



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



Council

29 February 2024

Report of Councillor Tim Harrison,
Chairman of the Community
Governance Review Working Group

Community Governance Review for the Parish of Little Ponton and Stroxton

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To consider a draft Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review for the parish of Little Ponton and Stroxton.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Approves the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review for the parish of Little Ponton and Stroxton.
2. Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Governance Review Working Group, Political Group Leaders and the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing, to make any necessary amendments to the Terms of Reference document which may be required during the period of the review.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Effective Council
Which wards are impacted?	Isaac Newton

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The Community Governance Review will incur modest costs associated with the consultation process, which will consist of hard copy documents being posted to approximately 300 properties. A revenue budget carry forward of £4,000 will be requested from the underspend associated with the Grantham Community Governance Review to cover the costs of the consultation, as well as any legal costs which may be necessary during the review process.
- 1.2 For the financial year 2024/25 the Council has received a precept requirement notification from Little Ponton and Stroxtton Parish Council for £4,750 and this will be paid to the Parish Council on 1 April 2024.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.3 There are no additional legal and governance implications arising from this report which are not already referred to in the body of the report or the Terms of Reference document at Appendix A.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

2.1 Councillor Ben Green submitted a Notice of Motion to the meeting of Full Council held on 25 November 2023 regarding Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council, where the following resolution was passed:

1. This Council initiates a Community Governance Review to explore and refine proposals concerning Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council. These are to include:
 - a) abolishing Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council
 - b) returning it to its previous status
 - c) or merging it with Great Ponton Parish Council
2. The Working Group, comprising a maximum of five Councillors from the Governance and Audit Committee, shall be convened to supervise the Community Governance Review process, which will encompass both Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish, and Great Ponton Parish.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 Full Council is required to authorise the commencement of the Community Governance Review process through approval of a Terms of Reference.
- 3.2 The Community Governance Review Working Group, established from the membership of the Governance and Audit Committee, met on 15 February 2024 to consider the Community Governance Review process and a draft Terms of Reference. The Working Group agreed to formally recommend approval of the Terms of Reference to Full Council as attached to this report at **Appendix A**.
- 3.3 The Terms of Reference document includes specific information on the following aspects of the review:
 - Scope of the review
 - Legislation and guidance
 - Timetable
 - Consultation
 - Parish areas and structure of parishes
 - Electoral arrangements
 - Current governance of the area
 - Completion of the review
- 3.4 The timetable associated with this Community Governance Review is purposely constructed in order that it can be completed as quickly as practicably possible in accordance with the legislation, regulations and guidance associated with such reviews. It may be necessary throughout the life of the review for the Terms of

Reference to be amended, taking into account anything that may materialise which has not been included. Instead of requiring that Full Council approve an amended version of the Terms of Reference, it is proposed that authority be delegated to the Chairman of the Community Group Working Group, in consultation with Political Group Leaders and the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing, to make any necessary amendments to the Terms of Reference document.

- 3.5 Before making any recommendations or publishing proposals, the Council must take account of the views of local people and stakeholders, judging them against the criteria laid out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Details relating to the consultation process are set out in paragraph 8 of the Terms of Reference document at **Appendix A**. The Community Governance Review Group will agree the format and content of the consultation process as part of overseeing the review.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 To proposed amends to the draft Terms of Reference.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 The draft Terms of Reference document is recommended for approval by the Community Governance Review Working Group.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – Terms of Reference