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Customer & Business
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Electoral Services
West Offices
Station Rise
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Resident Associations

Dear Sir or Madam

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR YORK

You may be already know that the report to start the review was recently at City of York Council's Staffing & Urgency Committee for notification that a review is required and will be undertaken. Principal Councils are required to under take reviews every ten to fifteen years, the last parish review was in 2002, but only completed by the Local Government and Communities Department in 2008.

With period from the last review now over ten years, the recently issued recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on City of York Councils ward boundaries due to be laid in parliament in October and several known parish matters outstanding, there is an urgency to start the review to ensure several arrangements can be resolved in time for the May 2015 elections.

A Community Governance Review is not only for current parish electoral arrangements, the review can create new parish councils, merge existing parish councils or abolish parish councils. Any request to create, merge or abolish a parish council will involve a substance period of direct consultation with the residents directly.

I can now give you formal notice that the city council will exercise its powers under Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct a community governance review for the City. This review will include consideration of any proposals received for changes to the current electoral arrangements for parish councils, any requests to create new parish councils within the city council area, merge existing parish councils and any requests to change the name or area of parishes.

I apologise for the fact that this letter has been sent slightly later than initially intended. As you will appreciate the sudden and sad death of Lynn Jeffries, the former councillor for Westfield Ward has meant that a by election has required urgent action and priority.

Enclosed for your information an information leaflet outlining the process for the review along with the Terms of Reference and proposed timetable. This is a draft timetable. It may be altered depending on the number and nature of requests received and the level of public consultation required.

The Department of Communities and Local Government has produced "*Guidance on community government reviews*", which is available on the DCLG website at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf

The first stage of the review will deal with several known matters that require early resolution to allow any new arrangements to take effect for next year's elections; these electoral arrangements for the relevant parishes will be dealt with first and reported to committee in November for consideration.

If there are changes that your Resident Association wishes to propose for consideration then the Council should submit a "Statement of Interest". The Statement of Interest does not require to be a formal detailed representation; just an email or short letter briefly outlining the proposed changes, alterations or amendments will suffice. The need is only for information to create a table of proposal to present to committee with the level of consultation to be identified.

Any Statement of Interest should be made in writing to me at the West Offices, Station Rise by no later than the 5pm on 31 December 2014.

Once all requests have been categorised and the level of public consultation identified, each parish will be contacted to provide additional information on the request or to confirm the action to be taken.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Flecknor
Electoral Services Manager