

**Governance
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The Occupier

Dear Sir or Madam

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF GREAT BOUGHTON

Have your say on whether the existing area of Great Boughton Parish should be extended

Cheshire West and Chester Council is currently undertaking a Community Governance Review, looking at the way local decisions are made on local issues in your community.

Why are we undertaking this review?

Cheshire West and Chester Council has received a request from Great Boughton Parish Council to review and extend the boundary of Great Boughton parish to incorporate parts of the unparished area of Chester.

A map showing the current boundary of Great Boughton parish and a map showing the boundary extension proposed by Great Boughton Parish Council can be viewed on the Council's website at:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance

The boundary proposed by Great Boughton Parish Council is the same as the Cheshire West and Chester Council Ward Boundary proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission which is due to be confirmed in July 2018.

Why am I receiving this letter?

This letter is being sent to residents of the existing Great Boughton parish, those residents of the unparished area of Chester and other stakeholders who may be affected by the proposals to extend Great Boughton parish. You are being consulted for your views at the first stage of the Community Governance Review.

What is a Community Governance Review?

Community governance is the way in which local communities are represented and governed at a local level. The aim of a Community Governance Review is to consider any improvements to community engagement and representation, ensure a stronger local voice, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

A Community Governance Review will not change any village name, its identity or Cheshire West and Chester Council's ward boundaries. The issues it considers include:

- how local areas are governed, managed or run;
- whether to alter the boundary of an existing parish;
- what changes, if any, should be made to the electoral arrangements that apply to an existing parish council.

Cheshire West and Chester Council has the authority to change any existing parish boundaries and in making its decision, it must take account of public views and comments. The Council must ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the communities in the area under review and is effective and convenient. Any changes would come into effect from 1 April 2019.

What is a Parish Council?

Great Boughton parish is currently locally governed by Great Boughton Parish Council.

Parish Councils are the most local tier of local government in England with specific powers and budgets for which they are democratically accountable. They have a wide range of powers to provide services to meet local needs, including managing community centres, liaising with the Police, maintenance of public open spaces and children's play area equipment and environmental projects such as landscaping. They are notified by Cheshire West and Chester Council of planning applications and consulted on local traffic management and highways issues. Parish Councils meet the cost of providing services by raising a precept from their residents each year which is collected as part of the Council Tax bill.

What could any changes mean?

Unparished electorate becoming part of Great Boughton parish

If the boundary of Great Boughton parish is extended, residents coming into the extended area would be locally governed by Great Boughton Parish Council and be liable to pay an annual precept. In 2017/18 residents of Great Boughton parish paid a precept of £17.87 per year (Band D Property) to Great Boughton Parish Council which is collected as part of the Council Tax bill.

Existing electorate of Great Boughton parish

If the electorate is to be increased by extending the boundary, consideration may be given to changing the number of Parish Councillors to effectively represent residents. Parish Councillors are all voluntary representatives. There should be no additional

cost to the residents in the existing Great Boughton parish if there is a change in the size of the Parish Council.

Great Boughton Parish Council has undertaken its own initial independent consultation regarding its proposals, how they could affect residents, what are the benefits to being locally governed by the Parish Council and how much it will cost those residents affected. If you would like to know more about the work of the Parish Council, please contact Kathy Lloyd, Parish Clerk, on 01244 637277, Mobile: 07709512348 or Email: clerk@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Have your say

This is your chance to have your say and let us know your views on how your local community is currently represented and whether you would like to see any changes.

Following this consultation, responses will be analysed and draft recommendations will be produced. A second consultation will then take place on the draft recommendations. The closing date for giving your views in this first consultation is **Friday 8 June 2018**.

There are various ways you can have your say:

- Complete the on-line questionnaire by visiting the Council's website at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance
- Email your views to: democraticservices@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Telephone 01244 972283 and request a paper copy of the questionnaire
- Pick up a paper copy of the questionnaire at Great Boughton Library, Vicars Cross Community Centre or Caldley Valley Neighbourhood Centre.

All information regarding the Community Governance Review process can be viewed on the Council's website at:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance

The review is being conducted in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Council must have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

If you have any questions or queries relating to the Community Governance Review, or if you would like a paper copy of any of the documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Thwaite
Democracy Programme Manager