

Open

# Council

# Agenda

6pm  
Wednesday, 25th July 2018  
Council Chamber  
Wyre Forest House  
Finepoint Way  
Kidderminster



## Council

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**COUNCIL MEETING**

17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND HONORARY ALDERMAN**

**PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Dear Member

**YOU ARE INVITED** to attend a meeting of the Wyre Forest District Council to be held **at 6.00p.m. on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**, in the Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster.

The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Ian Miller  
Chief Executive

## **Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters**

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct (“the Code”) requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members’ Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council’s constitution for full details.

## **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)**

DPI’s and ODI’s are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council’s Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

### **(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council

1. Is the ultimate decision making Body.
2. Determines the Budget (but reserves powers to itself in relation to requirements).
3. Is responsible for appointing (and dismissing) the Leader of the Council.
4. Appoints at its Annual Meeting, the Regulatory Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other Committees/Forums necessary to conduct the Council’s business.
5. Decides on matters where the Cabinet is not minded to determine a matter in accordance with Council policy.

### **(B) MATTERS RESERVED TO THE COUNCIL**

1. Those reserved by Law e.g. levying a rate, borrowing money, promotion of or opposition to a Bill in Parliament.
2. Matters reserved to the Council by financial regulations.
3. The adoption and amendment of Standing Orders, including the powers and duties of Committees and other forums.
4. Power to make, amend, revoke or enact or enforce any byelaws.
5. The determination of the objectives of the Council.
6. Matters of new policy or variation of existing policy as contained within the budget and policy framework.
7. Local Development Framework adoption.
8. Any function where a decision would be contrary to a plan, policy, budget or strategy previously adopted by the Council, which would be contrary to the Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Executive arrangements.
9. The Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

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At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

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If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

**If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.**

\* Unless there are no reports in the open session.

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday, 25th July 2018

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
1.	<b>Prayers</b>  To be read by Revd Canon Rose Lawley, St Mary and All Saints Church, Kidderminster	
2.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interests by Members</b>  In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered.  Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	<b>Minutes</b>  To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018.	11
5.	<b>Public Participation</b>  In accordance with the Council's scheme for public speaking at meetings of Council, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2018.  <i>If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Solicitor to the Council will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.</i>	

<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <p>Seven questions have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order A5 by Members of the Council.</p> <p><i>In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline above, and could not have been reasonably known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Solicitor to the Council no later than 9am on the day of Council.</i></p>	<p>18</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Chairman’s Communications</b></p> <p>To note the engagements of the Chairman of the Council since the Council’s last meeting.</p>	<p>20</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Leader of the Council Announcements</b></p> <p>To receive announcements from the Leader of the Council.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Motions Submitted under Standing Orders</b></p> <p>Four motions have been received in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1).</p> <p><b>1. Motion from Independent and Liberal Democrat Group</b></p> <p>Council has been proud to support U.K. Holocaust Memorial Day since the instigation of that commemoration.</p> <p>Council notes with concern the rise in Anti Semitic attacks against members of the U.K. Jewish Community. Council believes that politicians and officials from all parties and institutions must lead by example, use responsible language and call out others when they do not.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to Adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s Working definition of Anti Semitism and its appended examples; which has already been adopted by the U.K. Government, the Scottish Government, the Greater London Authority, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and over a hundred local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holocaust denial or minimisation; indicating sympathy for the Holocaust;</li> <li>• Holocaust inversion - i.e. identifying Israel or Zionists as Nazis;</li> <li>• Giving support to, or failing to oppose, terrorism directed at the Jewish Community inside and outside Israel;</li> <li>• Theological antisemitism, such as accusing Jews of killing Jesus</li> </ul>	

## **2. Motion from Independent and Liberal Democrat Group**

Council recognises the knowledge of communities which our workforce develops during their work. Council applauds the joint initiative of West Mercia Police and Telford Council in Training Refuse Collection Staff to observe evidence of Child Abuse and Exploitation, Domestic Violence and Drug Dealing and resolves to develop a similar initiative in Wyre Forest.

## **3. Motion from Independent and Liberal Democrat Group**

Council appreciates the work carried out by the Affordable Housing Review Panel. However Council regrets that the Panel was not given the opportunity to examine the work done by APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) on the proactive role some District and Unitary Authorities are undertaking, using Prudential Borrowing to directly provide housing both for market sale and both Affordable and Social Rental usually via arms length companies or joint ventures. Council therefore requests Overview and Scrutiny Committee to reconvene the Panel with a request that it further investigates ways in which Wyre Forest DC can actively intervene in the local housing market to ensure that the real housing needs of the District are addressed.

## **4. Motion from Labour Group**

Council,

noting its Prudential Borrowing capacity and other potentially available capital sums;

its existing policy to increase residential occupation of Kidderminster town centre;

the assessment that 229 new affordable homes per year are required for the next five years to meet existing and newly arising need in Wyre Forest;

recommendations 4:1 and 4:3 of the Affordable Housing Review Panel's report, which refer to close partnership working with Community Housing and the council's role as landowner in the provision of affordable housing;

recommendations 4:4 and 4:5 of the same report, which refer to a more flexible and comprehensive Local Plan policy on thresholds for affordable housing;

the Scrutiny agenda item, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018, "Lion Fields Future Phases Development", on which the oral advice from the Economic Development officer was that the redevelopment of the former Magistrates Court site is likely to consist primarily of housing;

and the previously-expressed will of Council that the construction of houses be part of the Bromsgrove Street redevelopment, a proportion of which should be "affordable":



	states its firm preference for a mix of housing tenures to be a major element in the Lion Fields redevelopment, including a 30% proportion of affordable houses, as a minimum, and invites Community Housing to become a development partner forthwith.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Urgent Motions submitted under Standing Orders</b>  To consider motions in the order they have been received which, by reason of special circumstances, should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1 (vii)).	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Review of the May 2018 Elections</b>  To consider a report from the Chief Executive on the local elections held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018.	21
<b>12.</b>	<b>Community Governance Review – Wolverley &amp; Cookley</b>  To consider a report from the Chief Executive to agree the next steps in this community governance review following conclusion of the consultation.	28
<b>13.</b>	<b>Policy and Budget Framework</b>  Matters which require a Decision by Council.  <b>a) Recommendations from the Cabinet – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (to follow)</b>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b>	
<b>15.</b>	<b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b>  To consider passing the following resolution:  “That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.	

## Part 2

### Not open to the Press and Public

16.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
17.	<b>Amendment to Capital Programme</b>  To consider a report from the Corporate Director: Community Well-being and Environment which seeks Council's approval of an amendment to the capital programme. <b><i>Report to follow if required.</i></b>	

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,  
KIDDERMINSTER

23RD MAY 2018 (6PM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: D Little (Chairman), J-P Champion (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, J Baker, S J Chambers, M Cheeseman, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, P Dyke, N Gale, I Hardiman, P Harrison, N Harris, J A Hart, M J Hart, K Henderson, N Knowles, N Martin, S Miah, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow, M Rayner, C Rogers, J A Shaw, J D Smith, A Totty, R J Vale, S J Walker BCAV, G Webster, H S Williams and S J Williams.

**C.1 Prayers**

Prayers were said by Rev. Simon Harry, Minister of Bewdley Baptist Church.

**C.2 Election of Chairman**

Councillor S J Williams was nominated as Chairman. This was moved by Councillor M J Hart and seconded by Councillor I Hardiman.

**Decision: Councillor S Williams be elected as Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council for the ensuing municipal year.**

**C.3 Chairman – Investiture and Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

After being invested with his Chain of Office, Councillor S J Williams made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

**C.4 Chairman's Response**

The Chairman thanked Members for his appointment as Chairman. He felt it was a great honour to be given the opportunity to take on the role again. He said he would endeavour to be a good ambassador for both the Council and the District. He announced that his charity would be the Kidderminster Hospital League of Friends, and it was his intention to appoint a Chaplain to advise and help him during his term of office.

**C.5 Retiring Chairman**

The Leader of the Council thanked the retiring Chairman, Councillor D Little, for his hard work over the past 12 months. He had represented the Council at many civic engagements across both the Wyre Forest District and wider Worcestershire County, accompanied at many of the functions by his consort, Mrs Shirley Little.

The retiring Chairman was presented with a Past Chairman's badge. Councillor D Little said it had been an exciting and challenging year as Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council. He thanked his fellow Members for giving him the opportunity to represent the Council. He said that he and his wife had visited many interesting venues and had been received everywhere with excellent regard, and community spirit was thriving across all the Districts he had visited. He thanked the Corporate Leadership Team and Officers across the Council for all the guidance and support they had given to him throughout the year, and in particular Karen Walsh who had ensured he was fully briefed prior to any engagements he was due to attend. He gave special thanks to his wife, Shirley, for her support as his Consort. He announced that he had raised £3,000 for his charities; Macmillan Nurses and Worcestershire Air Ambulance. He wished the new Chairman a most successful year in office.

**C.6 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Councillor M J Hart nominated Councillor K Henderson as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Councillor C Rogers.

**Decision: Councillor K Henderson be elected as Vice-Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council for the ensuing municipal year.**

**C.7 Vice-Chairman – Investiture and Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

After being invested with his Badge of Office, Councillor K Henderson made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chairman.

**C.8 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors V Higgs and R Wilson.

**C.9 Declarations of Interests by Members**

There were no declarations of interests.

**C.10 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**C.11 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**C.12 Questions**

One question had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order A5 by Members of the Council.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

The Chairman joined Councillor S Miah in wishing the District's Muslim community a happy Ramadan.

#### **Question from Councillor S Miah to the Leader of the Council**

What information was provided to the council, and thereby what commitments were made by the County Council for the provision of a bus route including the provision of bus bays along the Hoobrook Link Road?

#### **Answer from the Leader of the Council**

I think the essence of the question goes back to the time the Hoobrook Link Road was being constructed, and if there would be a bus route along Silverwoods Way servicing the new houses and in particular the Wyre Forest Leisure Centre. I do not believe there was any absolute firm commitment from the County Council that there would be a bus route because of course Diamond Buses, as the commercial operator at the time, would have to agree to a commercial route. At the time the best endeavours of the District Council were used to try and persuade a commercial operator to provide a bus route along there. Therefore I do not believe there was any commitment given by the County Council for an actual bus route or indeed to provide bus bays along the Hoobrook Link Road.

#### **Supplementary question from Councillor S Miah**

I understand that the new Area Manager for Diamond Buses has expressed an interest in directing some of the buses via Silverwoods Way, and last week Council Officers confirmed to Councillor F M Oborski that they would be willing to talk to Diamond Buses regarding this. Therefore looking forward could the Leader set out the strategies he would put in place to enable buses to stop along the Hoobrook Link Road and as Leader would he consider our proposal whereby buses would be allowed to enter the Leisure Centre and use the coach parking bay or the drop-off point?

#### **Supplementary answer from the Leader of the Council**

We support and encourage public transport to go along Silverwoods Way; we never promised it. We said that we would use our best endeavours to lobby Diamond Buses to provide a bus route. I have heard that the new Manager of Diamond may now be interested in operating that service. What I will commit to as Leader is doing all that I can to encourage the County Council to try and make that happen. You were not the first person to think that buses could pull into the Leisure Centre, we also think that as well and will use our best endeavours to achieve it.

#### **C.13 Chairman's Communications**

The Council received a list of functions attended by the retiring Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

**C.14 Political and Constitutional Structures 2018/2019**

Council received a report from the Solicitor to the Council on the proposed political and constitutional structures for the municipal year 2018/2019.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and drew Members' attention to pages 60 and 61 of the report (appendix 6 Appointments to Outside Bodies) which had been updated with the North Worcestershire representation following the meeting of the Leaders of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest District Councils on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018. He moved all the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor N Knowles advised that Councillor N Martin had withdrawn her nomination for appointment to the Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He moved several amendments en bloc to the appointments to outside bodies. Upon a show of hands the amendments were lost.

**Decision:**

- 1.1 The revisions to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.**
- 1.2 The proposed Political Management Structure of committees for 2018/2019 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.**
- 1.3 The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees as contained in Appendix 3 of the report be agreed.**
- 1.4 The Municipal Calendar as set out in Appendix 4 of the report be adopted.**
- 1.5 The revised chart of political balance as set out in Appendix 5 of the report be approved.**
- 1.6 The appointments to outside bodies as set out in Appendix 6 of the report be agreed.**
- 1.7 The membership of the Audit Committee to include an independent person in accordance with the process detailed in the report be amended.**
- 1.8 The Solicitor to the Council be authorised to settle any outstanding details relating to the political structures and to make changes as necessary to the Council's Constitution to give effect to the Council's decisions and any other revisions necessary to reflect needs or circumstances.**

**C.15 Members' Annual Activity Reports and Attendance 2017/2018**

Council received the schedule of Members' Activity reports which gave details of activities in their role as District Councillors for the 2017/2018

municipal year and a record of attendance.

**Decision: The reports and attendance be noted.**

**C.16 Annual Reports for the Municipal Year 2017/2018**

Council received the annual reports from the Leader of the Council, and the Chairmen of both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Ethics and Standards Committee.

**Decision: The Annual Reports for the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Ethics and Standards Committee be noted.**

**C.17 Leader of the Council Announcements**

The Leader of the Council referred Members to his tabled report.

**C.18 Motions Submitted under Standing Orders**

One motion had been received in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1).

*“This Council recognises that discarded plastics and non-recyclable cups are a major environmental pollutant.*

*Council therefore resolves to:*

- 1. Cease the use of single use plastic water cups and replace them with washable reusable alternatives.*
- 2. Request our caterers to replace all non-recyclable hot drink containers with suitable environmentally friendly alternatives.”*

Councillor F M Oborski MBE presented the motion. She said she hoped it would be a fairly small step for the authority to take but it was a very important step which would indicate that the dangers of plastic pollution were taken seriously by the Council.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Well-being, Councillor C Rogers, tabled an amendment to the motion on behalf of the Conservative Group, which was accepted by Councillor Oborski.

Councillor Rogers outlined the reasons for the amendment. He said his Cabinet role involved sustainability and it was important to keep an eye on the bigger picture. He said that if we stopped using recycled and recyclable plastics for packaging and other uses, there would be a greater demand for paper based products which in turn could result in the devastation of the Rain Forests. A discussion ensued and the majority of Members spoke in support of the motion.

Upon a show of hands, the motion as amended was agreed.

**Decision:** The following motion received from the Independent and Liberal Democrat Group, as amended by the Conservative Group be agreed:

- 1. Council notes that the disposable plastic cups used at the Wyre Forest House water dispensers in the public areas are in fact recycled and on that basis sees no merit in restricting their use.**
- 2. Council agrees that in staff areas disposable cups are to be withdrawn with immediate effect.**
- 3. Council requests our caterers to replace all non-recyclable hot drink containers with suitable environmentally friendly alternatives.**

**C.19 Urgent Motions submitted under Standing Orders**

There were no urgent motions.

**C.20 Policy And Budget Framework**

**a. Recommendations from the Cabinet – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

- Capital Strategy 2018-21**

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the recommendations. He said that the Capital Strategy was good practice for the authority and brought together a number of strategies that the Council currently had in this area into one document. He added that the new document clearly set out the processes involved and criteria for all the Council's future investments and more importantly sets out the potential risks involved.

**Decision:**

- 1.1 The Capital Strategy 2018-21 including the associated Quantitative Indicators in Appendix 1 and the updated Strategy for Capital Portfolio Fund set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet be approved.**
- 1.2 The limits for gross debt of non treasury investments compared to net service expenditure and for commercial income as a percentage of net service expenditure as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet be approved.**
- 1.3 The limits for loan investments as set out in Section 5.1 of the report to Cabinet be approved.**

**C.21 Elections Fees and Charges**

Council considered a report from the Returning Officer which proposed a revision to the fees to be charged for local elections, referendums and polls.



#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report and advised that the proposal was to use a simplified, per elector approach. He added that consultation had been undertaken with the Parish Councils, and support for the simplified system had been received.

**Decision: The revised scheme of fees and charges for local elections and referendums set out in appendix A of the report with effect from 1 June 2018, be adopted.**

#### **C.22**

#### **Community Governance Review: Wolverley & Cookley**

Council received a report from the Chief Executive which sought approval of the Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review (CGR) for Wolverley and Cookley and arrangements for a local advisory poll.

The Leader of the Council moved the recommendations and outlined the background to the request. He said that the matter had been discussed at a meeting of the Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council and there was unanimous support for the residents to have their say on the issue.

In response to a question relating to the deadline for registering to vote, Members were advised the deadline for registration would be in the latter part of June 2018 and steps would be taken to raise public awareness about the date.

Upon a show of hands, full support for the proposal was given.

#### **Decision:**

- 1.1 A Community Governance Review of Wolverley and Cookley should be held, commencing on 24 May 2018;**
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review should be as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;**
- 1.3 A local advisory poll should be held on Thursday 12 July 2018 under section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003;**
- 1.4 The question to be asked in the local advisory poll, together with the franchise and other procedural rules for the local poll, should be as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;**
- 1.5 The Solicitor of the Council be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any minor modifications to the Terms of Reference prior to publication in order to comply with legislation and statutory guidance;**
- 1.6 The Returning Officer (as counting officer) be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to supplement the rules for the advisory poll as set out in rule 12 in Appendix 2 of the report.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.50pm.

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL**

**1. Question from Councillor A Totty to the Cabinet Member for Resources**

There are now 8 months only left of the financial year and the start of the 2019-20 financial year. Can the cabinet member tell me how he plans to replace the £30,000 projected income which now will no longer be forthcoming, due to the decision not to proceed with the construction of the industrial units, part of the proposed development at Green Street Depot.

**2. Question from Councillor N Knowles to the Leader of the Council**

Wyre Forest District Council needs to plug the gap between income and expenditure which is £1.6 million.

Council leadership has said that most of the effort to close the gap will take place after the “all-out” elections in 2019. However, £112,000 efficiency savings will take place this year.

How will the £112,000 be saved and from where in the Budget?

Finally, how will the gap of £1.6million be closed, given that it is far too late and irresponsible, not to address the issue now.

What policies are there to save the £1.6 million? Council and the public surely has the right to be told.

**3. Question from Councillor N Knowles to the Leader of the Council**

What percentage of Wyre Forest House is now rented out? Is the long term objective to rent out all of Wyre Forest House and is it the intention to relocate all staff from Wyre Forest House into the yet to be built accommodation at Green Street?

**4. Question from Councillor N Knowles to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services**

According to a recent report WFDC (on behalf of WCC) uses Glyphosate to control weeds on grass verges, lawns, parks, pavements etc. There is a court case now proceeding in California against the agro- chemical giant Monsanto Company, brought by DeWayne Johnson, a former school pest control manager, who is suffering from terminal cancer having worked for thirty years using Glyphosate being sprayed on weeds. In 2015 the World Health Organisation classified Glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans” it is found in food

and water. Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that until the result of the court case is known, or until other evidence can prove Glyphosate is safe, that WFDC stops using Glyphosate as a treatment for weed control and the control of other plants?

**5. Question from Councillor Shazu Miah to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Protection**

Everyday from my business premises I witness Police vehicles having to attend incidents at the Lion Hotel. These continuous incidents are not only a concern to neighbouring premises but must also be a serious drain on Police resources.

What steps can this Council take to reduce the antisocial incidents arising at these premises?

**6. Question from Councillor Shazu Miah to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration**

How will the council ensure s106 money received from the development off Stourbridge Road will be used in Broadwaters.

**7. Question from Councillor Shazu Miah to the Leader of the Council**

How will the council ensure that it retains a presence in Kidderminster town centre after the relocation of the Hub?

**Chairman's List of Functions – 2018/19**

**JUNE 2018**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mayor of Stourport Civic Reception
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party in the Park - Rock and Roll event\*
- 9<sup>th</sup> Bewdley Carnival
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Droitwich Civic Service
- 10<sup>th</sup> Evensong at Worcester Cathedral
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Evesham Civic Service\*
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Worcester's Civic Service
- 25<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Flag Flying Ceremony
- 27<sup>th</sup> Youth Makes Music
- 30<sup>th</sup> Museum of Carpet Private Viewing

**JULY 2018**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kidderminster Mayor's Civic Service
- 1<sup>st</sup> Pershore Town Civic Service
- 7<sup>th</sup> Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra
- 11<sup>th</sup> Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust AGM
- 14<sup>th</sup> Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Event
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Kidderminster Charity Thai Night

\* Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****COUNCIL**  
**25 JULY 2018****Review of the May 2018 Elections.**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor N J Desmond, Cabinet Member for Resources
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	The Returning Officer
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Ian Miller, Chief Executive <a href="mailto:ian.miller@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">ian.miller@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a> Ext 2700
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	None

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide a report on the Local elections held on 3 May 2018.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Council is asked to:**

**2.1 NOTE the report on the Local elections in May 2018.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Elections were held in the Wyre Forest on Thursday 3 May 2018 for **Wyre Forest District Council** (11 district wards with 1 seat each).

3.2 The overall turnout for the elections was 30.82% compared to 31.07% in 2016.

3.3 For comparison purposes a breakdown of the overall electorates and turnout figures against previous district elections is set out in Table 1 and turnout figures for the different wards against previous district elections is set out in Table 2. The pattern of participation has been maintained in broad terms, with the general picture being that rural and more affluent areas saw higher levels of participation than urban and less affluent areas. It is of concern that participation fell in many areas where it was already low, while other areas with higher participation saw an increase.

**Table 1**

	<b>2015*</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>District Electorate</b>	71,612	74,703	74,187
<b>% increase from 2015</b>	N/A	+4.32%	+3.60%
<b>% increase from previous year</b>	N/A	+4.32%	-0.69%
<b>Votes cast</b>	45,379	23,146	22,732
<b>Turnout %</b>	63.90%	31.07%	30.82%

\*2015 was combined with the UK Parliamentary election and Areley Kings & Riverside was countermanded until June 2015.

**Table 2**

Turnout %	2018	2016	2015**	% difference in Turnout from 2016
Aggborough & Spennells	36.09	33.40	65.10	+2.69%
Areley Kings & Riverside*	30.98	30.49	27.04*	+0.49%
Bewdley & Rock	37.34	35.96	73.70	+1.38%
Blakebrook & Habberley South	25.42	27.45	55.80	-2.03%
Broadwaters	26.12	27.88	53.00	-1.76%
Foley Park & Hoobrook	26.27	27.63	55.00	-1.36%
Franche & Habberley North	31.68	31.97	64.30	-0.29%
Lickhill***	N/A***	N/A***	68.90	N/A
Mitton	25.97	26.59	61.60	-0.62%
Offmore & Comberton	28.68	31.68	61.50	-3.00%
Wribbenhall & Arley	34.97	33.82	69.70	+1.15%
Wyre Forest Rural	35.51	34.91	74.40	+0.60%

Note\* Areley Kings & Riverside District election in 2015 was countermanded until June 2015 and combined with parish elections.

Note \*\* The elections in 2015 were combined with the UK Parliamentary elections so are not directly comparable.

Note \*\*\* There were no seats up for election in the Lickhill Ward in 2016 or 2018.

- 3.4 All 11 wards were counted at the same time and allocated their own table, set of counters and supervisor. A breakdown of the votes cast in each district is set out in Table 3.

**Table 3**

	Count Area	Electorate	Votes Cast	Votes Rejected	Turnout
1	Aggborough & Spennells	6514	2351	2	36.09%
2	Areley Kings & Riverside	6426	1991	5	30.98%
3	Blakebrook & Habberley South	6700	1703	11	25.42%
4	Broadwaters	6636	1733	5	26.12%
5	Bewdley & Rock	6947	2594	4	37.34%
6	Foley Park & Hoobrook	7371	1936	4	26.27%
7	Franche & Habberley North	7504	2377	5	31.68%
8	Mitton	7235	1879	3	25.97%
9	Offmore & Comberton	7377	2116	1	28.68%
10	Wyre Forest Rural	7167	2545	3	35.51%
11	Wribbenhall & Arley	4310	1507	6	34.97%
	<b>Total*</b>	<b>74187</b>	<b>22732</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30.82%</b>

Note \* There were no seats up for election in the Lickhill Ward in 2018.

3.5 The figures in Table 3 show that at the Wyre Forest District Council election count on 4 May, 49 ballot papers were rejected. The break down of these are:

- 11 for 'excess votes' i.e. voting for more than one candidate
- 4 'writing or mark by which the voter could be identified'
- 34 'void for uncertainty' which will include ballot papers where no vote was marked as well as those where the marking was unclear about the voter's intention.

3.6 The figures in Table 2 and 3 show that turnout varied between 25% (Blakebrook & Habberley South and Mitton) and 36% (Aggborough & Spennells). The turnout by postal voters was 72.15%, and the breakdown to ward level is set out in Table 4. below.

**Table 4**

	<b>Postal Votes</b>	<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>Postal Vote Packs Returned</b>	<b>Votes accepted and taken to the count</b>	<b>Turnout % (Packs returned)</b>
1	Aggborough & Spennells	1108	827	802	74.64%
2	Areley Kings & Riverside	954	697	678	73.60%
3	Blakebrook & Habberley South	1187	823	787	69.63%
4	Broadwaters	917	619	589	67.87%
5	Bewdley & Rock	1182	861	829	73.46%
6	Foley Park & Hoobrook	1087	797	759	73.66%
7	Franch & Habberley North	1276	900	877	70.75%
8	Mitton	1093	772	751	71.02%
9	Offmore & Comberton	1101	781	742	79.69%
10	Wyre Forest Rural	1214	845	821	69.95%
11	Wribbenhall & Arley	798	536	524	67.68%
	<b>Total*</b>	<b>11917</b>	<b>8548</b>	<b>8159</b>	<b>72.10%</b>

Note \* There were no seats up for election in the Lickhill Ward in 2018.

3.7 The number of postal votes issued and counted at the elections in May 2018 compare with previous district elections is set out in Table 5.

**Table 5**

<b>Postal Vote Stage</b>	<b>May 2018***</b>	<b>May 2016***</b>	<b>May 2015*, **</b>
Number of Postal Votes issued	11917	11139	10962
Number of Postal Votes Returned	8548	7874	9355
Postal Votes accepted as valid and counted	8159	7680	9207
Postal votes valid of those issued %	68.47	68.95	83.99
Postal Votes Valid	95.45	97.54	98.42

Note\* Areley Kings & Riverside District election in 2015 was countermanded until June 2015 and therefore not included in this table.

Note \*\* The elections in 2015 were combined with the UK Parliamentary elections so are not directly comparable.

Note \*\*\* There were no seats up for election in the Lickhill Ward in 2016 or 2018.

- 3.8 The breakdown of postal votes per ward for the elections in May 2018 compared to previous District elections is set out in Table 6.

**Table 6**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Number of Postal voters for elections in May 2018</b>	<b>Number of Postal voters for election in May 2016</b>	<b>Number of Postal voters for elections in May 2015**</b>	<b>% increase in Postal voters from elections in May 2016</b>
Aggborough & Spennells	1108	1015	1074	9.16%
Areley Kings & Riverside	954	909	959	4.95%
Bewdley & Rock	1182	1135	1125	4.14%
Blakebrook & Habberley South	1187	1099	1129	8.01%
Broadwaters	917	869	862	5.52%
Foley Park & Hoobrook	1087	996	1040	9.14%
Franche & Habberley North	1276	1234	1262	3.40%
Lickhill***	N/A	N/A	325	N/A
Mitton	1093	1000	1025	9.30%
Offmore & Comberton	1101	1000	1055	10.10%
Wribbenhall & Arley	798	743	787	7.40%
Wyre Forest Rural	1214	1139	1278	6.58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11917</b>	<b>11139</b>	<b>10962*</b>	<b>6.98%</b>

Note\* Areley Kings & Riverside District election in 2015 was countermanded until June 2015 and therefore not included in this table.



Note \*\* The elections in 2015 were combined with the UK Parliamentary elections so are not directly comparable.

Note \*\*\* There were no seats up for election in the Lickhill Ward in 2016 or 2018.

- 3.9 59 postal vote packs have been received in the post since 3 May 2018.
- 3.10 The increase in postal voters between the elections continues year on year, in every ward within the district. Between May 2017 and May 2018, 778 additional electors have decided to vote by post. This is an increase of 6.98%.
- 3.11 The trend of postal voters being far more likely to cast their vote than people voting in person has become well established. Therefore, while other measures to encourage participation will continue, the most effective is likely to be encouraging more people to register for a postal vote.
- 3.12 By law the Electoral Registration Officer must write to postal voters whose ballot papers were not included in the count because their personal identifiers on the postal vote could not be verified and to explain the reason why e.g. incorrect date of birth provided or signature didn't match that on their original application form. A total of 225 letters have been issued to those electors who had a postal vote rejected in May 2018. Those electors whose signature didn't match the original supplied will also be supplied with an identifier refresh form to complete. This compares to the 175 letters sent following the County Council election in May 2017 and the 380 letters sent after the UK Parliamentary election in June 2017.
- 3.13 The breakdown of proxy voters per ward for the elections in May 2018 compared with previous District elections is set out in Table 7.

**Table 7**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Number of Proxy voters for elections in May 2018</b>	<b>Number of Proxy voters for elections in May 2016</b>	<b>% increase in Proxy voters from elections in May 2016</b>
Aggborough & Spennells	3	3	0%
Areley Kings & Riverside	9	4	125%
Bewdley & Rock	6	3	100%
Blakebrook & Habberley South	7	5	40%
Broadwaters	6	4	50%
Foley Park & Hoobrook	3	7	-57%
Franch & Habberley North	6	6	0%
Lickhill***	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mitton	3	6	-50%
Offmore & Comberton	6	4	50%
Wribbenhall & Arley	5	4	25%
Wyre Forest Rural	6	6	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>15.38%</b>

Note \*\*\* There were no seats up for election in the Lickhill Ward in 2016 or 2018.

- 3.14 There was an increase of 8 proxy voters between the elections in May 2016 and May 2018. It is not as large as the increase for the Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union in June 2016. In May 2016, 52 electors had appointed a proxy whilst in June 2016 that had risen to 536. This was an increase of 484 compared to the increase of 8 between 2016 and 2018 District elections.
- 3.15 In terms of the impact of the election results on the make up of the Council, the average age of Councillors has fallen slightly, including as a result of the election of Councillor Harris who is believed to be the youngest councillor in the United Kingdom at present. However the gender balance of the Council has been adversely affected with the number of women falling from 12 (36%) to 10 (30%). The report of the Fawcett Society's Local Government Commission "Does Local Government Work for Women?" was discussed with Group Leaders in November. All political parties have been encouraged to consider this report in selecting candidates for the all out elections in May 2019, as this is likely to "set" the make up of the Council for a four year period.

#### **4. FEEDBACK FROM THE DEBRIEFING MEETING.**

- 4.1 A 'wash up' de-brief was held with agents and candidates on 14 May 2018 to discuss the preparation and delivery of the elections on 3 May 2018. This meeting was attended by 2 Political parties. The main discussions included:
- The local elections in May 2018 were well run and organised. Thanks were given to the Returning Officer and the Elections staff from all parties present.
  - There were no issues reported in respect of queuing at polling stations and the voting procedure ran smoothly.
  - Postal Vote Rejections and electors being informed after the election in accordance with legislation.
  - Candidates' behaviour inside Polling Stations (they are allowed to be present but should not interact with electors in a way which suggests they are seeking to influence how they vote) and more than one teller present from a party at the same location.
  - The lack of legal requirement for a voter to bring their poll card to the polling station which hampers the (informal) role of the tellers.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 No additional financial implications arise from this report. The costs for the District Council elections are met by Council budgets for this purpose.

#### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has no specific legal or policy implications. The legislative framework for implementing the UK Parliamentary and Local elections as well as electoral registration can be viewed at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report. However, all elections and electoral registration activity has due regard to the public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It is for political parties to address diversity and equality issues in selecting candidates.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 All elections and electoral registration work is supported by robust risk management plans to ensure contingency arrangements are in place for meeting electoral legislation at all times.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The Council is invited to note this review of the May 2018 Local elections.

**10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Cabinet Member for Resources  
10.2 Corporate Leadership team

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 A breakdown of the full results for the elections held on 3 May 2018 can be found at

<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/the-council/elections-and-voting/election-results.asp>  
x

- 11.2 Report of the Fawcett Society Local Government Commission  
<https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/does-local-government-work-for-women-final-report-of-the-local-government-commission>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018**

**Community Governance Review – Wolverley & Cookley**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor M J Hart, The Leader of the Council
<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Ian Miller, Chief Executive
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Ian Miller, Chief Executive <a href="mailto:ian.miller@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">ian.miller@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a> Ext 2700 Caroline Newlands, Solicitor to the Council <a href="mailto:Caroline.newlands@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">Caroline.newlands@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a> Ext 2715
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	None

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To agree the next steps in this community governance review following conclusion of the consultation.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Council is asked to DECIDE that, following the consultation, the recommendations of the community governance review should be to make no change to community governance arrangements in the parish of Wolverley and Cookley.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 On 23 May 2018, the Council agreed to conduct a community governance review of Wolverley and Cookley under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The terms of reference for the review were agreed and the review commenced on 24 May 2018. The consultation arrangements agreed by Council included a local advisory poll which was held in Wolverley and Cookley on 12 July 2018 under section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003. The following numbers of ballot papers were issued:

**Table 1: ballot papers issued (turnout shown in brackets)**

Postal votes	Issued: 644 Returned & taken into count: 423 (65.7%)
Cookley polling station	296 (17.5%)
Wolverley polling station	339 (23.4%)

3.2 The votes cast in the local advisory poll in response to the question "Should the villages of Wolverley and Cookley each have their own Parish Council?" were counted at Wyre Forest House on 13 July 2018 and the results were as follows:

**Table 2: results of local advisory poll**

<b>"Should the villages of Wolverley and Cookley each have their own Parish Council?"</b>	
517 (48.9%)	YES
541 (51.1%)	NO
Nil	Rejected ballot papers
Turnout 27.9%	

3.2.1 In addition several consultation responses were received from individuals and organisations. They are summarised here:

**Summary of Consultation Feedback**

**Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council** – no comments to make

**Worcestershire County Council** – has no representations to make

**Twenty seven local residents against splitting the current parish, two from Blakeshall, one address not stated, remainder from Cookley**

- split would be highly detrimental to both communities. Far stronger in the face of current challenges if remain united e.g. in respect of local plan;
- need to stand together to create a decent neighbourhood plan;
- would reduce effectiveness and add to costs;
- the parishes should remain together;
- there are strong historical links between the two villages, and joint organisations such as historical society and British Legion branch;
- do not feel that Cookley & Caunsall’s interests would be served by splitting the parishes. May benefit Wolverley, to excuse itself from further development across both parishes, and force any future development upon one area;
- no consideration given to Blakeshall community, which has links to both villages. Do not split Blakeshall;
- the two parishes work well together, they are stronger together. There will be unnecessary duplication of tasks and costs which will not provide value for money for tax payers. people should be coming together, not splitting apart;
- cost of the review, waste of time and money;
- against splitting: would like Cookley and Caunsall to stay together

No responses were received from local residents in favour of splitting the current parish.

**Four local residents, all in Cookley: other issues raised**

- if two parishes are created, include the old Lea Castle site which is bordered by the wall of the now demolished Lea Castle (Lea Lane - Wolverley Road - A449)

- into the Cookley Parish. It has very few dwellings and most of those are at Castle Barns which are much more allied to Cookley ;
- since January 2015 both Wolverley St John and Cookley St Peter have been part of the single parish of Kidderminster Ismere along with 5 other churches. This will remain the position in ecclesiastical terms;
  - the majority of people in Cookley are confused over this issue and, if they vote, they will not be making an informed choice. The information provided is insufficient for a reasonable democratic review of governance;
  - not enough time/information has been given to such an important and historic vote. The links between the two villages are more than has been mentioned. Example is Sebright Trust, and its preference to village students: we do not want that jeopardised.
  - Fewer than 8% of electors signed the petition to call for the review. Feel that the review has been rushed.

**Commentary on the written responses to the consultation**

- 3.4 The responses received from Cookley residents suggest that the community governance review has been the subject of significant local debate. The individuals who are opposed to splitting the existing parish will also have had a vote in the advisory poll, although there is no way of knowing whether or not they actually took part in the poll, or indeed how they voted. It is notable how several of the comments against splitting the existing parish derive from concerns about the local plan. For clarity, whatever ultimately appears in the local plan will be based on land allocations that are driven by national and local policy and evidence. The boundaries of parish councils are not a relevant factor. The comment about keeping Cookley and Caunsall together suggests that the individual has misunderstood the proposal: there was no suggestion that Cookley and Caunsall would be split from each other.
- 3.5 The comments about Church of England parishes and the Sebright Trust are noted. Any change to the structure of parish councils in the area would not affect the purposes of any existing charity, and thus would not prevent (for example) students across Wolverley and Cookley continuing to seek support from the Trust.
- 3.6 It is recognised that Castle Barns, while in the Wolverley ward, are physically far closer to the village of Cookley. However, it would be difficult for the District Council, on the basis of one written response, to alter the boundaries between Wolverley and Cookley.
- 3.7 In response to the comments about lack of information and time for debate, wide publicity was given to the terms of reference for the review and the arrangements for the local advisory poll, including on social media. The Shuttle has carried articles on the topic. There has been sufficient time for people to find out about the review and, if they wished to do so, to seek more information. The report to Council in May confirmed that the petition had been checked against the electoral roll and passed the statutory threshold to trigger a review.

**Legal requirements**

- 3.8 Under section 87 of the 2007 Act, a community governance review must make recommendations as to what new parish or parishes (if any) should be constituted in the area under review. If the review results in a recommendation to create a parish, the review must also make recommendations about the name of the new parish; as to whether or not the new parish should have a parish council; and as to whether or not the new parish should have one of the alternative styles. Under section 89, the review must also make recommendations as to what electoral arrangements should apply to any new parish council.
- 3.9 The Council gives effect to its decisions through a reorganisation order under section 86 of the 2007 Act. The order-making powers are widely drawn and allow, among other things, power to include such incidental, consequential, transitional or supplementary provision as may appear to the Council to be necessary or proper for the purposes of, or in consequence of, or for giving full effect to, the order; and power to make provision with respect to the transfer and management or custody of property (whether real or personal), with respect to the transfer of functions, property, rights and liabilities, and for the transfer of staff.
- 3.10 In respect of electoral arrangements, section 95 of the 2007 Act requires the Council to consider certain questions. The principal council must consider the following questions when deciding whether to recommend that a parish should, or should not, be divided into wards for the purpose of electing councillors. Those questions are—
- a) whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient;
  - b) whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.
- 3.11 If the Council decides to recommend that the parish should be divided into wards, it must have regard to the following factors when considering –
- a) the size and boundaries of the wards, and
  - b) the number of councillors to be elected for each ward.

Those factors are –

- a) the number of local government electors for the parish;
  - b) 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 the review starts;
  - c) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable;
  - d) any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries.
- 3.12 Section 96 of the 2007 Act requires the Council to publicise the outcome of the community governance review and the reasons for the decision, and to draw them to the attention of interested persons.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

4.1 This report deals with the recommendations that the Council has to make arising from the community governance review.

**Whether to create separate parishes and parish councils for Wolverley and for Cookley**

4.2 The Council has to have regard to the results of the consultation but is not bound to follow them. The local residents who have written in to object to splitting Wolverley and Cookley will also have had a vote in the advisory poll. While there is no way of knowing whether or not they took part in the poll, it is important that the District Council does not “double count” their comments. Other organisations have offered no comments.

4.3 These comments have to be considered alongside the results of the local advisory poll – both in terms of the number of electors who took part and the small but clear majority against splitting the parish of Wolverley and Cookley. The Council would be at considerable risk of challenge if it chose not to give greatest weight to the views expressed in the local advisory poll. The consultation, including the local advisory poll, has not shown support for change. The Council is therefore invited to **recommend** that no change should be made to community governance arrangements in the parish of Wolverley and Cookley.

**Timetable**

4.4 The timetable is set out in Table 3.

**Table 3: proposed timetable**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Full Council considers responses to consultation including local advisory poll and decides recommendation in respect of the community governance review	25 July 2018
Publication of recommendation in respect of the review	1 August 2018

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 An earmarked reserve will fund the costs of conducting the community governance review, of which the main costs relate to the local advisory poll. Estimated costs are £4.8k with the parish council meeting the costs of poll cards, leaving the net cost to the District Council as £3.3k. There are no other financial implications for the District Council arising directly from this report.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the powers associated with community governance reviews and provides the power for the Council to take decisions regarding matters arising from the review. Relevant



provisions of the 2007 Act and other legislation have been mentioned throughout this report. The Council is required by Section 100(4) to have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State relating to community governance reviews.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An initial assessment has been undertaken and no adverse implications for the protected characteristics has been identified.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 The Council continues to ensure that the review accords with the legislation and guidance given by the Secretary of State and Boundary Commission, including its completion within the statutory timescales.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The Council is invited to make recommendations on the outcome of the community governance review of Wolverley and Cookley and to agree that no change should be made to community governance arrangements in that parish.

**10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Leader of the Council.  
10.2 Corporate Leadership Team.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Part 4, Chapter 3  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/28/part/4/chapter/3>  
(This legislation has been amended by the 2009 Act.)
- 11.2 Department for Communities and Local Government (as it then was) and The Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.  
[http://www.lgbce.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/10387/community-governance-review-guidance.pdf](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/10387/community-governance-review-guidance.pdf)
- 11.3 Relevant secondary legislation  
The Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils ) (England) Regulations 2008 No 625  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/625/contents/made>  
  
The Local Government Finance (New Parishes) (England) Regulations 2008 No 626  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/626/contents/made>
- 11.4 Community governance review of Wolverley and Cookley – terms of reference, report to Council on 23 May 2018 etc.  
  
<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/the-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-reviews-info/community-governance-review-wolverley-and-cookley.aspx>