

# COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF WEST RAINTON

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Introduction

In undertaking the Review, Durham County Council (“the Council”) will comply with the requirements of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972, and have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010. the Council will also have regard to the following regulations which inform consequential matters arising from the Review:

- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625);
- Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626). (The 2007 Act has transferred powers to the principal councils which previously, under the Local Government Act 1997, had been shared with the Electoral Commission and the Boundary Committee for England).

The Council will also give due consideration to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government published in 2008.

### What is a community governance review?

A Community Governance Review is a legal process whereby the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review.

This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how local services are delivered in their area.

A Review can consider one or more of the following options:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes and the creation of town councils;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes (for instance, the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding);
- grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes;
- other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings.

## **Aim of the Review**

The Council aims to ensure that community governance arrangements within the area under review are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area.

## **Why is the Council undertaking the Review?**

On 12 February 2018 the Council received a petition from West Rainton Parish Council (“ the Parish Council”) that had been signed by sufficient residents from the area, which requested the Council carry out a community governance review to reduce the numbers of councillors from 11 to 9, and to formally change the name of the Parish Council to West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council.

## **Who is undertaking the Review?**

The Council is responsible for undertaking any review within its electoral area. Full Council is responsible for agreeing draft and final recommendations prior to any Community Governance Order being made.

## **Consultation**

The Council has now published these Terms of Reference. This document sets out the aims of the Review, the legislation that guides it and some of the policies the Council considers important in the Review. In coming to its recommendations in a review, the Council needs to take account of the view of the local people.

The Council recognises that the development of strong, sustainable communities depends on residents’ active participation in decision making and making a positive contribution to improving the place where they live. The Council is therefore committed to engaging effectively with the diverse communities it serves and to enabling local people to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives, where all people feel able to take an active part in influencing service delivery.

The Council will undertake an initial consultation with electors and other stakeholders in the area.

The consultation will take place through writing to the statutory consultees and seeking their views. A press release will be circulated in the local press to cover interested electors in addition to relevant information being available on the Council’s website;

## **How to contact us**

Further information about the Review is available on the Council’s website and its social network pages, detailed below:

[www.durham.gov.uk/communitygovernance](http://www.durham.gov.uk/communitygovernance)  
[www.facebook.com/durhamcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/durhamcouncil)

## Timetable for the Review

Action	Time Span	Dates
Publication of Terms of Reference		15 May 2018
Consultation process – consultation with local electors and statutory consultees	4 weeks	15 May 2018
Analysis/evaluation of consultation results and submissions received. Preparation of draft proposals	6 weeks	19 June 2018
Publication of draft proposals		26 September 2018 (Council 19 September)
Consultation on draft proposals	4 weeks	26 September 2018
Consideration of submissions received and preparation of final recommendations	6 weeks	24 October 2018
Publication of final recommendations and resolution to make a re-organisation Order, if appropriate		12 December 2018 (Council 5 December)
Preparation and publication of any reorganisation Order	One month	5 January 2019

## Order and commencement

The Review will be completed when the Council publishes its final recommendations.

In the event of a reorganisation of Community Governance Order being required, the provisions of such an order may take effect in two parts:-

- i) a change to the number of councillors on the council would take effect from the local elections in 2021, to fall in line with the ordinary year of election of councillors for local, parish and town elections;
- ii) a change of name to the parish and parish council would take effect from a date to be determined.

**Publication of terms of reference**

These Terms of Reference will be published on the Durham County Council website [www.durham.gov.uk/communitygovernance](http://www.durham.gov.uk/communitygovernance) and are available for inspection at the offices of the Council.

**Date of publication**

15 May 2018

# West Rainton CP

