1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report the results of public consultation on the community governance review and seek Council’s approval for the next steps.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 At its July meeting, Council agreed to consult on the potential to create Town Council for Kettering town, and on consequential boundary changes to accommodate the Hanwood Park urban extension within the town area.

2.2 Consultation took place between 1st September and 31st October 2019. Apart from general publicity, online and paper consultation was targeted at community groups, statutory partners, and residents in Kettering and the adjacent parishes who would be directly affected by the boundary changes proposed. Hard copies were distributed to libraries, KBC offices, GP surgeries and other suitable outlets.

2.3 A total of 164 responses were received.

There was a mixture of responses from borough councillors, town and parish councils, community groups and statutory partners and local residents. From the respondents who left their details, responses were received from:

- 1 Borough Councillor
- 4 Town and Parish Councils
- 3 community groups and statutory partners

2.4 From those respondents who left their full postcode details (112 out of 164 respondents), 75% lived within Kettering town or the adjacent parishes.

3. CONSULTATION RESULTS

3.1 Broadly, there was widespread support for the creation of a Town Council on revised boundaries. The headline responses to each of the main questions was:-
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>In support</th>
<th>Against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you agree that a town council should be created for Kettering?</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you agree that the new Town Council should come into being at the same time as the new unitary council?</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you concur that the urban extension of Hanwood Park should be treated as part of Kettering town?</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you agree with the proposal to have 20 councillors elected from 9 wards based on current boundaries?</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other, more qualitative questions posed were:-

- Should the existing Mayoralty and associated regalia and assets be vested in any new town council, or in charter trustees?
  
  - 73% supported the Town Council option and 20% the Charter Trustees option. Several respondents did not support the continuation of the Mayoralty at all, and Desborough Town Council questioned the right of the Town Council to inherit the insignia of the outgoing Borough.

- What roles and responsibilities do you think any new Town Council should consider adopting, in addition to their statutory powers and role?
  
  - There were a large number of suggestions, but there was a concentration of support around
    - Maintaining parks and open spaces and floral displays
    - Town Centre maintenance
    - General marketing and promotion of the town and town centre

  - It will be for the unitary authority to determine what powers and responsibilities it wishes to agree that parish councils could deliver

  - The Market Charter, vested in the Borough Council, will need to be transferred before or on 1st April 2021, and the assumption throughout the community governance review has been that it should transfer to the Town Council, and no one demurred from that during the consultation.
3.2. On the question of boundary revisions between Kettering town, (as expanded) and Barton Seagrave parish, respondents were evenly balanced between the three options provided (see plan attached at Appendix A)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>32%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 2</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 3</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 A minority of respondents were strongly opposed to a town council on the grounds that it was not needed.

3.4. The full summary of all responses is attached as Appendix B.

4. **NEXT STEPS**

4.1. Included in the July Council report was a timetable for the whole process, which has been disrupted by the need to move the Council meeting to January, as a consequence of the 2019 General Election being called. Therefore, a new timetable is set out below, which Council is asked to endorse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remaining Stages</th>
<th>Old Timetable</th>
<th>New Timetable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Results of consultation reported to Council</td>
<td>11th December 2019</td>
<td>13th January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish recommendations for further consultation</td>
<td>15th December to 15th February 2020</td>
<td>20th January to 17th March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final recommendations to full Council</td>
<td>28th February 2020</td>
<td>22nd April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council fixes precept for Town Council</td>
<td>February 2021</td>
<td>February 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2. The Council is required to publish draft recommendations for further consultation. Attached at Appendix C is a draft statement. It assumes, given the consultation responses above, that:-

- Council supports the creation of a Town Council for Kettering, on expanded boundaries, from April 2021 onwards, with elections to the Town Council in May 2021.
- The Town Council should comprise 20 members, elected from 9 wards, largely based on existing KBC ward boundaries
- The Town Council should have a Mayor, and that, as a consequence, the current insignia, regalia, civic plate and other items held by the Borough
Council, should be gifted to the Town Council, and that the chains of office and mace therefore be adapted to incorporate the insignia of the pre 1974 Kettering Borough Council (from which they were originally inherited)

- The Market Charter held by this Council should be transferred to the Town Council on 1st April 2021.
- The boundaries between Kettering Town, and Cranford and Barton Seagrave parishes be as set out in the map included in the statement. (i.e. option three from the consultation).

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1. At the time of writing, the Structural Change Order creating new unitary Councils has yet to be approved by Parliament, so the whole process remains at risk.

4.2. An election for town councillors would need to be held in May 2021, the costs of which would need to be met by the precept set by this Council in February 2021.

4.3. The insurance value of the Mayoral insignia, plate and regalia is £160,250; therefore this is the value of the gift from the Borough Council to the future Town Council. The Town Council would be assuming the maintenance and insurance costs from 1st April 2021. The annual premium is £1900.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council is following the statutory process for a community governance review.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the Council

- Notes the consultation responses
- Agrees a revised timetable as set out above for completing the community governance review
- Agrees the draft recommendations for further consultation as set out in the attached statement
Background Papers:

Consultation responses
Consultation document
Reports to Council 24th July 2019
Insurance documents

Previous Minutes/Reports

Local Government Reform Advisory Committee
30th January, 10th April, and 19th June 2019
Council 6th March and 24th July 2019

Date: 20th December 2019
Contact Officers: Martin Hammond/Sallie Tyrer