

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

At its meeting held on 14 January 2010 the Council agreed to carry out a review of the need for Town Councils for Ilkeston and Long Eaton under a process called a "Community Governance Review"

This Review commenced in February 2010.

This article summarises the process, the findings from the review and the action the Council will now take.

Stage one

In February 2010 the Council circulated a consultation leaflet to all households and local businesses in the areas that could potentially form the electoral area for Town Councils in Ilkeston and/or Long Eaton. A total of 17,000 leaflets were hand delivered in Ilkeston and 14,000 in Long Eaton.

In addition two public meetings were held on 13 February 2010, one at Ilkeston Town Hall and the other at Long Eaton Town Hall to outline the review process.

The Council met again on 12 July 2010 to consider the responses received from this stage one consultation process.

In essence the stage one consultation sought to ascertain whether there should be Town Councils for Ilkeston and/or Long Eaton.

Results of Stage one Consultation

(a) Ilkeston

Responses – 1703

Yes – 1202

No - 501

% RESPONSE BY POPULATION (37,250) = 4.57%

% RESPONSE BY ELECTORATE (27,600) = 6.17%

(b) Long Eaton

Responses – 1066

Yes – 478

No - 588

% RESPONSE BY POPULATION (30,410) = 3.5%
% RESPONSE BY ELECTORATE (22,900) = 4.66%

It was clear to the Council that the response rates for the exercise were not substantial but there appeared to be a measure of support for a Town Council in Ilkeston. However, this has to be taken in the context of a response rate of only 6.17% of the total electorate for the area.

For both towns the Council decided that there was insufficient support to justify the formation of Town Councils. From the questionnaires there did appear to be support for updating the Community Forum arrangements for the towns and therefore the Council agreed not to pursue the creation of Town Councils but to consult, as stage two of the review, on changes to Community Forum arrangements for the Towns.

Stage two

The Council wrote directly to all respondents from stage one and published an on line questionnaire seeking views from residents about the way Community Forums could be improved for the towns of Ilkeston and Long Eaton.

On 11 November 2010 the Council met and considered the responses that were received.

Results of Stage two Consultation

A low number of responses were received for each area as follows:

Ilkeston: 166 replies (0.60% of the electorate for Ilkeston)

Long Eaton: 197 replies (0.86% of the electorate for Long Eaton)

Summary of the responses to the questions asked as part of the stage two review. (Responses from Ilkeston and Long Eaton combined)

General support for a Forum

Yes – 303 No – 56

Support for reviewing current forum arrangements

Yes – 261 No – 88

Support for allocating a budget to the forums

Yes – 202 No – 125

Likely to attend a Forum (currently)

Yes – 210 No – 143

Likely attendance if Forum arrangements are strengthened

Yes – 244 – No – 108

The Council, having considered the results of the consultation and the views expressed decided that:-

- (a) The responses received from the consultation exercise relating to the Community Forum arrangements for Ilkeston and Long Eaton be noted and in view of the low response rate the formal Community Governance Review be concluded.
- (b) In light of the general support for some changes to Forum arrangements officers report further to the Council Executive on options to review the Community Forum arrangements outside of the formal Community Governance framework.
- (c) The review outlined at (b) above be completed for the new Council administration to be elected in May 2011.
- (d) The possibility of providing budgets for the Forums be considered as part of the Council's 2011/12 budget setting process.

The Council would like to thank everyone that took part in the Community Governance Review for taking the time to help the Council shape future arrangements for the Towns. The Council is committed to listening to the views of all its residents and has now concluded the review.