

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

CREATION OF PARISH

TERMS OF REFERENCE

WHITWICK

INTRODUCTION

- **Setting the Context**

North West Leicestershire District Council has resolved to undertake a review of the Whitwick area of the District, following receipt of a community governance petition comprising over 1300 signatures seeking the creation of a parish.

In undertaking the review, the Council will be guided by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972, Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and The Electoral Commission in April 2008, and the following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625); Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626). Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to publish its Terms of Reference in a review.

These Terms of Reference will be published by placing a copy on public deposit at the main offices of North West Leicestershire District Council, Whitwick Road, Coalville, LE67 3FJ and on the Council's website at www.nwleics.gov.uk

The matter on which the review is to focus are set out later in these Terms of Reference.

- **Why is the Council undertaking the review?**

The Council is undertaking this in response to a petition which was submitted to North West Leicestershire District Council, as detailed below: -

PETITION FOR A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW TO BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT (Part 4, Chapter 3)

To North West Leicestershire District Council:

We the undersigned, each being a local government elector for the area of the following proposed new parish council, in pursuance of the rights conferred upon us by the above Act of Parliament, hereby request you to undertake a community governance review which should consider;

- A) *the creation of a new local government parish council for the neighbourhood of Whitwick and *Thringstone [*part of the Thringstone Ward - see attached map];*
- B) *that the area of which shall be the same as that outlined on the attached map;*
- C) *that the new parish council should be called Whitwick Parish Council.*

A copy of the map showing the area referred to in the petition is attached as Appendix A to these Terms of Reference. The petition was signed by the requisite number of local

government electors for the area, as required by Section 80(3) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and was deemed to be a valid petition. Therefore, the Council must undertake a review in accordance with Section 83(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.

- **What is a Community Governance Review?**

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the district area to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

- **Who undertakes the review?**

The Council will approve the terms of reference for this review and deal with all matters in connection with it by delegating to an all party working group [Whitwick Working Group] which will make final recommendations to full Council following the review for their consideration and making of any necessary Reorganisation Order.

The lead officer with regard to this review is Melanie Phillips, Democratic Services Manager, North West Leicestershire District Council

CONSULTATION

- **How the Council proposes to conduct consultations during the review?**

The Council has drawn up and now publishes this Terms of Reference document. This document lays out the aims of the review, the legislation that guides it and some of the policies that the Council considers important in the review.

In coming to its recommendations in the review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. The Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council intends to write to all households and local businesses in the area proposed for a Parish Council for inviting initial submissions and seeking views on the draft proposals. The Council will use information from the Local Land and Property Gazetteer as the source of properties in the area.

The Council will also identify any other person or body who it feels may have an interest in the review and write to them inviting them to submit their views at both stages of consultation.

This will include:

- Ward Members
- Parish Councillors
- Tenants and Residents' Associations
- Village Groups and Societies
- Schools and Colleges

The Council will also be pleased to receive comments from any other person or body that wishes to make representations; any such person that makes representation during the initial invitation to submit proposals will be invited to make comments in respect of the draft proposals.

As required by Section 93 (8) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the District Council will notify Leicestershire County Council that a review is to be undertaken, provide them with a copy of the terms of reference for the review and will consult them on the matters under review.

The Council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken in the review and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work towards the Government's view in undertaking the review that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other local stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions".

In accordance with the Act, representations received in connection with the review will be taken into account, and steps will be taken to notify consultees of the outcome of the review by publishing them on the Council's website at www.nwleics.gov.uk, through general press releases, placing key documents on public deposit at the Council Offices and will communicate the final outcome of the review by writing to all households in the area concerned by the review.

- **How to contact us?**

Any queries regarding this review should be directed to:

Melanie Phillips
 Democratic Services Manager
 North West Leicestershire District Council,
 Coalville,
 Leicestershire,
 LE67 3FJ
 Tel: (01530) 454511

E-Mail: Melanie.phillips@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

- **A timetable for the Review**

Publication of these Terms of Reference formally begins the review, which must be completed with twelve months.

The table below details indicative timescales for the review.

Action	Timetable	Dates
Receipt of Petition		30 th June 2009
Compiling Terms of Reference and report to Council	1 month	July/August 2009
Publication of Terms of Reference		23 September 2009 (following approval by Council)
Introductory Stage – Invite initial submissions	2 months	1 October – 30 November 2009
Preparation of Draft Proposals	1 month	1 – 31 December 2009
Publication of Draft Proposals		January 2010 (following approval by

		Council)
Consultation on Draft Proposals	2 months	1 February – 31 March 2010
Preparation of Final Proposals	1 month	1 – 30 April 2010
Publication of Final Proposals		12 th May 2010 (following approval by Council)
Publication of Recommendations		June 2010
Publication of any Reorganisation Order		June/July 2010
Effective date of Order		1 st April 2011
Parish Council Elections		May 2011

ELECTORATE FORECASTS

- **The electorate forecasts for the district**

The Council has used the Register of Electors as at 1 June 2009 in providing the existing parish electorate figures. The number of electors in the polling district of Whitwick which covers the same area as that proposed in the petition was 7012 as at 1 June 2009.

When the Council comes to consider the electoral arrangements of the parishes in its area, it is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of the electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant increases in the number of electors in the area of the proposed parish over the next 5 years, other than the general average increase in the ward, which has occurred over recent years. The projected population growth of Whitwick over the next 5 years is only 80 as shown in Appendix B.

- **Demographic trends and influences in our area**

There has not been any significant development in the proposed area of the Parish Council since 2001, which would have had any major effect on the demographics of the area. Furthermore, as it is not anticipated that there will be any significant increases in development and subsequently the number of electors in the area over the next five years, it is thereby not anticipated that there will be any significant change in the demographics of the area.

THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF PARISHES AND THEIR ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Present structures of parish governance in our area

There are currently 23 town/parish council's in the district as set out in the table below:

Town/Parish Council Wards	Wards	No. of Town/Parish Cllrs	Overall No. of Town/Parish Cllrs	Ratio of Electors to Cllrs.	Council Ward
Appleby Magna Parish Council	N/A	N/A	6	1:152	Appleby
Ashby de la Zouch Town Council	Blackfordby	2	17	1:626	Moira
	Castle	3			

					Ashby Castle
	Holywell	6			Ashby Holywell
	Ivanhoe	6			Ashby Ivanhoe
Ashby Woulds Town Council	Albert Village	2	9	1:320	Moira
	Moira	7			
Belton Parish Council	N/A	N/A	6	1:99	Breedon
Breedon on the Hill Parish Council	N/A	N/A	6	1:145	Breedon
Castle Donington Parish Council	N/A	N/A	14	1:360	Castle Donington
Charley Parish Council	N/A	N/A	5	1:36	Greenhill
Coleorton Parish Council	N/A	N/A	6	1:151	Valley
Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council	N/A	N/A	7	1:283	Hugglescote
Heather Parish Council	N/A	N/A	6	1:129	Ibstock & Heather
Ibstock Parish Council	Central	4	13	1:371	Ibstock & Heather
	Ellistown & Battram	1			
	West	8			
Kegworth Parish Council	N/A	N/A	10	1:282	Kegworth & Whatton
Lockington and Hemington Parish Council	Lockington	2	5	1:125	Castle Donington
	Hemington	3			
Long Whatton and Diseworth Parish Council	Diseworth	3	7	1:195	Breedon
	Long Whatton	4			Kegworth & Whatton
Measham Parish Council	N/A	N/A	11	1:358	Measham
Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council	N/A	N/A	8	1:253	Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe
Osgathorpe Parish Council	N/A	N/A	5	1:66	Valley
Packington Parish Council	N/A	N/A	6	1:103	Ravenstone & Packington

Ravenstone and Snibston Parish Council	Ravenstone	5	7	1:256	Ravenstone & Packington
	The Limes	2			Snibston
Snarestone Parish Council	N/A	N/A	5	1:52	Appleby
Swannington Parish Council	N/A	N/A	6	1:167	Valley
Sweepstone Parish Council	N/A	N/A	5	1:98	Appleby
Worthington Parish Council	Griffydam	1	5	1:232	Valley
	Newbold	2			
	Worthington	2			

Guidance in connection with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act requires the consent of the Electoral Commission to be obtained if the Council may wish to alter the electorate arrangements for a parish whose existing arrangements were put in place within the previous five years by an order made either by the Secretary of State or the Electoral Commission. It is not anticipated that any such consent will be required following this review.

- **Previously unparished areas**

The Council is required by law to consider other forms of community governance as alternatives or stages towards establishing parish councils. There may be other arrangements for community representation or community engagement in an area, including area committees, neighbourhood management programmes, tenant management organisations, area or community forums, residents' and tenants' associations or community associations, which may be more appropriate to some areas than parish councils, or may provide stages building towards the creation of a parish council, which are already successfully creating opportunities for engagement, empowerment and co-ordination in local communities.

The Council will be mindful of such other forms of community governance in its consideration of whether parish governance is most appropriate in certain areas. However, the Council also notes that what sets parish councils apart from other kinds of governance is the fact that they are a democratically elected tier of local government with directly elected representatives, independent of other council tiers and budgets, and possessing specific powers for which they are democratically accountable.

PARISH AREAS

- **Introduction**

This review considers the creation of a new parish.

The legislation requires that the council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- Is effective and convenient, and
- Takes into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area.

- **Parishes**

- The Council is anxious to ensure that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident because it considers that this sense of identity and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.
- The Council considers that parishes should reflect distinctive and recognizable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity; the feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are primary considerations in this review.
- The Council notes the government's Guidance that community cohesion should be taken into account in this review.

- **Boundaries**

- The Council considers that the boundaries between parishes will normally reflect the 'no-man's land' between communities and represented by areas of low population or pronounced physical barriers. These barriers will be either natural or man-made; they might include coastal features, rivers, marshland, moorland and mountain or man-made features such as parks, canals, railways, major roads and motorways – those barriers that oblige the residents of an affected area to have little in common with the remainder of the parish to which they may have been allotted.
- The Council considers that 'natural' settlements or settlements as they are defined in the Local Development Framework/Local Plan should not in normal circumstances be partitioned by parish boundaries.
- The Council will endeavour to select boundaries that are and are likely to remain easily identifiable.

- **The pattern of community representation and community engagement**

In some areas of the authority there are local residents' associations, community forums etc. that make a distinct contribution to the community. The Council will be mindful of these local forums for community representation and engagement and will consider them as foundations for / stages towards the creation of parishes within democratically elected councils.

- **Viability**

- The Council is anxious to ensure that parishes should be viable and should possess a precept that enables them to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.
- Some parishes are anxious to take on the new power of well-being provided in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; others hold Quality Parish status, while others are anxious to enter into charters with principal councils for the provision of local services. The Council sees these initiatives as important measures of effective and convenient local government and will respect them in this review.
- The Council recognises that, in its more rural areas, a strong sense of community can prevail over an extensive but otherwise sparsely populated area. Parishes in these areas may have limited capacity to facilitate service provision and effective local government; even so,

arrangements in these areas, when they accord with the wishes of the inhabitants of the parish, will at least represent convenient local government.

The Council is committed to ensure that the review leads to parishes that are based on areas, which reflect community identity and interest and which are viable as an administrative unit.

THE GROUPING OF PARISHES

- **Introduction**

A grouping order is permitted under Section 11 of the Local Government Act 1972. It may be best considered as a working alliance of parishes that have come together under a common parish council, with the electors of each of the grouped parishes electing a designated number of councillors to the Council. It has found to be an effective way of ensuring parish government for small parishes that might otherwise be unviable as separate units, while otherwise guaranteeing their separate community identity.

- **General Principles**

Under the Act, smaller new parishes of less than 150 electors will be unable to establish their own parish council. The government has stated that, "in some cases, it may be preferable to group together parishes so as to allow a common parish council to be formed...such proposals are worth considering and may avoid the need for substantive changes to parish boundaries, the creation of new parishes or the abolition of very small parishes where, despite their size, they still reflect community identity". This guidance is noted by the Council, however, it is not anticipated that this review will be required to consider grouping of parishes.

NAMES AND STYLES

- **The naming of parishes**

With regard to the naming of parishes, the Council will endeavour to reflect existing local or historic place-names, and will give a strong presumption in favour of names proposed by local interested parties. The Council notes that Government considers that composite names of parishes are rarely in the interests of effective and convenient local government and encourages avoidance of composite names other than in exceptional circumstances where the demands of history, local connections or the preservation of local ties make a pressing case for the retention of distinctive traditional names. The Council will consider this when making any proposals regarding naming of parishes.

There are legal requirements (as defined in Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1972), particularly with regard to subsequent notification, with regard to the naming of parishes, and the Council will be mindful of these.

- **Alternative Styles**

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 has introduced 'alternative styles' for parishes. If adopted, the 'alternative style' would replace the style "parish". However, only one of the three prescribed styles can be adopted:

"community", "neighbourhood" or "village".

Where a new parish is created, the Council will make recommendations as to the geographical name of the new parish and as to whether or not it should have one of the alternative styles.

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

- **What does 'Electoral Arrangements' mean?**

An important part of the Council's review will comprise giving consideration to 'Electoral Arrangements'. The term covers the way in which a council is constituted for the parish. It covers:

- The ordinary year in which elections are held;
- The number of councillors to be elected to the council;
- The division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purposes of electing councillors;
- The number and boundaries of any such wards;
- The number of councillors to be elected for any such ward
- The name of any such ward.

- **Ordinary year of election**

The Local Government Act 1972 states that ordinary election of parish councillors shall take place in 1976, 1979 and every fourth year thereafter (i.e. 2007, 2011, 2015 etc.). However, the government has indicated that it would want the parish electoral cycle to coincide with the cycle for the district/borough council, so that the costs of elections can be shared. If the review finds that it will be appropriate to hold an election for parish councillors, for example to a newly formed parish, at an earlier date than the next scheduled ordinary elections, the terms of office of any newly elected parish councillors will be so reduced as to enable the electoral cycle to revert to the normal cycle in the district / borough / London borough at the next ordinary elections.

- **A council for a parish**

The legislation lays down the different duties that the Council has with regard to the creation of a council for a parish:

- Where the number of electors is 1,000 or more – a parish council must be created;
- Where the number of electors is 151-999 – a parish council may be created, with a parish meeting being the alternative form of parish governance;
- Where the number of electors is 150 or fewer – a parish council is not created.

- **What considerations cover the number of parish councillors?**

The government has advised, and this Council concurs that "it is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimated competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors". Likewise, the Council notes that the number of parish councillors for each parish council shall be not less than five. There is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of councillors. However, each parish grouped under a common parish council must have at least one parish councillor. The Aston Business School found the following levels of representation:-

Electorate	Councillor Allocation
Less than 500	5 - 8
501 – 2,500	6 – 12
2,501 – 10,000	9 – 16
10,001 – 20,000	13 – 27
Greater than 20,000	13 - 31

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) suggested that the minimum number of councillors should be seven and the maximum 25.

The government's guidance is that "each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and pattern of communities". This Council is prepared to pay particular attention to its existing levels of representation, the broad pattern of existing council sizes, which have stood the test of time and the take up of seats at elections in its consideration of the matter.

The present levels of representation on town/parish councils in the district are set out earlier in these terms of reference. The number of parish council seats that required co-option following the last ordinary election was 40.

It is recognised that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors. By law, the Council in this review must have regard to the following factors when considering the number of councillors to be elected for the parish:

- The number of local government electors for the parish;
- Any change in that number which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts.

The Council will also take into account the following considerations:

- To ensure that the allocation of councillors to parishes is equitable across the district /borough, while acknowledging that local circumstances may occasionally merit variation.
- To appreciate that there are different demands and consequently different levels of representation are appropriate between urban and more rural parishes in the district.

The Council also acknowledges that there may be exceptions to the above, where some weight will be given to the following considerations in forming the proposals:

- A high precept and high levels of service provision;
- Where representation may be required to meet the challenges of population sparsity;
- Supporting a warding arrangement in a particular parish and achieving a good parity of representation between wards.

- **Parish warding**

The Act requires that in considering whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections for the parish council the Council should consider the following:

- Whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish council would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient;
- Whether it is desirable that any areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.

The government's guidance is that "the warding of parishes in largely rural areas that are based predominantly on a single centrally located village may not be justified. Conversely, warding may be appropriate where the parish encompasses a number of villages with separate identities, a village with a large rural hinterland or where, on the edges of towns, there has been some urban overspill into the parish"

With regard to urban parishes, the government has suggested, "there is likely to be a stronger case for the warding of urban parishes..."In urban area community identity tends to focus on a locality, whether this be a housing estate, a shopping centre or community facilities. Each locality is likely to have its own sense of identity".

The Council will be mindful of this guidance, noting further that "each case should be considered on its merits and on the basis of the information and evidence provided during the course of the review."

The Council also wishes to emphasise that warding arrangements should be clearly and readily understood by and should have relevance for the electorate in a parish; they should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish: one parish but comprising different parts. Furthermore, ward elections should have merit; not only should they meet the two tests laid down in the Act, but they should also be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. They should not be wasteful of a parish's resources.

- **The number and boundaries of parish wards**

In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards, the Council will take into account community identity and interests in an area and will consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries.

Equally, the Council, during its consultations in this review is mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages.

The Council has noted the desirability of fixing boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which might be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries. The Council also emphasises that ward boundaries should be clearly understood; they should represent the most appropriate parting of local attachments within a parish that comprises different parts. The Electoral Commission has suggested that a relevant consideration for the Council when undertaking a review is that the district wards should not split an unwarded parish and that no parish ward should be split by such a boundary. The relevant legal provisions do not apply to reviews of parish electoral arrangements, but the Commission has requested the Council to bear this in mind, which the Council will do.

- **The number of councillors to be elected for parish wards**

The Council has noted that it is required to have regard to the following when considering the size and boundaries of the wards and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward;

- The number of local government electors for the parish;
- Any change in the number, or distribution, of the local government electors, which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when this review starts.

The government has advised, and this Council concurs that "it is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimated factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors." While there is no provision in legislation that each parish councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors, the Council considers that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.

The Council is likewise anxious to avoid the risk that, where one or more wards of a parish are over represented by councillors, the residents of those wards (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council. During the review process and in its consultations, the Council is committed to consistently showing the ratios of electors to councillors that would result from its proposals.

The foregoing consideration of being equitable will also guide the Council when it considers the number of councillors to be elected to a common council by each parish within a grouping arrangement.

- **Naming of parish wards**

With regard to the names of parish wards, the Council will endeavour to reflect existing local or historic place names, and will give a strong presumption in favour of ward names proposed by local interested parties.

REORGANISATION OF COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ORDERS AND COMMENCEMENT

The review will be completed when the Council adopts the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. Copies of this order, the map(s) that show the effects of that order in detail, and the document(s) which set out the reasons for the decisions that the Council has taken (including where it has decided to make no change following a review) will be deposited at the Council's offices and on its website.

In accordance with the Guidance issued by the government, the Council will issue maps to illustrate each recommendation at a scale that will not normally be smaller than 1:10,000.

These maps will be deposited with the Secretary of State at the Department of Communities and Local Government and at the Council's Offices at Whitwick Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ.

Prints will also be supplied, in accordance with the regulations, to Ordnance Survey, the Registrar General, the Land Registry, the Valuation Office Agency, the Boundary Commission for England and the Electoral Commission.

The provisions of the Order would take effect, for financial and administrative purposes, from 1st April in the designated year.

The electoral arrangements for a new parish or existing parish council will come into force at the next elections to the parish council. These might be the next ordinary local elections. However, where the next ordinary elections are not for some time, the Council might have resolved to modify or exclude the application of sections 16(3) and 90 of the Local Government Act 1972 to provide for the first election to be held in an earlier year, with councillors serving a shortened first term to allow the parish electoral cycle to return to that of the district.

CONSEQUENTIAL MATTERS

- **General Principles**

The Council notes that a Reorganisation Order may cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the Order. These may include:

- The transfer and management or custody of property;
- The setting of precepts for new parishes;
- Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities;
- Provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.

In these matters, the Council will be guided by Regulations that have been issued following the 2007 Act.

In particular, the Council notes that the Regulations regarding the transfer of property, rights and liabilities require that any apportionments shall use the population of the area as estimated by the proper officer of the Council as an appropriate proportion.

Furthermore, the Council notes that the Regulations regarding the establishment of a precept for a new parish require the Council to calculate the first anticipated precept for a newly constituted parish council and for the amount of that precept to be included in the Reorganisation Order.

- **District ward boundaries**

The Council is mindful that it may be necessary, although it is not anticipated, for it to recommend the Electoral Commission to make alterations to the boundaries of district wards or county electoral divisions to reflect the changes made at parish level. The Council notes that it will be for the Electoral Commission to decide if related alterations should be made and when they should be implemented, and that the Commission may find it appropriate to direct the Boundary Committee for England to conduct an electoral review of affected areas.

The Council notes that the Electoral Commission will require evidence that the Council has consulted on any such recommendations for the alterations to the boundaries of district wards to County electoral divisions as part of the review. Of course, such recommendations for alterations may only become apparent during the course of the review. Even so, the Council will endeavour to include any such draft recommendations for alterations at the earliest possible opportunity for consultation that will arise after they become apparent.

Where any such consequential matters affect Leicestershire County Council, the Council will also seek the views of that council with regard to alterations to electoral division boundaries in accordance with the government's guidance.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Date of Publication:- 23rd September 2009

Any modifications will be published as soon as practicable after they have been made.