included in this report. These recommendations and any amendments made will then be consulted upon, prior to going back to Council on 24.2.25.

### Recommendations

Council agrees to consult on the intention to create a parish council for Mowsley, this consultation period will be 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Council notes that following the consultation period this matter will be brought back to Council on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 for confirmation. Council is also asked to consider and note the responses received from the first consultation period.

### Reasons for Recommendations

The responses received during the first period of consultation were generally in favour of the creation of a parish council for Mowsley, no objections were received. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Section 9 of the 2007 Act requires principal councils to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and
- Effective and convenient

## **1. Purpose of Report**

To consider the draft recommendations arising from the Community Governance Review undertaken with regard to the creation of a parish council for Mowsley.

## **2. Background**

Mowsley Parish is situated within the Harborough Parliamentary Constituency, Fleckney District Ward and Bruntingthorpe Division of Leicestershire County Council. The Parish has 190 registered electors as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 and is an active Parish meeting.

## **3. Details**

At its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Council agreed to request that Harborough District Council undertake a Community Governance Review. A period of consultation was carried out from March to May 2024 to invite initial responses. Due to the Parliamentary election called on 22<sup>nd</sup> May for an election to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> July work on the Community Governance Review was delayed for a period of time.

The responses to the initial consultation period were all in favour of the creation of a parish council for Mowsley, no representations against the request have been received. If Council agrees to the creation of a Council a further period of consultation on this draft report will take place in the period 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The final report will be brought to Council in February 2025 to be agreed after which a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order under Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 will be made to allow for the creation of a Parish Council for Mowsley.

Local Government Act 1972 Para. 1.17 states the minimum number of councillors for a parish is 5, there is no maximum number stated. Consideration has been given to the number of councillors in parishes of a similar size within the District and it will be set at 5 councillors.

## **4. Implications of Decisions**

### **4.1 Corporate Priorities**

Community leadership to create a sense of pride and belonging.

### **4.2 Financial**

The CGR will be undertaken within existing resources and budgets. The cost for running the elections to elect a Council for Mowsley will be the responsibility of the new parish council, the total cost for running the election on behalf of the Parish will be invoiced after the election. If the election is run in combination with the Leicestershire County Council election in May 2025 the cost to the parish would be in the region of £1,000, if carried out separately the cost would be in the region of £1,600.

### **4.3 Legal**

The Council will need to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order under Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 in order to bring any changes to community governance arrangements into being.

The election of Parish Councillors will be undertaken under the Local Elections (Parish and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules.  
The Legal Team are taking on advice on the necessary order needed to create a parish council.

#### **4.4 Policy**

None identified.

#### **4.5 Environmental Implications including contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030**

None identified

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

None identified

#### **4.7 Equalities Impact**

None identified

#### **4.8 Data Protection**

None identified .

### **5. Summary of Consultation and Outcome**

The Council will continue to comply with the consultative requirements

- The first period of consultation has now passed, a list of consultees is below. Three emails were received in relation to the review, these are attached to the report. There were no negative views with regard to the review.
- The list of consultees were;
  - Letter sent to all households within Mowsley
  - District & County Councillors for area
  - Leicestershire County Council
  - Local MP
  - LRALC
  - Parishes of Knaptoft, Saddington, Laughton, Theddingworth, Husbands Bosworth
  - Details of this review can be viewed on the Consultation pages of the Councils website

### **6. Alternative Options Considered**

Taking no action – this may not reflect the wishes of the community.

### **7. Background papers**

Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (LGBCE)

Correspondence from the following –

- R Ousey – Mowsley resident & previous Chair of Mowsley Parish Meeting
- County Councillor B Pain
- B A Stafford – Mowsley resident