APPENDIX C

KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2019-20 - STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Purpose

This document sets out the Borough Council’s views on the creation of a Town Council for the currently unparished area of Kettering, together with consequential boundary revisions to the parishes of Cranford, Barton Seagrave and Burton Latimer.

The proposals set out below are presented for consultation, prior to the Council making a final decision at its meeting on 22nd April 2020. The deadline for responses is 17th March. Consultation responses should be sent to:- Communications Team, Kettering Borough Council, Kettering, Northants, NN15 7QX

Background

The government has set out its intention to create two new unitary authorities in Northamptonshire with effect from April 2021, and consequently abolish the existing local authorities. This has led the Borough Council to consider establishing a Town Council in Kettering, so that this unparished area has the same representation as the wider geography of North Northamptonshire when the new unitary authority is established.

The Borough Council consulted on aspects of this proposal, as a community governance review, which is a statutory process. As part of the statutory process, the Borough Council must publish its statement of what it intends to do for comment before it can implement it. We are at this stage.

Consultation response

The consultation was supportive of the establishment of a Town Council, and of expanding the geography of the town area, to include parts of Cranford and Barton Seagrave Parish areas, but also to expand the boundaries of Barton Seagrave into some of the unparished area and into Cranford parish. The Council report on the consultation can be found here along with the full consultation responses. www.kettering.gov.uk/towncouncil

Detailed proposals

The Borough Council is therefore proposing

a) That a new Town Council is created, with effect from 1st April 2021. In order to have effect, the Council will need to formally agree this, and by 1st April

   a. appoint someone to act as the interim clerk to the Council,

   b. agree a precept so that the Town Council will have funds available for its first year to defray expenses, including election expenses, mayoral expenditure, interim clerking costs and any costs associated with its functions or administration.

   c. arrange for elections to be held in May 2021 for town councillors.
b) That the Town area should include land to the east of Kettering in an expanded geography, as set out in Plan A attached. At the same time, the parish of Barton Seagrave should be expanded to reflect community loyalties and a sensible geography. Some further tidying up of boundaries to follow the line of the A14 is also proposed.

The plan shows the areas to be transferred between Cranford, Barton Seagrave, Burton Latimer and Kettering, as follows:-

- Land in yellow – land to be added to the parish of Barton Seagrave taken from the currently unparished area of Kettering
- Land in orange – land to be added to the parish of Barton Seagrave taken from the parish of Cranford.
- Land in green – land to be added to the Town of Kettering, taken from the parish of Cranford.
- Land in pink – land to be added to the town of Kettering taken from the parish of Barton Seagrave.
- Land in light blue – land to be added to the parish of Barton Seagrave, taken from the parish of Burton Latimer.
- Land in dark blue -land to be added to the parish of Burton Latimer, taken from the parish of Cranford.

c) That the Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, representing 9 wards whose boundaries should follow those of the current KBC wards. There will be some variation to the existing Ise ward to recognise the inclusion of land to be taken from Cranford and Barton Seagrave Parish Councils, and land ceded to Barton Seagrave Parish, which in the first year or so will have a broadly neutral effect on the electorate of the ward. Plan B attached shows the proposed wards, as amended by the proposals in (b) above.

It is expected that the UK Boundary Commission will review the new unitary council’s ward boundaries shortly after it is created and that in turn will lead to a revision to town council wards. The Borough Council recognised that there would be an early review of boundaries and therefore that making a significant change now to electoral arrangements would be too short lived to justify the effort involved.

d) That the Town Council would appoint a Mayor each year, who would be the ceremonial and civic embodiment of the community and town. To enable this function, the Borough Council would transfer into the ownership of the Town Council the following assets

a. The civic robes, and regalia
b. The chains of office and mace and associated material
c. The insignia used by the former Kettering Borough Council up until 1974.
d. The plate, memorabilia, twinning assets and other property held within the Mayor’s parlour
Much of this material was inherited by the current Kettering Borough Council from its predecessor in 1974, and therefore it is felt to be appropriate to gift it back to the new town council. The new town council will need to replace the insignia in the mace and chains of office with those that were originally used before 1974, and return to the North Northamptonshire Unitary Council the insignia used by KBC from 1974-2021.

The new Town Council will also need to apply to the Herald of Arms for permission to revive the coat of arms which was in use for Kettering up until 1974, as these are reflected in the pre-1974 insignia. To expedite matters, the Borough Council will start this process on behalf of the Town Council before April 2021.

e) **The Market Charter vested in Kettering Borough Council should be transferred to the Town Council, with effect from 1st April 2021.** The royal charter was granted in 1227 and has been vested in the community of Kettering since then, and it is felt appropriate that this should continue to apply. It will be for the Town Council to decide if it wishes to administer the market directly or to contract with the unitary council or another party instead.

The Town Council will otherwise have the statutory duties and powers of a parish council, which can, if agreed, be supplemented by any functions or assets that the new unitary Council wishes to confer on it. Those decisions are yet to be made.

The Council believes that these proposals meet the key and specific criteria for a community governance review - firstly reflecting the interests and identities of local communities in terms of achieving community cohesion within the area of the review and secondly, of providing effective and convenient community governance for the area.

ENDS

13th January 2020
1. **Land in yellow** – land to be added to the parish of Barton Seagrave taken from the currently unparished area of Kettering.

2. **Land in orange** – land to be added to the parish of Barton Seagrave taken from the parish of Cranford.

3. **Land in green** – land to be added to the Town of Kettering, taken from the parish of Cranford.

4. **Land in pink** – land to be added to the town of Kettering taken from the parish of Barton Seagrave.

5. **Land in light blue** – land to be added to the parish of Barton Seagrave, taken from the parish of Burton Latimer.

6. **Land in dark blue** – land to be added to the parish of Burton Latimer, taken from the parish of Cranford.
PLAN B