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Council

26 July 2022

Report of Director of Corporate and Customer Services

## **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND POLLING ARRANGEMENT REVIEWS (UPDATE REPORT)**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

A report was circulated with the agenda for this meeting providing an update on feedback from the first stage of the Community Governance Review in respect of the Parishes of Darley Dale, Matlock and South Darley. The report advised that any additional responses received between the statutory deadline for publishing the agenda and the deadline for consultation responses would be reported to the Council.

This report provides details of additional responses, including South Darley Parish and Darley Dale and Matlock Town Councils and proposes additional recommendations to reflect this feedback.

### **ADDITIONAL/AMENDED RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Delete the existing recommendation 3 and replace with the following:

3. That the Director of Corporate and Customer Services be authorised to carry out further consultation on a proposal to move the shaded area identified in Appendix 9 from the Parish of Darley Dale to the Parish of Matlock.
4. That the Director of Corporate and Customer Services be authorised to carry out further consultation on a proposal to incorporate the Parish of Northwood and Tinkersley in to the Parish of Darley Dale.
5. That any changes required as a result of this review be brought back to Council before 1 October 2022 to consider any proposed changes and any representations received before the arrangements are approved by Members.

### **WARDS AFFECTED**

Darley Dale  
Matlock All Saints  
Matlock St Giles

## **STRATEGIC LINK**

Establishing effective arrangements for the delivery of electoral events across the district underpins confidence from the citizens of the Derbyshire Dales in the democratic legitimacy of the Council and other public institutions.

### **1. BACKGROUND**

1.2 On 18 July 2022, the agenda was published for this meeting in accordance with statutory deadlines. This included a report on feedback received on the first stage of consultation on a Community Governance Review in respect of the parishes of Darley Dale, Matlock and South Darley. This was before the deadline for responses which had been set to maximise the timeframe available for interested parties to make representations.

1.3 Since the 18 July further representations have been received from:

South Darley Parish Council (Appendix 5)  
Darley Dale Town Council (Appendix 6)  
Matlock Town Council (Appendix 7)  
Residents of South Darley (Appendix 8)

1.4 In light of the representations received this report makes additional recommendations for proposals to be consulted on during the next stage of the Review.

### **2. REPORT**

#### **Parish Council Electoral Arrangements**

#### **2.1. Parish of South Daley**

2.1.1 Since the agenda was published a formal response has been received from South Darley Parish Council. A copy of this is attached to this report labelled as Appendix 5.

2.1.2 Further representations have been received from residents of the Parish of South Darley these are summarised in Appendix 8 of this report

2.1.3 The views of the Parish Council and the feedback from residents reflect the recommendation in the original report. Therefore it is proposed that recommendation 2 in the original report remains as it is.

2.1.4 We have received one representation suggesting that each parish ward should have an equal number of Councillors but as this proposal is not supported by other respondents and would create a large imbalance in the ratio of electors per Councillor in the South Darley Ward.

## **2.2 Parish of Darley Dale.**

2.2.1 Paragraph 2.10.1 of the original report stated that:

“The Council has not received any representations seeking changes to the arrangements in place for Darley Dale Town Council. It is therefore proposed that no further action be taken in respect of the number of councillors or the warding arrangements for the Town Council.”

2.2.2 Since the report was published a response has been received from Darley Dale Town Council. A copy of this response is attached to this report and labelled as Appendix 6. In summary their response is:

- I. There is clearly a case for moving Morledge into Matlock if that is in line with residents wishes.
- II. If Morledge is moved into Matlock Town boundary, our Council would like to maintain 12 councillors in Darley Dale due to the number of housing developments that have been taking place recently and are planned in the future.
- III. There is also a case for moving Northwood and Tinkersley parish into Darley Dale (as it was previously) to compensate for the loss of Morledge and to reinstate the historic boundary of Darley Dale.

2.2.3 It is therefore proposed that the existing recommendation becomes recommendation 6 and replaced with new recommendations 3 and 4 as follows:

3. That the Director of Corporate and Customer Services be authorised to carry out further consultation on a proposal to move the shaded area identified in Appendix 9 from the Parish of Darley Dale to the Parish of Matlock.
4. That the Director of Corporate and Customer Services be authorised to carry out further consultation on a proposal to incorporate the Parish of Northwood and Tinkersley in to the Parish of Darley Dale.

2.2.4 Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council were notified of the Review but have not made any representations. The Council would however have an opportunity to make representations on this proposal during the next stage of the consultation.

## **2.3 Parish of Matlock**

2.3.1 Paragraph 2.11.1 of the original report stated that:

“The Council has not received any representations seeking changes to the arrangements in place for Matlock Town Council. It is therefore proposed that no further action be taken in respect of the number of councillors or the warding arrangements for the Town Council.”

2.3.2 Since the report was published a response has been received from Matlock Town Council. A copy of this response is attached to this report and labelled as Appendix 7. In summary their response is:

- I. We would like propose that the Matlock and South Darley parish boundaries be re-drawn so that Oker & Snitterton remain within South Darley parish but the new housing developments in the former quarries be located in Matlock parish.
- II. In April 2021 the Council considered the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission with regard to both Derbyshire Dales District Council and Matlock Town Council. An extract of the submission is provided.

2.3.3 The first issue is the same proposal put forward by South Darley Parish Council as set out in recommendation 2 in the original report. The submission document also supports the proposal to change the border between the Parish Matlock and Darley Dale set out in the new recommendation 3.

2.3.4 Looking at 2026 electorate projections, if approved recommendations 2 and 3 would bring just under 600 electors into the Civil Parish of Matlock therefore it is proposed that the next stage of the consultation will also examine the number of Councillors elected to the Town Council and the areas they represent.

### **3. RISK ASSESSMENT**

#### **Legal**

3.1 The issues considered in this report are within the powers and functions of the District Council. Such changes may be made by the District Council following the undertaking of a Community Governance Review (CGR). Legislation in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the process which a CGR must follow.

3.2 Where a CGR is carried out, the legislation requires that the Council has regard to the need to secure that any community governance for the area under review:-

- reflects the identities and interests of the local community in that area; and
- that it is effective and convenient.

3.3 A CGR can be carried out at any time, either as a result of the Council deciding to do so of its own volition, or as a result of a request from a parish council or local residents. The relevant powers are contained within the body of the report. The legal risk is therefore low.

#### **Financial**

- 3.5 There are no significant financial implications as these reviews can be carried out in house and the costs covered by existing budgets. The financial risk is assessed as low.

#### **4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 In preparation of this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.
- 4.2 The approved Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool has been completed for this report. There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

#### **5. CONTACT INFORMATION**

- 5.1 James McLaughlin, Director of Corporate and Customer Services  
Tel: 01629 761281  
Email: [james.mclaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:james.mclaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)
- 5.2 Jason Spencer, Electoral and Democratic Services Manager  
Tel: 01629 761300  
Email: [jason.spencer@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:jason.spencer@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

#### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 None

#### **7. ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix 5: Response from South Darley Parish Council

Appendix 6: Response from Darley Dale Town Council

Appendix 7: Response from Matlock Town Council.

Appendix 8: Additional representations received from residents of South Darley

Appendix 9: Area Proposed to move from the Parish of Darley Dale to the Parish of Matlock.