

Open

Council

Agenda

**At the rise of the Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, 24th July 2013
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster**



Council

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5. This Agenda can be made available in larger print on request; if you require a copy please contact:

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16th July 2013

COUNCIL MEETING

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, HONORARY ALDERMEN,

PRESS AND PUBLIC

Dear Member

YOU ARE INVITED to attend a meeting of the Wyre Forest District Council to be held **at the rise of the Special Council meeting on Wednesday 24th July 2013**, in the Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster.

The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Miller
Chief Executive

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct (“the Code”) requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members’ Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of this constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI’s and ODI’s are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council’s Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council

1. Is the ultimate decision making Body.
2. Determines the Budget (but reserves powers to itself in relation to requirements).
3. Is responsible for appointing (and dismissing) the Leader of the Council.
4. Appoints at its Annual Meeting, the Regulatory Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other Committees/Forums necessary to conduct the Council’s business.
5. Decides on matters where the Cabinet is not minded to determine a matter in accordance with Council policy.

(B) MATTERS RESERVED TO THE COUNCIL

1. Those reserved by Law e.g. levying a rate, borrowing money, promotion of or opposition to a Bill in Parliament.
2. Matters reserved to the Council by financial regulations.
3. The adoption and amendment of Standing Orders, including the powers and duties of Committees and other forums.
4. Power to make, amend, revoke or enact or enforce any byelaws.
5. The determination of the objectives of the Council.
6. Matters of new policy or variation of existing policy as contained within the budget and policy framework.
7. Local Development Framework adoption.
8. Any function where a decision would be contrary to a plan, policy, budget or strategy previously adopted by the Council, which would be contrary to the Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Executive arrangements.
9. The Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

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At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

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By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to be filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and or training purposes.

If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the Stourport and Bewdley Room where they can still view the meeting.

If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday, 24th July 2013

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
3.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 th May 2013.	9
4.	Public Participation In accordance with the Council's scheme for public speaking at meetings of Council, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 15 th July 2013. <i>If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Director of Community Assets and Localism will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.</i>	
5.	Questions Three questions have been received in accordance with Standing Order (Section 7, 1.9) by Members of the Council, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 15 th July 2013 and the replies of the leader of the Council or other appropriate Cabinet Member.	17

	<i>In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline above, and could not have been reasonably known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Director of Community Assets and Localism no later than 9am on the day of Council.</i>	
6.	<p>Chairman's Communications</p> <p>To note the engagements of the Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.</p>	18
7.	<p>Leader of the Council Announcements</p> <p>To receive announcements from the Leader of the Council.</p>	
8.	<p>Motions Submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>No motions have been received.</p>	
9.	<p>Urgent Motions submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>To consider motions in the order they have been received which, by reason of special circumstances, should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1 (vii)).</p>	
10.	<p>Kidderminster Community Governance Review</p> <p>To receive a report from the Director of Community Assets and Localism which asks Council to consider all representations received in response to the Council's initial consultation as part of the Community Governance Review (CGR) Kidderminster and decide on whether to proceed to a second stage.</p> <p><i>Appendix 1 of the report has been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i></p>	19
11.	<p>Corporate Governance Report</p> <p>To receive a report from the Director of Community Assets and Localism which asks Council to agree Corporate Governance updates and appropriate changes to the Council's Constitution.</p>	25
12.	<p>Policy and Budget Framework</p> <p>Matters which require a Decision by Council.</p> <p>Recommendations from Cabinet meeting on 16th July 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyre Forest District Site Allocations & Policies Local Plan and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan - Adoption <p>Please note that the reports and associated documents, referred to above, have been circulated electronically to Members. Public inspection copies are available on request. Please refer to the front cover for contact details.</p>	30

13.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Community Assets and Localism before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
14.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

15.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Legal and Corporate Services before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER**

15TH MAY 2013 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillors J Aston, G W Ballinger, R Bishop, C Brewer, J-P Campion, S J M Clee, E Davies, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, P Dyke, N Gale, B T Glass, D R Godwin, J Greener, I Hardiman, P B Harrison, J A Hart, M J Hart, P V Hayward, V Higgs, A T Hingley, T Ingham, M B Kelly, N Knowles, H J Martin, D C H McCann, B McFarland, C D Nicholls, F M Oborski, T L Onslow, J W Parish, J Phillips, M Price, M Rayner, C Rogers, M A Salter, A M Sewell, J A Shaw, D R Sheppard, N J Thomas, S J Williams and G C Yarranton.

C.01 Prayers

Prayers were said by Reverend Mary Austin from Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster.

C.02 Election of Chairman

Councillor F M Oborski was nominated as Chairman. This was moved by Councillor T Ingham and seconded by Councillor M J Hart.

Decision: Councillor F M Oborski be elected Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2013/14.

C.03 Chairman – Investiture and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

After being invested with her Chain of Office, Councillor F M Oborski made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman, and expressed her thanks for her election.

C.04 Chairman's Response

The Chairman informed Members that she would be a Chairman for the whole of the district and Councillor M Price would be her consort and he was presented with a badge.

C.05 Retiring Chairman

The retiring Chairman was thanked for all the hard work he had done for the Council over the past two years. He had been fair and had served the chamber well. He has done the jobs to the highest expectations. Members all agreed that he had conducted himself in a superb manner.

C.06 Retiring Chairman – Presentation of Badges

The retiring chairman was presented with a Past Chairman's badge. Councillor Clee thanked Members for the support he had been given and he had enjoyed the past two years and had met some wonderful people. He had presented a cheque to Kemp Hospice, which had been his chosen charity, for £4,850. He thanked the Committee Section, the Corporate Management Team and in particular Karen Walsh (Members Secretary) for all the hard work they had all done to assist him.

C.07 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Councillor J-P Champion nominated Councillor D McCann as Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by M J Hart.

Councillor G W Ballinger nominated Councillor B Glass as Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by Councillor E Davies. However, upon a vote Councillor D McCann was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Decision: Councillor D McCann be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2013/14.

C.08 Vice-Chairman – Investiture and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

After being invested with his Badge of Office, Councillor D McCann made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chairman.

C.09 Vice-Chairman's Response

Councillor D McCann thanked Members for the confidence that had been placed in him to fulfil this role and that he would support the Chairman to the best of his ability over the next 12 months.

C.10 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

C.11 Declarations of Interests by Members

There were no declarations of interests.

C.12 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2013 and 13th March 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.13 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

C.14 Questions

The Council had received one question from Councillor M Rayner, directed at the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor M Rayner to the Leader of the Council, Councillor J-P Campion

What are the actual costs or savings for Wyre Forest House compared to the costs or savings to the last predicted budget costs or savings?

Response from Councillor J-P Campion

Thank you, a full report on the detail which will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Summer of 2013.

Supplementary Question from Councillor M Rayner

Thank you, but I would like to know why the accounts have not been made sooner and what effect the ground source heating had had and the cost of the supplementary heating which has not been published.

Response from Councillor J-P Campion

As I alluded when the question was raised, this matter is still in the process of sensitive contract negotiations and the Council are looking to close the account. It is not in the Council's interest for this to be made public as it would compromise our position and it is not best for the people we serve the information will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The ongoing efficiency problems of the ground source heat pump are known and the Council is working with the contractors to resolve them. We have a Build and Design Contract specification and will be going through that process to sort it out.

C.15 Chairman's Communications

Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

The Chairman asked Members to join her for a buffet after the meeting and asked all Members to take a jam-jar for a copper collection for her chosen charities – Kidderminster Hospital League of Friends Scanner Appeal and the foodbank from Baxter Church, Kidderminster. It was hoped the jam-jar appeal would raise at least £10 per jar. She advised Members she had events planned such as a quiz at the Civic Hall in October 2013, a concert at Kidderminster Town Hall in March/April 2014, a dinner at La Brasserie and a Summer BBQ at Bodenham Arboretum.

C.16 Leader's Announcements and Report

A copy of the Leader's announcements had been circulated to all Members.

C.17 Members' Annual Activity Reports and Attendance 2012/2013

Council received the schedule of Members' Annual Reports which gave details of activities in their role as District Councillors for the 2012/2013 municipal year and received a record of attendance.

There was a new box on the form report showing absence and which explained why attendance was low.

In response to a Member's question, it was confirmed which meetings were included in the attendance figures.

Decision: The reports be noted.

C.18 Annual Reports for the Municipal Year 2012/2013

Council received the Annual reports from the Leader of the Council, the Chairman of both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Ethics and Standards Committee.

Decision: The reports be noted.

C.19 Political and Constitutional Structures 2013/2014

Council received a report from the Director of Community Assets and Localism on the proposed political and constitutional structures for 2013/2014.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and advised Members that Councillor N Gale be appointed as the Armed Forces Champion and Councillor R Bishop be the Council nomination for Disability Action Wyre Forest.

In light of the financial challenges the Council were to face and the need for a new Corporate Plan, a new Committee was proposed Strategic Review Committee.

Councillor G W Ballinger nominated Councillor E Davies to be the Council representative on the Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and upon a vote the proposal was lost.

Councillor J Shaw nominated Councillor N Knowles to be the Chairman of the Strategic Review Committee as it was felt that this should be chaired by a Member of the opposition group. However, upon a vote this was lost.

Councillor J Shaw nominated Councillor N Knowles to be the Council representative for the Armed Forces Champion. A debate ensued and it was agreed that the Council would appoint two Members, i.e. Councillor N Gale and Councillor N Knowles.

Members were informed that only three appointments were due for renewal on the Community Housing Group.

Members were advised that the dates for the Strategic Review Committee were provisional and would be confirmed in due course.

Decision:

- 1. The proposed Political Management Structure for 2013/2014 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Council be approved.**
- 2. The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees as contained in Appendix 2 of the report to Council be agreed.**
- 3. The Municipal Calendar as set out in Appendix 3 of the report to Council be agreed.**
- 4. The appointments to outside bodies as set out in Appendix 4 of the report to Council be agreed.**
- 5. The revisions to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 5 of the report to Council be agreed.**
- 6. Tthe revised chart of political balance to reflect the new committee structure as set out in Appendix 6 of the report to Council be approved.**
- 7. Councillor N Gale and Councillor N Knowles be appointed to serve as the Armed Forces Champion for Wyre Forest District Council.**
- 8. The Director of Community Assets & Localism be authorised to settle any outstanding details relating to the political structures and to make changes as necessary to the Council's Constitution to give effect to the Council's decisions and any other revisions necessary to reflect needs or circumstances.**

C.20 Motions Submitted Under Standing Orders

A notice of motion was received in accordance in Standing Orders regarding the Living Wage.

Councillor J Shaw advised Members that under the Local Government Act 2000, the Council could promote wellbeing across the population of the local area and believed that it was only fair that lower paid workers should receive better remuneration.

Members unanimously agreed that the living wage should be implemented

Decision:

Council resolves to promote the Living Wage principle in its contracts with potential contractors and while acknowledging the limitations set down by European procurement regulations, Council

believes that, for work carried out on its behalf by contractors, employees working on qualifying service contracts should be paid at Living Wage rates.

C.21 Urgent Motions Submitted Under Standing Orders

No urgent motions were received under standing orders.

C.22 Submission to Local Government Boundary Commission in respect of Council Size

Council received a report from the Chief Executive which asked Council to consider the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission about the size of the Council.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and informed Members that the report would need to be slightly amended following the new Council structure which had been adopted at this meeting and following feedback from the meetings held with the Boundary Commission.

There had been significant changes for the Council over the years, and it was felt that now was the right time to reduce the number of Councillors. There had been reductions in the number of staff and it was only right to reduce the number of Councillors. There could be the creation of a Town Council for Kidderminster. Members were also advised that there were many stages to go through, i.e. the cycle of elections and how wards would be made up and this would be all need to be done by elections in 2015.

A debate ensued and the following was discussed.

Councillor M J Hart seconded the proposals and agreed with the comments made by The Leader of the Council stating that it was now the right time for the number of Members to reduce in line with staff cuts.

Councillor G W Ballinger stated that the electorate were concerned with the proposed reduction in the number of Councillors and felt that this would confuse them. He commented that if the report made by Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) had been accepted then the reductions in Councillor numbers would not have to be made. He added that he would not be supporting the recommendation.

Councillor N Knowles stated that he had been appalled at the turnout in the recent County Council elections in the St. Barnabas division despite the work everyone had done. He added that he did not think it sensible to reduce the number of Councillors at this time.

Councillor J Shaw thought that, with the possibility of a Town Council in Kidderminster, Councillors did not need to be reduced. He also added that the Housing Review Panel had met 11 times during the past twelve months which showed the need for the current amount of Councillors.

Councillor H J Martin did not have a problem in reviewing the way in which the Council worked but thought changing boundaries would confuse the

Agenda Item No. 3

electoral especially in cases of cross boundary wards. He commented that the reported documented the work of the Council but not the role of the Councillor. Councillors were dealing with lots of issues at present and if the number were reduced, then work would start to pile up.

Councillor C D Nicholls felt that the recommendations of the IRP should have been accepted and stated he would not be voting for the recommendation.

Councillor E Davies felt that every review conducted needed to be good for the structure it was for and stated that the Councillor job description did not include anything relating to decision making which was their main purpose.

Councillor B McFarland stated that he had attended the Boundary Commission presentation and found it to be interesting and informative but felt that the report did not cover the evidence base it needed. He also felt that when the original proposal was accepted, it was not a unanimous decision as some members had voted against the recommendation. The definition and role of the Councillor was not explained in detail.

Councillor H E Dyke commented that if staff numbers were reducing then it was only right for Members to be reduced and the current number of Councillors could not be sustained and this was the right starting point for the Council.

Councillor M Kelly stated since he had been appointed to Council back in 1970, each year had got more difficult, in particular the last couple of years and felt that the recommendation would be harmful for the Council. He would not be supporting the recommendation.

Councillor T L Onslow stated that she agreed with the comments made by Councillor H E Dyke and if staff numbers were being reduced then so did the number of Councillors.

Councillor A Sewell commented that Councillors carried out a lot of work and if the numbers reduced then the workload would increase and this would put people off becoming a future Councillor.

The Leader of the Council concluded the debate and upon a vote, the decision was carried.

Councillor J Parish left the meeting at this point, 8.00pm

C.23 Half Yearly report of the Chief Executive.

Council received a half yearly report from the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive briefly outlined the content of the report, and stated that he was pleased with the decision Council had made to the new Strategic Review Committee especially in light of the financial situation the Council found itself in.

Agenda Item No. 3

In response to questions the Chief Executive advised Members of the following:

- a. Wyre Forest House had been shortlisted for the West Midlands Business Insider Awards but unfortunately the Council did not win. The award went to Birmingham City Council.
- b. Rider Levett Bucknall were assisting the Council to resolve the ground source heating issues.
- c. Members attendance figures covered Committees they were allocated to and included the Members Forum.
- d. The local pay deal would be funded from the medium term financial strategy if it was agreed. Discussions were ongoing with the unions.
- e. No local businesses had contacted the Chief Executive to express concerns that business had been lost with the Council moving to the new headquarters.
- f. The staff survey had been completed and there was another one planned for August 2013. It was hoped that there would be an improvement by the time of the Chief Executive's report in November 2013. The questions that staff had been asked had been circulated to Group Leaders. The key issues from the 2012 survey were workloads due to staffing levels being cut and expectations still being there, future pay deals and stress.

Decision: The report be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.11pm.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING
24TH JULY 2013
QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

1. Question from Councillor J Shaw to the Leader of the Council.

Since May '10, how many requests has the Local Boundary Commission received from councils seeking to reduce the number of councillors representing their local government area, and how many have been turned down?

2. Question from Councillor N Knowles to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Councillor M J Hart.

What arrangements are currently in place and what costs are incurred for Wyre Forest District Council waste collections and disposal? How much of our waste is put into the Hartlebury land fill site?

3. Question from Councillor N Knowles to the Leader of the Council.

Would the Leader of the Council join me in my campaign to oppose the closure of Kidderminster TA Centre and ask government to reverse the decision?

CHAIRMAN'S FUNCTIONS

2013/2014

MAY 2013

- 19th Launch of Book The Baldwins, Burne-Jones & Wilden's Pre-Raphaelite Glass at All Saints Church, Wilden
- 19th Joint Service at St Marys and Trinity to celebrate their "Compact"
- 20th Rock Parish Council
- 22nd Kidderminster Mayor Making
- 24th Mayor of Stourport Civic Reception

JUNE 2013

- 2nd Rock and Roll Party in the Park
- 5th AGM of The League of Friends of the Kidderminster Hospitals
- 8th Bewdley Carnival
- 9th Bewdley Mayor's Sunday
- 9th Choral Evensong in Worcester Cathedral
- 15th Girlguiding Worcestershire County Showcase
- 16th Kidderminster Mayor's Sunday
- 21st Opening Gala Night of Ludlow Festival
- 22nd Kidderminster Carnival
- 23rd Worcester Civic Service
- 23rd Worcs Army Cadet League Lunch*
- 24th Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony

JULY 2013

- 3rd Charity Bike Ride, Bewdley (evening)
- 4th Disability Sports Event
- 4th Bewdley Mayor's Charity Night - A Showcase of Musical Talent and New Acts.
- 6th Official Opening of Astro Turf at SSC
- 10th Worcs NHS Trust AGM
- 13th Stourport Mayor's Steam Boat Trip
- 14th Bromsgrove Civic Service*
- 20th WFDC Chairman's BBQ, Bodenham Arboretum
- 23rd Citizenship Ceremony

* Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
24TH JULY 2013

Kidderminster Community Governance Review

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	-
CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:	Improving Community Well-Being
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor I Hardiman
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Director of Community Assets and Localism
CONTACT OFFICER:	Caroline Newlands, Ext. 2715 Caroline.newlands@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Summary of comments <i>The appendix to the report has been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider all representations received in response to the Council’s initial consultation as part of the Community Governance Review (CGR) Kidderminster and decide on whether to proceed to a second stage

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to DECIDE :

- 2.1 **The second stage of consultation with the proposal to create the parish of Kidderminster (and for the parish to be called Kidderminster) should not be undertaken.**
- 2.2 **To delegate to the Director of Community Assets and Localism the drafting and publishing of the results of the consultation review in accordance with The Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007 places upon principal Councils an obligation to carry out a CGR if a request meets certain criteria.
- 3.2 Following the receipt of a valid petition from Kidderminster Charter Trustees and the agreement of the draft terms of reference by Council in February 2013, consultation was undertaken with Kidderminster residents. The results and comments from the consultation are set out in Appendix 1.

- 3.3 A timetable for the CGR was agreed at the Council meeting in February 2013. A copy of the timetable is reproduced below.

Action	Timetable	Dates
Report to Council to approve the Terms of Reference.		27 February 2013
Publication of Terms of Reference.		1 st March 2013
Introductory Stage – Invite initial submissions.	3 months	1 st March 2013 – 31 st May 2013
Preparation of draft proposals.	2 months	June – July 2013
Publication of draft proposals. (Following approval by Council)		July 2013
Consultation on draft proposals.	3 months	August – October 2013
Preparation of Reorganisation Order and approval by Council.		November 2013
Publication of Reorganisation Order.		December 2013
Effective date of Order.		January 2014
Parish Council Elections		May 2014

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Parish Councils have two main roles: community representation and local administration. For both purposes it is desirable that a parish should reflect a distinctive and recognisable community of place, with its sense of identity. The general rules should be that the parish is based on an area that reflects community identity and interest and is viable as an administrative unit of local government. (*CLG Guidance on Community Governance Reviews*)
- 4.2 Section 93 of the 2007 Act requires principal councils to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. The governance arrangements should reflect and be sufficiently representative of, people living across the community as a whole, and not just a discrete cross section or small part of it.
- 4.3 Council should be cognisant that the majority of the responses received to the consultation (53%) do not support the creation of the parish of Kidderminster. Moreover the wishes of the local inhabitants should be primary considerations. A schedule of how the responses have been collated is set out over:

Ward Area	Q1 Yes	Q1 No	Percentage Yes	Percentage No
Aggborough & Spennells	70	117	37%	63%
Broadwaters	115	92	56%	44%
Franche	129	117	52%	48%
Greenhill	130	151	46%	54%
Habberley & Blakebrook	103	112	48%	52%
Offmore & Comberton	47	61	44%	56%
Oldington & Foley Park	34	35	49%	51%
Sutton Park	95	94	51%	49%
Miscellaneous	1	3	25%	75%
Total	724	782	48%	52%
e-mails	13	40		
grand total	737	822		
Percentage	47%	53%		

- 4.4 Principal Councils can decline to set up such community governance arrangements where they judge that to do so would not be in the interests of either the local community or surrounding communities and where the effect would be likely to damage community cohesion. As part of a CGR, a principal Council should consider whether a recommendation made by petitioners will undermine community cohesion in any part of its area and the Council will need to reach a balanced judgement in taking into account current community governance arrangements
- 4.5 In making its recommendations, the review should consider the information it has received in the form of expressions of local opinion on the matters considered by the review, representations made by local people and other interested persons, and its own knowledge of the local area. In taking this evidence into account and judging the criteria in the 2007 Act against it, a principal Council may reasonably conclude that a recommendation set out in a petition should not be made. Many responses received to the consultation show very strong feelings against the establishment of a Town Council for Kidderminster. The two main themes of the opposition focus on the added cost and bureaucracy of another layer of Government.
- 4.6 The recommendations must take into account any representation received and should be supported by evidence which demonstrates that the recommended community governance arrangements would meet the criteria set out in the 2007 Act. Where a principal Council has conducted a review following a petition, it will remain open to the Council to make a recommendation which is different to the recommendation the petitioners wish the review to make. This will particularly be the case where the recommendation is not in the interest of the wider community, such as where giving effect to it would likely to damage community relations by dividing communities along ethnic, religious or cultural lines.
- 4.7 It is regrettable that the consultation has produced fewer responses than the number of electors who signed the original petition. While the overall number of responses in favour of and against the creation of a town council for Kidderminster is similar, the consultation on this occasion has not demonstrated a conclusive groundswell of support in favour of the proposition. In accordance with its support for the localism agenda, the District Council continues to be receptive to approaches from community groups who wish to explore the possibility of establishing a Parish or Town Council for their area and/or to explore further the transfer of specific property or services.
- 4.8 The aim of the 2007 Act is to open up a wider choice of governance for communities at the most local level. However, the Government feels that there is sufficient flexibility for principal councils not to feel forced to recommend that matters included in the petition be implemented.
- 4.9 The 2007 Act provides that the Council must also take into account any other arrangements (apart from those relating to parishes and their institutions) that have already been made, or that could be made for the purposes of community representation or community engagement.
- 4.10 Community cohesion is linked to the identities and interests of local communities. The governance of such an area should be both effective and convenient to all within the community. One of the factors that can define a neighbourhood is the geography and the makeup of the local community and the sense of identity.

- 4.11 Under the 2007 Act, the principal council must both publish its recommendations and ensure that those who may have an interest are informed of them.
- 4.12 It is still an option for the District Council to initiate its own review. Such a review could cover in detail the implications of establishing/not establishing a new Town Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial cost to the Council continues to be met from existing budgets.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the powers associated with Community Governance Reviews and provides the power for the Council to take decisions regarding matters arising from the review, as proposed in the terms of reference. The Council is required by Section 100(4) to have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State relating to Community Governance Reviews.
- 6.2 Under section 83 of the 2007 Act, there is no duty on the Council to initiate a further review if a petition is received within two years after a previous review. Section 82 of the Act permits the Council to conduct its own Community Governance Review, without the need for a further petition.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 In carrying out the review, the Council is required to consider, and has considered, the requirement to engage with local communities to address their needs and the impact of community cohesion.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Risks will be mitigated by ensuring that the CGR accords with the legislation and guidance given the Electoral Commission. This will include ensuring that any further review is carried out within the statutory timescales and that the Terms of Reference are appropriate.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The results of the Consultation do not support the establishment of a Town Council at this time, but the District Council remains receptive to the possibilities for devolution of assets and services to local areas and community groups under the localism agenda.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Consultation has been undertaken with all of the electors and interested parties. A summary of the consultation responses is listed in Appendix 1 of the report.
- 10.2 Twenty members attended a briefing meeting on this topic on 15th July 2013.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Report to Council 27th February 2013.
- 11.2 CLG Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.
- 11.3 Petition from Kidderminster Charter Trustees.

Comments received from consultation¹

You already have a mandate for setting of a parish council. Why waste time and money repeating the process

I pay enough tax now.

An unnecessary level of government, District Council is more than sufficient

Duplication & Cost

I think that all Local Issues should be resolved by a District Council - The people on the council know the area better than Worcester

Local services should not encourage an extra layer of administration - Instead of NOT in addition to. Use time & money wisely

Too many bureaucrats

As this will cause additional costs to our council tax, I do not wish for a parish council

Not sure what 'power' it would have. WFDC couldn't prevent Worcs having their way with our library space. I realise Bewdley & Stourport have parish councils but is that a good enough reason for Kidderminster to have one? Just more talking!

Feel that another layer of government is unnecessary. Feel that an extra charge to council tax is inappropriate in the current climate. No significant

Waste of money

Waste of money

Another waste of taxpayers money

Just another waste of our money

Leave us in the parish we are now in and save money. Change for the sake of councillors that do very little is waste. Waste if not acceptable during these times of making the poor pay more.

Just wastes money

We do not need more bureaucracy, higher/more taxes and the same people who run Kidderminster anyway will be given more opportunities to boost their portfolios and egos. Stourport TC & Bewdley TC don't do anything important and KTC won't either.

Why not wait until we have a unitary authority. Same person will take on roles as those already county & district councillors

¹ Note: these comments are reproduced directly from the reply cards, with no editing

What will it achieve 0 except more expense for the rate payers who are having to make cut backs as it is. I am totally opposed to the above.

Kidderminster has survived till now without one. At a time of public cut backs and austerity another tier of unwanted & unnecessary bureaucracy is totally unwarranted.

This will increase our rate payments yes?

This will increase our rate payments yes?

Why do we need yet another layer of bureaucracy to totally ignore our feelings...and be charged for it!

More ways to spend the cash you have not got. Waste! Waste!

This parish council should not be run by all councillors. The usually have their own agendas. It should be a mix of people and councillors e.g. 1 person 18-20, 1 person 30-40, 1 person 50-70, these people will know the problems of each age group and very often councillors forget they are working for the people and are out of touch with the needs of all the people

It'll be the same old faces, doing the same old party political crap and costing us for the privilege

I am not prepared to pay for an extra layer of local government without a corresponding reduction in Council Tax

No. Not at this time. Any unknown amount added to rates in these times is not agreeable. Setting up expenses - running expenses and incurred allowances!!! All adds up.

No. Not at this time. Any unknown amount added to rates in these times is not agreeable. Setting up expenses - running expenses and incurred allowances!!! All adds up.

What a waste of money. We already have far too much bureaucracy at all levels of local & national government

We are already well enough represented by councillors and do not need another platform for councillors to take up valuable council funds, time and administration. If there is no need, why create it? Current council is currently run on 'Kings Clothes' philosophy when all agree what the leader says for fear of question!

To me, a parish relates to a small village or village area. You cannot make a town the size of Kidderminster a parish. Also I am sure nobody would welcome any increase on their council tax to pay for a parish status - this is not the time to ask cash-strapped families for more money.

An expense we can ill afford

should have been a prepaid reply

In times of economic crisis do we really need to be spending more taxpayers money?

do we need more snouts in the trough

A really marvellous idea! Much responsible for the residents

If Worcestershire was a unitary authority then I may well support one

Parish councils may work in villages but Kidderminster is no village, too large an area to cover, waste of money

I need to keep costs down

another level of unnecessary bureaucracy

too much bureaucracy already

No more layers of government & red tape please

not sure where this home is going to take us. Will it be of benefit to all?

it may put up my council tax and I do not have enough information to make a calculated decision

Seems to be a formation of an unnecessary extra layer

No more expense

Are you reducing the expenses that you council expect claim saving money

Will you be reducing the expenses that you claim thus saving money on the council taxes

Uniformity with Stourport & Bewdley

This will bring Kidderminster into the hands of the residents & not dictated by Wyre Forest

Kidderminster gets a raw deal under the County Council so it is right for control to be transferred to Kidderminster and away from Worcester for matters concerning Kidderminster

Don't waste any more of our money. Why have I received 2 cards? I would suggest that you review the choice and order of words set out in the booklet supplied. Perhaps I am just one person confused by it, but you could take a vote on it couldn't you.

I cannot answer question 2 as I am not in favour of a parish council for Kidderminster

Yet another expensive layer of bureaucracy. Totally unnecessary

More bureaucracy - not wanted by me!

No extra costs can be afforded

Inessential extra costs!!

Waste of money in times austerity

Services are not exactly good at the moment so why should we have to pay more. We are all having to work harder with fewer staff so why should councillors be different!

If funded by the existing rate system with no increase great idea

Don't you think we pay enough

We do not wish to incur anymore costs

why have another tier of local government? Representation should be sufficient from the district council

No is this just another hall of fame scam

Why not waste the councils money on something else

We do not need another layer of governance. The extra cost is not justifiable

WFDC can deal with all local matters. Why pay more for councillors for a parish council when it can be dealt with by WFDC. No extra funds needed to pay councillors to do a job twice

I do not feel that a parish council has much place in today's society, unlike years past. Can we afford the cost? A problem exists because we already have two, Bewdley & Stourport

The needs can be covered by WFDC adequately

The needs can be covered by WFDC adequately

I do not support the setting up of a Kidderminster Parish Council

I think that we should have a Parish Council to bring back a sense of Civic Pride to the town of Kidderminster activities being swallowed up in the larger District Council

Why should I pay extra council tax for something which provides no evident benefits? Except extra jobs for councillors and more expenses for them.

I would rather any extra council tax was spent on turning Kidderminster into less of a job filled provincial wasteland with a rotten library and a common at Hartlebury that resembles the aftermath of the Somme.

More Council tax to pay. Another chance to fiddle the expenses. No thank you.

There are more than enough idiots screwing things up without making matters worse.

Another tier of bureaucracy wasting the tax payers money

Not soon enough

With £10 million spent on new council offices, cutting services, how on earth can we afford to pay for another tier of local government and of the costs involved with it. I do not want to see

my council tax increased to fund a group the 'mirror the structure and decision making processes of local authority'

I believe that this is another way of local funding to be dispersed even further with more fingers in the pot

That local residents will be able to elect councillors who live on the wards concerned. Who will be approachable in the on the areas they are elected to. Only elected councillors know the needs of the ward they are elected to.

I'm not holding my breath!!! But why should Stourport and Bewdley have parish councils but not Kidderminster.

We have enough councillors, why do we need more.

Council tax is better spent on necessary items such as schools, street lighting, pavement repairs rather than an unnecessary tier of local government.

Surely that would involve more councillors and more money

As long as the parish is by the people for the people of Kidderminster

Why have another tier of over paid councillors who will be only interested in their political ambitions, we should be looking at Bewdley costs and bringing worth into Kidderminster

Not another level of Government please. We have European parliament, Westminster, Worcester, Wyre Forest. More chiefs than Indians.

It should be run better by current people on the Council. Free

It should be run better by current people on the Council. Free

How much will it cost the ratepayers?

Have as few people as possible being paid out of public money. Get rid of as many expenses as possible.

Do as much from one building with few staff. Basic Service only - No expenses

Enough Councillors already

We do not need a third level of government

This survey is a long time coming. We should have elected Town Councillors like Bewdley & Stourport instead of the Charter Trustees. I welcome the idea of a Town Council.

I have only lived in Kidderminster's for five years, but I am surprised that the local authority is named after an area of woodland with few inhabitants. This is Kidderminster's it should be administered by 'KIDDERMINSTER'

Fully support the setting up of a parish for Kidderminster

Fully support the setting up of a parish

Kidderminster needs a voice

County and District Council members should not be eligible to become members of the parish council

It would be a good idea to stop the cars driven by parents being parked by the school at Borrington Road. It is a big hold up with cars coming both ways. There is not much room to get by.

Am not fully sure what a parish council is. It is going to cost more money then no. I think I am not alone with this as people have no money.

We do not need another layer of bureaucracy adding to council tax and being paid expenses at the tax payers expense. This will achieve nothing worthwhile

Some of our local councillors are simple minking the system. As the latest taken vote on expenses showed. SHEER GREED! So we don't need more of them.

More money on council tax - why? We have enough layers of councillors as it is. NO.

I only received this card on 29th March. This is not a proper consultation

parish councils have no power and have to ask the district council before they can do anything

More information on the existing local government structure would enable a better judgement! Why do we need another level of hierarchy!

Certainly not! Why have another tier of local government - more cost, more council tax when the district council can do the job

Better things to concentrate on!

Utter waste of time and money!

My comment is no to more councillors. Those we have got do not do their job.

We do not need another layer of government and bureaucracy. Lets improve and make what we have work better without more taxation and more government. Thank you

Extra tier of local government is not wanted

I pay enough council tax without anymore councillors. I think we are governed enough

Don't you think we have enough councillors. We are all supposed to be tightening our belts. These things take lots of money to set up. It will only mean the council tax going up by a lot of money

Its about time Kidderminster had the chance to make decisions for itself instead of them being made for them.

I have no wish to pay extra for nothing. Amalgamate WFDC and WCC together and reduce costs. It might make sense then.

After careful consideration of your suggested proposal, the question is who pays for what? There is no suggestion of purpose without the abolition of either WFDC or WCC. No is the answer.

I do not want to have to pay any more than I already do in council tax for a parish council to do what I feel WF is already doing.

I would prefer the name of the new council to be Kidderminster Town Council

We need a local council to deal with local problems!!

If a good person is elected at the WCC, why do we need another body of people to do the same thing and paid from council tax.

What is the difference between Town council and Parish council? Why not Town council? How independent of WFDC will new council be? Can WFDC override any decisions made? How much freedom of movement will new council have? Will it control own budget? Will it get own budget?

Brings back memories of Kidderminster Council. If only.

Better involvement of community

A progress toward neighbourhood or ward control

We pay enough council tax now. This is just a ploy to get more money out of us.

Just what the County needs, another layer of over bloated, self serving bureaucrats with no accountability, plus a large unearned salary taken out of overstretched local funding

National government, County Government, district government. Do we really need another tier of Parish government duplicating where our hard earned money is wasted? (see Kidderminster Shuttle for weekly shambles of councillors passing buck and not listening)

Council Tax would increase, to pay for the administration of the parish council. NO. NO. NO.

There are enough councillors in Kidderminster and Wyre forest as it is. We do not need any more. Spend the money on a more worthwhile project like crime.

I dont want to fund a town council. I pay enough tax now.

No No No. County Council, District Council. Enough bureaucracy - no more. No more expenses and jollies for the same old faces. We do not need a parish council

Too many of layers of government already - more money to pay councillors

The parishes are well served and should stay as they are. This is nothing more than a power grab! The grey on grey information leaflet is a disgrace!

Yes, it is long overdue.

A parish council is an unjustifiable expense. We need money in other areas a Parish Council is superfluous to requirements.

I support the setting up of a Parish council for Kidderminster and the name being called Kidderminster.

I do not support the setting up of a single parish council it means more councillors, more expenses claims and a hike in council tax.

In these austere times WFDC should not be adding another tier of local government when we already have a voice at district level. Clls should act responsibly and at least defer this idea's until we are well out of recession.

I support a single parish council for Kidderminster as Stourport and Bewdley have separate representation at Parish level.

I do not think another comment is necessary

But what will it cost

It is a complete waste of time and money (My money!)

I object to an increase in council tax to fund this as it is already high enough

Kidderminster people need a proper say in the town

Good idea

I object to any more Councillors being created as an extra drain on our taxes. We pay enough already.

As a pensioner we pay more than enough Council Tax without an increase to for more Councillors.

I do not think another layer of government is necessary adding more cost to the population, with possibly delay to the District Council making decisions with too much debate (Less not more)

I agree with this ONLY if it saves money

Every parish should have a parish council

Still don't understand the difference between parish and district council but give it a try - assume wasting tax payers money

Representation as close to grass roots as possible is most important

We have enough snouts in the trough with the councillors not taking a cut in expenses. I have no wish to make the trough any bigger with more snouts. NO. NO. NO.

Why pay more?

Can we really afford this extra expense?!

COST??

Why do we need more councillors and then have to pay for them, we pay enough, for little service as it is. Will they need a new council building and at what cost?

called unpaid, expenses, elections, costs of accommodation etc, will still need funding from our council tax. This money would be better spent on the roads! KIDDERMINSTER IS A TOWN NOT A PARISH

I think we pay enough council tax so why should we have to have extra put onto that tax. We are taxed enough. Pensioners don't have any extra money.

This is an unnecessary additional expense at a time of economic hardship for many people. This will only benefit elected councillors via their expense claims

Kidderminster District councillors already have a powerful say in expenditure decisions at district level - they do not need another forum and spending body

There is no case at this time for additional spending on governance and people are already confused about the current 2 tier system i.e. County and district.

Another unnecessary expensive layer of bureaucracy

1. why would we need another tier of local government which mirrors the structure of an existing decision making process. 2. It sounds like another job for the boys that we can't afford. 3. More snouts in the expenses trough

Not another waste of council tax money

This is a totally unnecessary tier of bureaucracy which is not wanted

I need to know the cost of this extra tier of local government until then I am unable to agree or disagree. Also WFDC ignores the views of its residents i.e. Piano Building (Majority vote against retention) WFDC HQ (majority vote against building)

A parish council would be just another tier of local government to pay for with probably not a great deal of benefit to the local population. Surely our local councillors should be the voice of the local people.

It seems just to be the creation of another layer of local government with no real powers to do anything useful the people they purport to represent and will only provide an opportunity for self important people to extract yet more money from the tax payers

Why do we need more councillors - can't the ones we already have do the job?

Why do we need more councillors when the ones we have do not listen e.g. Revamping Town Hall and areas which is throwing money away. Also waste money on lights left on in Council buildings at night - no confidence at all in council.

Essential if the County becomes a one tier authority which is likely

Local people should have choices on local issues. Not be dictated to by County bosses. A little increase on the rates would be worth it.

Kidderminster people should have a voice in local decisions

I suffer with a severe mental complaint but am very intelligent. Been in offices years ago, up to 42 years ago. What I would like to ask is would a new parish council have overriding authority to put me in hospital when I suffer with my complaint?

We do not need yet another "Kwango" or more great "I am" persons to subsidise or any more ratepayers money thrown away on silly projects, especially in a recession

We need no more Council control. We have a government controlling our food quality who cannot balance our financial system.

This has been needed for a long time

Can't see the point of electing yet more people who would get paid heaps and do nothing. My motto is "if it aint broke don't fix it". Also why did the KCT present you with a petition.

I do not wish to pay any more on my council tax for yet another level of local government

Do we really need more bureaucracy? We do not require more levels of government whose only function is to cost us more in taxes

No need

We pay enough!!

Hopefully this move will give the people of Kidderminster more say in the running and future plans for the town.

Save our taxi cars. Let them stay on for ten years or be allowed to renew them

Anything that takes power away from National or County & Local Authorities is to be praised

Stourport and Bewdley have a parish council so why not Kidderminster. We are larger than the other two.

Kidderminster deserves the same rights as Stourport & Bewdley

Who will pay for the parish council?

Kidderminster is a big town with a big heart. It needs its own voice to be heard and get things done. The town needs a single parish council to speak up for its people who live there.

Kidderminster needs its own council to have a say in local matters. Bewdley & Stourport have their own councils and the biggest town in the area does not have one. I believe that just a small increase in the council tax will be worth it.

Services at the moment seem adequate. O do not think the extra expense would be justified.

I feel a Parish council would be more appropriate for dealing with local issues, provided the charge to Parish council does not prove to be too expensive, which I understand can happen sometimes when adding an extra tier

This has been wanted for a long time. Kidderminster needs its own Council. Bring it on.

We have enough money wasted already

The current system works, why would we want to pay more council tax and create another layer of bureaucracy

As a pensioner, already struggling to pay council tax, therefore your statement that this would increase is a big No No.

It would be another level of unwanted bureaucracy.

A complete waste of tax payers money

Decisions on Kidderminster's future have for too long been made without any reference to the residents needs

It is essential that Kidderminster and it's residents have an input into its future direction. For too long any decisions on our future have been made elsewhere

This is a change long overdue

I expect the council to minimise cost. Not set up another body that incurs costs. Less government not more. If there is a genuine need for another layer of government its an indicator that changes are required at County

We need to spend less on local government not more

We need less local politicians not more

We should cut the size of the local government not increase it

only if we have a unitary council!

The creation of a parish council will allow them to set their own precept & the council tax will increase with the current economic climate the people losing their jobs it would not be appropriate at this time.

A parish council will create a new layer of local government which will cost the taxpayer more money. In the present economic climate and people losing jobs, this cannot be right.

The creation of a parish council will allow them to set their own precept & the council tax will increase. With the current economic climate and people losing their jobs it would not be appropriate at this time.

The creation of a parish council will allow them to set their own precept & the council tax will increase. With the current economic climate and people losing their jobs it would not be appropriate at this time.

Not necessary

This is not a good idea

A good idea to have our own parish council

I think it would be to Kidderminster's benefit to have our own parish council

It will cost more money there will be more political in-fighting and nothing will be resolved. Would a new council restore the library, its custom built facilities or will it be over ruled by the county council. Keep the old system flawed though it may be!

The district councillors can more than adequately represent the needs of the wards in Kidderminster without adding the expense of another tier of government.

In these times of austerity it seems inappropriate to introduce further levels of representation with the inevitable extra expenditure. Maybe I'd support it if we ever get into better economic times.

long overdue

Would first want to know how much extra on council tax and the set & election costs

Only approve if the costs are kept down. How much is it going to be extra on the council tax?

I support Kidderminster PC on the understanding it will improve the towns appearance e.g. TJ Hughes eyesore, chewing gum in front of the library & College. Worcester Street needs to be closed down as a shopping area & returned to dwellings

I am against the setting up of a parish council for Kidderminster as it appears to be just another level of bureaucracy. The minutes from Bewdley parish council seem to pass most matters to WFDC so what value does it have? Is it too naive to assume that the wishes of the residents will actually matter in the decision process or will they be disregarded as in the issue about the Glades?

No - we need less bureaucracy not more - and particularly not at the expense of the already overburdened tax payer.

A waste of time and money. We have managed without a single Parish council to date. Totally against the crass idea.

More red tape plus more expense which we don't need in the present climate.

No, I do not support a single parish council. It means paying extra council tax for a unneeded level of bureaucracy that has no real power or influence.

I am against a parish council for Kidderminster county and district provide enough bureaucracy without another tier at more cost to the tax payer

No, another expensive layer

We do not need another tier of government, Councillors already have an allowance from 2 councils and expenses. There will be no benefit to the community at large, Where would the new council sit and at what cost. This is for self agrandisement only

Question 2 pre supposes a yes answer to question 2.

I think it would be a help if it helps the town, also I think it will help if XX, with matters of concern fir St Georges cemetery, which a lot of people are not happy about as the state of it, as why the church does nothing about it.

Good idea. Do hope this helps to make Kidderminster a better place to shop and visit for both pleasure and business.

Good idea, would start giving people a say about their parish

So much of our money has bee wasted over the last few years, things can really only get better, a little common sense before spending is what is called for.

Cushy jobs for old school tie pals. Council tax is high enough without having to XX these guys

This is another layer of bureaucracy! We are already suffering from a surfeit of it.

Why can't you public sector troughers stop wasting our council tax on ego trips and vanity schemes? You want to borrow £10m for a new leisure centre when the money would be better spent on social housing. How do you people get so divorced from reality. You obviously have money to burn - so reduce council tax.

How will it be free of politics?

Will rates come down?

Will there be less Councillors?

County and District should be enough

County and District should be enough

Enough money already wasted on the new offices on Stourport Road. This is just another layer costing yet more money

Can we afford this? NO!

There are a sufficient number of Councillors in Kidderminster already without another layer. This would be additional costs without any benefit. PACT meetings are doing this work already.

Too many layers of bureaucracy would be created. We can't afford it!

I do not see the need for a Parish Council. In the end it will just mean more money for the local residents, an increase in our Council Tax and pensioners could certainly do without this extra Parish Council. *A DEFINITE NO*

I can see NO good reason for creating a parish Council. The aim should be to reduce Council Tax - NOT increase it!

I am not convinced that we need an extra tier of Local Government that will increase Council Tax

I am not convinced that we require another tier of Local Government that will eventually cause an increase in Council Tax

We do not need yet another level of government to waste our tax pounds

NO good reasons for creating another local overhead. You should be reducing Council Tax - NOT increasing it!

More spending. What value?

If the majority of Kidderminster residents would like a Parish Council then I would support the name of the new Parish being called Kidderminster. I do not support the setting up of a Parish Council due to the cost involved.

Setting up a parish council would bring greater parity with other areas of WF which already have one. Any review should also consider whether District Council should be merged with County.

What we don't need is another load of councillors claiming expenses at council tax payers expense. The fact you've wasted money on this idea shows how much your not concentrating on proper issues like council tax or jobs.

Such a body will be a waste of money

The government or council do not live in the real world. We have enough people in parliament doing nothing. The national health service would benefit greatly if people had exemption cards for prescriptions

With millions of people taking advantage when a prescription can be got for nothing. Millions of pounds lost and no-one asks or cares if they are exempt or not

no preference to either question

no preference to either question

Surely we do not need another tier of councillors. They will probably received allowances and some form of payment chargeable on the council tax. We have quite sufficient numbers of organisations telling us what to do - or not to do!

Please no more expense. We have enough government

Funded by extra council tax. NO WAY Its high enough now!

Definite no! Council tax is already too high thanks to Council pension fund

No more extra taxes caused by another group of paid so and so's

No need for further expenditure in respect of local tax or expenses for councillors

We don't need any more councillors or the cost of them

This would be unnecessary extra expenditure added onto the council tax

I am not at all sure that the benefits would outweigh the disadvantages of having to pay yet another level of taxation

I am happy with the council the way it is and do not want to pay extra on the council tax. Why change something that works? I can't see any benefit to Kidderminster becoming a parish. I also don't think the leaflet was clear on what a parish actually is & a lot of people may not understand this. I myself had to google it to find out more information.

Council tax is expensive enough for everyone to pay without paying an additional "parish council" - more overpaid councillors!!!

setting up a parish council merely creates yet another tier of local politicians accompanied by the 'gravy train' mentality that is so endemic. No thank you.

As a pensioner I resist any more which may mean an increase in council tax. I do not see any benefits will arise from having a parish council. Perhaps it has not been explained fully.

We pay enough council tax without more snouts in the trough!!

Not needed

Please stop wasting time and money on unnecessary changes

We need less layers of council not more.

I don't support a single parish council. The needs of different parishes differ from area to area, indeed this might be cost effective, but does not achieve a concentrated body in each area dedicated to addressing proportionate representation.

We can not afford it. Look at the state of our roads - old age care facilities and hospitals (announced today, more redundancies in already understaffed hospitals)

We do not have enough money to fund hospitals, road, old age care etc., without throwing money away on parish councils.

This idea has been going for so long now, I hope it comes to fruition.

As Kidderminster has largely lost its carpet industry base (though the new Sugar Beet area development is a potential beacon of hope) the local communities need massive support to increase regeneration. A parish council should be a sharply focussed body to respond

quickly to needs, with more liaison with statutory and voluntary bodies. support of the police will be crucial.

The funding, i.e. How much extra residents would have to pay, must be discussed publicly, I think, before anything else in the process.

Don't mind what you do, I will go with what everyone else wants to do

I do not think that there would be advantage at all in becoming a parish.

Same fiasco as the Police Commissioner!! Complete waste of money for no improvement.

Why do politicians need another layer of government that will cost money for no apparent benefit. This ranks alongside the police commissioner fiasco. Leave well alone.

I have no idea why it should be necessary and the booklet delivered with this card was of no help whatsoever. Better the devil I know. Enough allowances and costs paid now.

I don't feel that another tier of local govt is needed

More time and money spent and therefore wasted and nothing gets done.

No. Why do we need another strata of local govt. We already pay too much

This is a recipe for additional cost - NO

1. another layer of cost, another layer of bureaucracy. 2. These are austere times, budgets slashed. 3. Councillors expenses will increase with this proposal

WFDC is fine!

Why should we support more democratic representatives? The three main parties are corrupt and self serving. You have not explained how this helps ordinary people except by increasing council tax.

At this moment in time, when we're all trying to live on less, you're creating more jobs for your mates.

WF area is very small & compact and I believe it would stretch the limited finances even further to have another council on the payroll

This represents yet a further burden on local taxpayers and a further increase in the burden placed on local workers and households by the political classes

A complete and utter waste of time and money

County council, district council, Parish Council!!! I'm against having so many tiers of structure and decision making. This proposal smacks of being yet another quango. Surely district councillors can already take care of local requirements. I object to paying more council tax for something quite unnecessary in these days of financial restraint.

More money for ratepayers probably be the same faces getting the money

I would like someone in this town to be able to stand up for Kidderminster's interests which I believe Worcestershire County Council (representatives) are not. Worcester build a huge new hospital then take away Kidderminster at our hospital. The then build a huge library (the hub) then take away part of our library in Kidderminster. What's coming next? We certainly do need a body to represent Kidderminster's interests

More expense that comes out of residents pockets! All these changes/all the time/all costing money/all a waste of time

If the majority of people did support setting up a single parish council then I would support it being called Kidderminster, however I do not wish to support the extra costs of setting up a new council.

Waste of public money

We have enough councillors being overpaid for doing very little. They could do better. So NO I do not want anymore council tax spent as enough is enough

Waste of money. We pay enough council tax for reduced services already.

At this present time with the country and county in a so called mess I feel the money that is for a parish council would increase the rates and double the amount of administration unnecessarily costing jobs!!

A total waste of money

I believe there are enough levels of local government another is likely to cost a lot and probably delay decisions thereby increasing costs to these projects.

I wish to see the transfer of as many powers as possible to Kidderminster, the abolition of WFDC and WCC and the setting up of a North Worcestershire Unitary Authority.

We need an addition to the representation and management of local politics in Wyre Forest to include the views of more of the population.

Why bother to change things when they work well as they are. Also, we would have to pay more council tax

This just seems to be the creation of another layer of local government which presumably would cost more money, are the other two parish councils really necessary? No doubt existing councillors would stand and add another allowance to their names or extra expenses.

We do not need another tier of local government. Would suggest that both Bewdley & Stourport parishes are disbanded and WFDC be the sole authority with the County Council

Yet to be convinced this is in the public interest.

What a waste of time and money

I don't think we need any more cooks spoiling the broth and costing us more money

Keep it how it is, why change it now?

keep it how it is

This would just be another tier of government that would have to be paid for. WHAT A WASTE OF MONEY

I think it will be good thing for Kidderminster and the people of Kidderminster. Fully support this notion.

This is a good idea for the local area

I feel that this is a complete waste of council tax payers money.

Keep it how it is, it has worked for over 400 years, why change it now.

I see this as giving the people of Kidderminster more of a say in the situations and events that affect them. Hopefully this might encourage a greater commitment to the idea of community and working for the good of all.

It is essential that Kidderminster has its own voice and able to raise funds (precepts) for items of importance to us, e.g. Speed signs, CCTV, Community Halls etc (???) just as Stourport & Bewdley do. It will become even more so should we get a unitary authority.

Does this include Shrubbery Street?

Please keep all workings of the proposed changes transparent & without favours being paid in kind or position

Please ensure you keep this whole process open and democratic with petty politics put aside. New blood is need now.

What is wrong with WFDC

Why cant you leave things as they are?

more cost to ratepayers - no additional benefits to anyone except people who are elected, more income for existing district councillors who will be elected as parish councillors as well.

If it is going to be an advantage to the residents of Kidderminster and to get necessary problems sorted out to local peoples necessities and advantages, it could be a big asset to all concerned, but can that be assured.

If it is going to be an advantage to the residents of Kidderminster and to get necessary problems sorted out to local peoples necessities and advantages, it could be a big asset to all concerned, but can that be assured.

Is another layer of decision making required in these 'economic uncertainty' times? Having councillors doing nothing at a local level coupled with councillors doing nothing at a district level = not a lot more getting done.

Will result in more costly exercises that we do not need. Council Tax will increase. NO NO NO

We'll have to take on town hall. Costs a fortune to maintain. Keep as we are.

I do not support the setting up of a Kidderminster Parish Council

I do not support the setting up of a Kidderminster Parish Council. Spend more money on services, in particular keeping the town clean - it is a mess, in particular subways

I do not support the setting up of a Parish Council for Kidderminster.

I do not support the setting up of a parish council. Spend more money on services, not creating more council jobs.

Parish council should not be considered until it is agreed that WFDC is disbanded. I've always been surprised that Kidderminster did not have a town parish council

I believe Kidderminster should have its own voice and leadership. Kidderminster has not evolved properly as long as I can remember and I've lived here 50 years. We as a town have wasted many of the assets we have available to us, the town centre is surrounded by water courses, both a river and a canal, has it been developed properly to make the most of these assets? Answer, no. we have wasted out most picturesque and valuable asset.
Unhappy resident

We do not need another layer of local government. We cannot afford anymore central/local government employees that are a purse cost and do not generate any wealth for the local community. It would be better helping local companies that are exporting goods and generating income for our society, not adding more costs to our already over burdened local economy.

I think there should be no parish council as it will cost us more money on our council tax bills again. We get charged enough for living in this country as it is. Also as you say there is currently no parish council, why am I charged for one on my council tax bill?

No in setting up a single parish council

There is no requirement for any additional layer of administration.

I am not in favour of anything that results in an increase in council tax. Being funding or allowances.

The last thing we need is the added expense of another layer of bureaucracy. The turmoil of local elections is bad enough as it is. Yet more elections are a total waste of time and money and not necessary.

I believe the setting up of a parish council (indecipherable)

Not necessary - all extra costs

No more Councillors!

When the county as a whole is financially secure maybe, but meanwhile the money need to establish and maintain such would be better used in funding essential services and struggling vital organisations. Thus I see that proposal as being an inappropriate use of tax payers money in these current times

Don't see the reason for this, just costs more money

More bureaucracy costs more money

Cannot condone residents paying more for our council tax

blank card - no vote either way

I feel any change will be for the better but I am unsure what difference it will make to the running of the council. I just hope it will improve the Town Centre state of the facilities

blank card - no vote either way

No need for further level of bureaucracy

Anything which incurs an increase in council tax not acceptable. We receive very little in the way of services for the amount we pay as it is. Also the need to pa postage to return this except by hand - very bad.

Don't want to pay any extra money

Poll tax increase to support is an insult, each year we get less for our poll tax services. Just another way to get more councillors freebies, hoping people will not return if having to pay postage so therefore a yes vote instigated.

Kidderminster is a town. The town therefore needs a Town Council not a Parish council. The individual villages which make up the town should have parish councils or if the parish council would be too small to be considered a maximum of 3 villages could join up to make a standard size parish council.

More bureaucracy higher council tax

I am happy with the existing situation

I can think of no benefits that would justify creating a parish council for Kidderminster, certainly nothing that would justify the bureaucracy & expense this change would create. If someone could present a lot of significant benefits I might reconsider my views. Otherwise I will remain apposed to this proposal.

why could the people that will be housed in what was the library not have been accommodated by WF DC in their oversized new location

1. Its great to walk down Mill Street pathway V.Good. 2. Crown House needs attention, not knocking down. A change of colour wouldn't go amiss. You already have the workforce on the dole, a tenner a week i.e pay OK

This will make a similar situation as in Bewdley & Stourport

Will become more accountable to electorate

Will it cost more on council tax

No need for extra bureaucracy Kidderminster too large to be a parish

IN the current climate of financial restraint the last thing needed is another layer of local government with extra expense incurred to satisfy the egos of more councillors

Waste of money again!

Not necessary

More cost on council tax

Not necessary - WFDC adequate

My objection is based on the costs incurred. We cannot afford to put more pressure on council tax payers. There has already been a major reduction on local services and this idea would mean more reductions!

Having a town council will just increase bureaucracy and costs - totally against.

NO. NO. NO. THIS WILL JUST COST MORE

WE PAY ENOUGH NOW - NO MORE TOY TOWN COUNCILLORS AND SCRAP THE CHARTER TRUSTEES ASWELL

three tiers unnecessary and would be a waste of public money, particularly at a time when there is little available.

We do not need three layers of local government & Bureaucracy. If we had a Worcestershire Unitary Authority I would then support a local council based on Kidderminster Town.

This is a very stupid proposal

The present DC is totally dysfunctional and a Town council would be incapable of changing this.

Too expensive. Enough expense already. New Printing, another lot of councillors to pay. These cards must have cost a fortune who's paying for these? Me I expect.

Stop wasting our money - we do not need a fourth layer of government. What we need is less

We must keep Kidderminster on the map. Everyone seem to be trying to forget the name, all our industries have been sold off to abroad firms, not good.

As soon as possible. Long overdue

Give Kidderminster a choice to a future

It will be good for Kidderminster people

WE don't need any more people telling us how to live our lives

No need for yet another expensive tier of local government

More jobs for the boys

very good idea

A further tier of local government is not necessary. It would appear that the parish councillors would only be doing the same job as the ward councillors on the district council. Incurring costs of course.

Only if another tier of local government is abolished

The parish council should not cost the residents anything extra - we pay more than enough already. The parish council must listen to residents e.g. Restore the room in library to its original function and put those people in an empty room at Finepoint!

This council if formed should listen and act on residents concerns. Not prepared to pay extra on council tax for this amenity. Appointed councillors should not get allowances and should be on this council for the benefit of Kidderminster and its people.

I agree as long as this council listens to residents and acts on their concerns. Don't ask people then ignore them. Make sure this council prioritises the needs of residents and town rather than feeding their own egos.

The sooner the better

There already seems a mandate for this - which needs to be done ASAP so we can be ready for the abolishment of DC in 2015. The big Question leaflet was a dreadful example of spin against the empowerment of Kidderminster

Long overdue

This should have been formed ages ago!

What are any benefits? What is the increased cost? Why do we need another tier?

Don't waste my taxes on another council we have too many now

Absolute waste of public money when we should be cutting back and saving not adding civil servants to the payroll. This is a disgusting Conservative idea.

Less bureaucracy

I do not want more politicians dipping their snouts into the trough and running my life. I would prefer fewer councillors

Would be a waste of money

There are already more than enough layers of government/people representation etc.

I do not support the setting up of a single parish council for Kidderminster

If this is going to cost extra money on my poll tax then forget this idea

I do not support the setting up of a single parish council for Kidderminster

I do not support the setting up of a single parish council for Kidderminster. We are adequately represented at present and additional layers of representation are costly and unnecessary.

In principal, I support small government so see no merit in adding yet another tier of local bureaucracy. As your booklet says, the Parish Council would merely be a scaled down version of the Local Authority, duplicating work already done by that body and adding more cost burden onto local council tax payers. Has anybody involved in the public sector realised we are in the grip of a huge recession? If so, why would they consider adding more cost to our already vastly over taxed society. I am absolutely against this proposal.

Its about time. We have been pushed around by Worcester for too long.

This would be another unnecessary tier of government especially when funding is being reduced. Extra on Council Tax bills should not be a consideration in times of austerity.

I would support the dismantling of WFDC and a return to Kidderminster Town Council

I consider 4 tiers of govt sufficient for any democracy without increasing the bureaucracy & expense for residents.

Tough times but this change will not help, but hinder

No need for yet another level of local government

Too much council already

More waste of money

Its about time - good luck

Waste of money - expenses will be creamed - all of Worcestershire a small county anyway.

More control over local issues

I have ticked yes to both questions above as long as I do not have to pay an increase in council tax to pay for it.

Waste of money - expenses will be creamed - all of Worcestershire a small county anyway.

We ought to have a mayor got Wyre Forest and 1 council for the area.

We are in enough trouble with WFDC and WCC. The CC dominates and WFDC Councillors give in always, exp on both bodies. A Parish council would hit council tax payers - no advantage to us.

Not if it means taking more money from peoples purses. God knows we don't get enough now but you will have already decided so this is a waste of paper

We need our own Parish Council for Kidderminster

Its time for Kidderminster to have a voice again. WE need county council to have to listen to us.

I think it is important that Kidderminster has a town/parish council that can deal with small but significant local matters e.g. Outside the town centre there seem to be very few bus shelters. Bewdley/Chaddesley both seem to benefit from local representation. I would hope such a council could be none party political.

Kidderminster needs its own governing body & identity away from Bewdley & Stourport who already have parish councils

Give local people more of a voice and a say in what happens in their area

Please ask the people again after the (CGR)

Do we seriously need more politicians? We already have far too many.

It will be the same councillors representing the same people. They should be doing the job that they are elected to do in the first place

I think Kidderminster needs to be revived. There is so much uncertainty - Hospital, shops, Malls, Roadworks.

Before expressing a view on whether Kidderminster should have or indeed needs a Parish council I think residents should be informed on the range of powers of such a council. I have been a member of a Parish council in the past and unless the powers have since been increased, I do not believe this is an appropriate body for Kidderminster Town and may indeed be a useless expense

a parish council is irrelevant and backward looking to a society that no longer exists. Parish councils have little power and small budgets that they generally mis-spend. With rare exceptions parish councillors are small minded or parochial. Another layer of bureaucracy is not necessary.

no need for another level of bureaucracy in Kidderminster

A waste of time and resources

Kidderminster is over represented in Wyre Forest DC. So why go to the expense of duplicating it. It can already put through any decisions.

Kidderminster councillors have a majority on Wyre forest DC. There is no need for even more bureaucracy and more councillors with expenses.

If Kidderminster, Stourport & Bewdley had their own parishes - as the Prime Minister said - back to the people. We could do without 'WFDC' and I feel they are wasting too much money

Its about time we had our say in what goes on in Kidderminster again

No comment, except it would be useful to know how much extra we would be required to pay on our council tax, especially as councillors will not be paid an allowance

Why do we need another expenditure for no financial gain. The cost is not detailed in booklet, why? Or is it jobs for the boys?

Just like National, County and local government bodies, it does not stop at that. Each level creates committees and other administration "talks" shops. To what extent would party politics have? Not a good idea (but very old)

It is very important for the people of Kidderminster to have an effective local voice and have a say in their town's affairs and future. There needs to be equality with both Bewdley & Stourport. Local democracy really matters.

We have no need of a parish council. Its jut more expense
This is money we don't need to spend

Neither card nor booklet delivered! Hence booklet not read. I can see no point in setting up a body that will cost hard-pressed pensioners budgets still further. The town manages perfectly well without a parish council. Scrap this idiotic idea immediately

We should be cutting back not expanding. There are too many councillors now in office. Some not doing very efficient, or worthwhile jobs. To appoint parish councillors would just add to the expense burden. I don't think the residents, myself included could afford this extravagance.

What will this cost?? Until I have more information, I could not vote in favour of this. Is this one card per household or should it be one card per voter?

ONLY 1 CARD RECEIVED - THIS COUNTS AS TWO - Do not agree - will cost more in council tax - just another excuse for more councillors

No. No. No. We do not require even more councillors and the added expense. You waste enough of our money as it is.

Why change for the sake of change. Changes always cost money

Better the devil you know than the devil you don't and what is it going to cost us?

This is a complete waste of money and adds another tier of bureaucracy

This is going backwards and Kidderminster had their own council I thought amalgamating into Wyre Forest District Council was to save money and we are in a recession!

I think that is essential that the people of Kidderminster should have an independent voice in local affairs. I think that we should have an equal voice with Bewdley & Stourport in matters that purely concern Kidderminster

Inappropriate to add further costs to local government i.e. A local precept. The area is not that big anyway

Why create another level of bureaucracy. I have looked at the website below and cannot find any information which would lead me to believe that this would be of use to local people

Waste of time and money

I do not support the setting up of a single Parish council for Kidderminster. A waste of taxpayers money which under the current climate especially, could be of more use in other areas.

Yes, Kidderminster should have it's own Town Council

the sooner the better

No need for a parish council, waste of money, our money! Would much rather it was spent on supporting our hospital and our elderly. The answer is emphatically NO

There is absolutely no need for a parish council in Kidderminster, we already have a council which does a good job, why set up another layer of bureaucracy in a time of severe austerity. It's nonsense to even consider it and a waste of public money. The answer to the so called big question is No

This cannot be done without extra cost to the tax payer. Kidderminster residents could/will be subject to parish taxes. Just because Stourport and Bewdley have one doesn't make it right. Get rid of Stourport and Bewdley & just keep District.

Absurd waste of tax payers money and encouraging 'they've got, I want it' culture. Save tax payers money not spend it.

If we already have councillors looking after our interest why do we need more paid councillors to do what they are already doing.

We do not need any further councillors representing the local population with opposing views resulting in XX and poor decisions being made

We do not need another tier of governance

Excellent idea

It is about time this 40 year old injustice has been given a chance to be corrected

Waste of time and tax payers money. Pointless buildings will be used for a pointless thing yet again!

You waste enough of our money. Don't waste more when it could be used in a better situation e.g. Play parks, filling in holes in the road.

A single parish council is a waste of money. The district council carries out these services now - we gain nothing, just more costs

More jobs for out of work councillors at a time money is short?

I think its about we did this

If the Charter Trustees have requested it as I understand then its OK, but I liked the uniqueness of have Charter Trustees.

Good idea

Kidderminster should be treated the same as Stourport and Bewdley

Due to the fact that many people do not have enough to live on. A council that understands people is the best way, being a Christian I support this as I get £35 pw to live and I don't think I should pay council tax.

more cost to the rate payer

Additional cost to the rate payer for councillors salary & expenses for no additional benefit

A parish council is not needed, things work fine as they are
Perhaps we will have a cleaner town with no rubbish everywhere

Don't make us pay for another council layer when we are already struggling to feed, heat and clothe ourselves

Use the money to fix all those things the council should be doing with our money rather than another line of bureaucracy. If those who are paid to do their jobs properly did so, then we would not need a parish council.

Yes, it should have a parish council as the present system is hell bent on wasting money.

We don't need any more expensive Councils

I believe that decisions that affect Kidderminster residents can already be influenced sufficiently by elected Members via district council as demonstrated by ongoing successes. I don't see how Kidderminster is currently missing out on something.

We don't need another tier of local government draining public money. The county and District council are doing fine. I fail to see how a parish council will benefit our area and pay for itself effectively. The whole idea is pure nonsense.

Very content with WFDC. I feel they do a very good and difficult job with our current climate where money is very tight but I feel well spent.

Waste of money. It could be spent on something more useful

No need for a further layer of bureaucracy and cost

Having moved to Finepoint presumably you would need to re-open an office in Kidderminster

More elections, more councillors, more expenses. The two layers of council already in place should be more than sufficient and if the parish council includes councillors in the other layers what additional democracy is being gained? I was under the impression that the country was already heavily in debt without additional costs.

It would be more local to deal with day to day problems. Litter in Kidderminster is a big one.

WE DON'T NEED MORE GOVERNMENT!!

Another pointless layer of government and just an excuse to push up the council tax. **NO THANK YOU!!**

What would be the real "advantages" of a single parish council? Do we honestly need more governance

Council tax already too much without this being funded by it.

STOP WASTING MONEY!

Kidderminster should have the same representation as Bewdley and Stourport

It is important for the residents of Kidderminster to have their own Town Council to ensure that local decisions are taken by Kidderminster Councillors on their behalf.

I say yes with reservations. Would it be possible to have honest people on the council? People who will not cheat on expenses and who work for the good of the town and not to inflate their own egos? Is this a possibility or just a dream?

Kidderminster is adequately supported by existing WFDC councillors. There is no need to increase expenditure on another tier of administration.

There is sufficient bodies involved in making decisions and any further drain on local financial resource is not acceptable where vital services are being cut.

More expenses. If you have money to spare try street cleaning - Cobden Street

I do not see the need for another level of government in the Kidderminster area, especially when the authority this further level will have will be minimal. If anything there are too many councillors already.

Too much government means more politicians to waste our money. You are already at it to put a stamp on this card. i.e. Lib Dems and Tories. Another war on the horizon?

No thank you. Another tier to waste our money. We need less politicians not more.

Where can I find information in support of or against? At a time of financial hardship do we need more governance? I don't think so, but what are the pros and cons?

We don't need another tier. Keep asking the same people to pay, no matter what their age, while others get away with it. Plus councillors get too much money.

Another layer of bureaucracy to pay for - Cobden Street

About time

Every town, village, hamlet should have its own parish council to sort out various local problems

Does it matter?

How much would it cost?

I will not support any arrangement which results in an increase in council tax

How about getting rid of Stourport & Bewdley and just having the District Council, then lose some councillors. That's what other companies do in a recession - close branches and cut staff!

What a great idea. I fully support this.

Another tier of govt, and pay outs to councillors. Free laptops - ipads etc, look at the money and expenses they already get especially if your are a county councillor as well. I remember when the job used to be done for free

Does it matter?

Council tax increase would not be acceptable

Increase in council tax would be most unwelcome

Why created a parish council when existing WFDC is doing the job. I understand council tax payments would be increased to cover this new council, so I object to paying extra when it is not needed.

Additional costs of being a parish i,e elections , payments to councillors is not supportable at this time of cut backs

In addition to on-going cost if Kidderminster were to be a parish there would be 'one-off' costs of redundancy etc. Charter Trustees have a history not to be thrown away

We don't need another tier of local authority

unnecessary duplication of bureaucracy plus potential extra expense for tax payers

It will mean the taxpayer will have to fork out more money to pay for it & if you have a limited income well.....

Do not wish to have another layer of local government at all.

I hope the views of the people will be taken into account . A waste of money

Not on the internet. What can another set of councillors do that the other councillors cannot do. Not enough information

I think this would mean more expense and more jobs for what is already done by district councillors to a reasonable standard

Not on the internet. What can another set of councillors do that the other councillors cannot do. Not enough information

Why would we want to pay more on our community charge for extra councillors?

Why would we want to pay more on our community charge for extra councillors? Why are we St Marys ward now when we were Sutton Park for years?

Sounds like another talking shop to me. Why pay for elections? Is it non-political or subject to usual political 'in-fighting' - not convinced

About bloody time

Yes to look after Kidderminster first and foremost. No they shouldn't be paid extra - only expenses

No need for another tier of local government. The creation of a parish council would probably lead to disagreements with consequent delays. Parish Councils are prone to vested interests.

We can't afford it

Kidderminster really needs a proper parish council - in equality with other towns and villages

We need a town council to take on services and assets from Wyre Forest DC, such as parks and the town hall.

I do not want my council tax to increase to fund it.

I don't want my council tax to go up to fund it

This should have been done years ago.

Why take on additional cost in a time of austerity. The existing should be functioning in an adequate manner

Yes to the Parish Council

I do not support the setting up of a single parish council

I would vote yes if this means we are working towards a unitary authority.

Waste of time, money and effort as far as I can see. Money that could be used more wisely on other things. You want to put more money on our Council Tax? Earn it, because you don't at present. Bureaucracy gone mad!

No! Pay enough Council Tax already.

Agenda Item No. 10
Appendix 1

I do not support this proposal as i feel another tier of government would be a retrograde step and the extra cost to the taxpayer is unacceptable.

I do not agree that Kidderminster should have a parish council. I believe that proposal is without merit and unnecessary further expense to the residents.

Why do we need yet more councillors? Two councils are enough. Also in this time of saving money how much more will we be charged to pay for yet more waste of money by local government. If it happens can we lose the district council and county. Forget it and save our money.

We do not need another layer of councillors sponging from the public purse! Sack all the councillors we have now if you want a new town council. We can't afford both and council tax is expensive as it is for the services provided. Us workers have not had a pay rise for years.

I don't wish to 'pay' any more money which I have not got as a pensioner.

This seems to be an excuse for yet another band of councillors added to the existing elected council. I have no money to pay for these extra people as a council tax funding extra. Pensioners have not got the money, maybe in 10 years, try again. Surely elected councillors should already be working for the good of their community.

I think it would create extra expense and possible conflicting ideas on services.

More costs to carry out the same functions as existing councils
Unnecessary extra costs

NO, NO, NO, NOT AT ANY PRICE!! MARGARET HILDA THATCHER

We have enough idiots as it is. Why have any more? They all tell lies!! They all seek to serve their own ends. They should all be "Shot Dead" "Stalin"

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
24TH JULY 2013

Corporate Governance Report

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	-
CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:	Delivering Together with Less
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor N J Desmond
DIRECTOR:	Director of Community Assets and Localism
CONTACT OFFICER:	Caroline Newlands Ext 2715 caroline.newlands@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 - Political Balance – Committee Structure

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend Corporate Governance updates to Council and Authorise the Director of Community Assets and Localism to make the appropriate changes to the Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to DECIDE on:-

- 2.1 **To agree the appointment of a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Audit Committee.**
- 2.2 **To agree the updated political balance.**
- 2.3 **To appoint Tracey Southall as the Officer with responsibility for administration of the Council's financial affairs under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.**
- 2.4 **The making of all consequential amendments to the Constitution.**

3. BACKGROUND

Audit Committee

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 15th May 2013, Council elected Councillor M A Salter as the Chairman and Councillor J Aston as the Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee. Following the resignation of both Members from the Conservative Group, Council is required to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

Political Balance

- 3.2 Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the principles for the allocation of seats on committees between the political groups on the Council. As a result of the change of party for Councillor M A Salter and Councillor J Aston from the Conservative Group to the Liberal/Independent Group, the Liberal/Independent Group have gained 2 seats on the Committee Places and these are reflected in appendix 1, i.e. the Strategic Review Committee and Planning Committee.

Appointment of Section 151 Officer

- 3.3 Following Council's endorsement of the senior management restructuring on 13 March 2013, the new structure has been implemented with vacant posts being filled in accordance with the Council's redundancy and redeployment policies. Tracey Southall has accepted appointment as the Chief Financial Officer, and the role includes statutory responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, among other provisions. It is necessary for the Council formally to appoint Tracey Southall under Section 151 of the 1972 Act, as this is a function reserved to full Council.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Section 15 2 (b) states that the Council is required to consider a revised political balance "as soon as practicable after any occasion on which the members of the committee are changed in consequence of a determination under this section."

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant financial implications as a result of this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The recommendation in respect of the role of the Section 151 Officer meets the legal requirements for the Council to designate one of its officers for this purpose.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 A full equality assessment impact is not required as no adverse impact has been identified under the main equality strands.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no significant risks resulting from this report.
- 8.2 The Council is required to produce a revised political balance as soon as practicable.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Council is invited to endorse the changes.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Chief Executive.
- 10.2 The Leader of the Council.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Report to Special Council 13th March 2013 – **please note this report was exempt.**

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		Conservative		Independent Community Health Concern		Labour		Liberal & Independent Group		Total
No. of Cllrs.			19		8		8		7	42
Percentage			45.24%		19.05%		19.05%		16.67%	100.00%
Executive Cttees		Membership								
Appts & Appeals	8	4	3.62	2	1.52	1	1.52	1	1.33	8
Audit cttee	8	4	3.62	1	1.52	2	1.52	1	1.33	8
Ethics & standards *	6	3	2.71	1	1.14	1	1.14	1	1.00	6
Scrutiny										
Scrutiny Committee	12	6	5.43	2	2.29	2	2.29	2	2.00	12
Strategic Review Committee										
	11	5	4.98	2	2.10	2	2.10	2	1.83	11
Regulatory										
Planning	16	7	7.24	3	3.05	3	3.05	3	2.67	16
Lic & Env	15	7	6.79	3	2.86	3	2.86	2	2.50	15
Total										
	76	36	34.38	14	14.48	14	14.48	12	12.67	76
Percentage										
		47.37%		18.42%		18.42%		15.79%		84.21%
Difference between % No. of Cllrs. And % Number of Seats										
		2.13%		-0.63%		-0.63%		-0.88%		

* the table shows only district councillor members

1. Each member is required to notify the Proper Officer which political group, if any, he or she wishes to be identified with. A group comprises of two or more members.
2. Each Group Secretary is required to notify the Proper Officer which members of his or her groups he/she wishes to sit on each relevant committee or sub-committee.
3. The allocation of seats required the rounding up or down of calculated figures to give whole numbers.
4. Single party representatives and independent members (who do not form part of a political group) are not legally entitled to seats on committees to which the rules of proportionality apply.

- 19 Conservative Group
- 8 ICHC Group
- 8 Labour Group
- 7 Liberal & Independent Group

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
24TH JULY 2013

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET –16TH JULY 2013

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the Cabinet agenda. Copies have been included in the electronic circulation of the Council agenda and a public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council's website.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL (subject to the Cabinet meeting on 16th July 2013)	CABINET MEMBER
<p>Wyre Forest District Site Allocations & Policies Local Plan and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan - Adoption</p> <p>Recommended to Council:</p> <p>a) The Inspector's report as attached to the report to Cabinet at Appendix 1 be accepted in its entirety including the proposed main modifications.</p> <p>b) The Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan incorporating the modifications as recommended in Appendix A of the Inspector's Report to the Cabinet report be adopted to be used to determine planning applications from the 24th July 2013.</p> <p>c) The Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan incorporating the modifications as recommended in Appendix B of the Inspector's Report to the Cabinet report be adopted to be used to determine planning applications from the 24th July 2013.</p> <p>d) The accompanying Policies Map as attached at Appendix 3 to the report to Cabinet be adopted.</p> <p>e) To note that upon Adoption of the Plans, the list of remaining 2004 Adopted Local Plan Saved Policies (as set out at Appendix 4 to the report to Cabinet), will be fully</p>	<p>Councillor Anne Hingley</p>

<p>replaced by those incorporated within the Adopted Core Strategy, the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan and the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan.</p> <p>f) Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place to make the necessary presentational amendments, including the minor amendments as set out at Appendix 2 to the report to Cabinet, to the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan, Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan and the accompanying Policies Map.</p>	
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