

STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chief Executive's Directorate
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE
Contact: Jonathan Vali on 0161 474 3201
Email: jonathan.vali@stockport.gov.uk
Web: www.stockport.gov.uk/democracy

AGENDA

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee Room 1
Town Hall
Stockport Business:

Meeting: Wednesday, 21 July 2010
Tea: 5.00pm
6:00pm

Substitutes

Councillors who require a substitute to be appointed should inform Democratic Services by 4.00 pm on Monday, 19 July 2010. (Councillors who wish to arrange their own substitute should inform Democratic Services of the name of their substitute prior to the commencement of the meeting).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers to declare any interests which they have in any of the items on the agenda for this meeting.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public are invited to put questions to the Chair of the Committee on any matters within the powers and duties of the Committee, subject to the exclusions set out in the Code of Practice. (Questions must be submitted prior to the commencement of the meeting on the cards provided. These are available at the meeting and at local libraries and Information

4. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROGRESS TO DATE

To consider a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy) (Enclosed)

5. CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

To consider a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy) (Enclosed)

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To agree the following dates of future meetings:-

- 11 August 2010
- 26 October 2010

Contact: Jonathan Vali, 0161 474 3201, email: jonathan.vali@stockport.gov.uk or fax: 0161 472 3201.

If you require a copy of the agenda or a particular report(s) by e mail or in large print, braille or audio, please contact the above person for further details. A minicom facility is available on 0161 474 3128.

A loop system is available in the meeting rooms in the Town Hall. Please contact the Town Hall Reception on 0161 474 3251 for further details.

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information.
Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000.
Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

如果你需要他人為你解釋這份資料的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej informacji, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

যদি এই খবরগুলি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন সাহায্য দরকার হয় তবে বিনা খরচে আপনার জন্য দোভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হতে পারে। মেহেরবানী করে স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন টেলিফোন নম্বর, 0161 477 9000.

اگر آپ کو ان معلومات کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی انٹرپرائٹنگ یونٹ کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔

خدمات ترجمہ رایگان این اطلاعات در صورت نیاز موجود میباشد. لطفاً با شماره تلفن 0161 477 9000 یا واحد ترجمہ (اینترپرائٹنگ یونٹ) ما تماس بگیرید.

تنوفر خدمة ترجمة شفوية اذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا المعلومات. نرجو الاتصال اربن رينيول على رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000

OFFERTON PARK PARISH COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
- PROGRESS TO DATE

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy)

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1 To report on progress to date with undertaking the Offerton Park Parish Community Governance review.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 1 July 2010 the Council Meeting agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review for the Offerton Park Parish, in accordance with the Local Government and Involvement in Health Act 2007, following the receipt of two petitions from residents of the Parish requesting abolition of the Offerton Park Parish Council.
- 2.2 The Council Meeting on 1 July agreed the Terms of Reference of the Review and a timetable for its completion, attached at Appendix 1 to this report. This Terms of Reference included within it the three possible options available to the Committee in carrying out the Review:-
- a) recommend that the Parish should not be abolished and that its area should not be altered
 - b) recommend that the area of the parish should be altered
 - c) recommend that the parish should be abolished.
- 2.3 Following the decision of the Council Meeting, a letter was sent to all households within the Parish informing them of the intention to undertake a Review and a fact sheet (No 1) explaining why the Council was doing so and the intended timescales to completion. Also included in the mail shot was a fact sheet (No 2) explaining the Parish Poll. These form the start of a series of fact sheets that will be one of the communication tools will be used throughout the review. Out of courtesy all materials were shared with the Chair of the parish Council for information to ensure clarity about both processes remained. A copy of the factsheets is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.4 In addition to the Community Governance review, the Council was required to conduct a Parish Poll. This was undertaken on 8 July following a request of the Parish Meeting of 8 June 2010, at which the following question was agreed "It has been proposed that the Offerton Park Parish Council is abolished. Do you agree with that proposal?". It must be stressed that the Council was legally required to conduct such a poll at the request of the Parish Meeting, with the question being determined by such a meeting. The financing of such a Poll is at the expense of the Parish Council. Although the Poll is not formally connected to the Community Governance Review consideration will be given to the result. Only those on the electoral roll were eligible to vote.

- 2.5 To avoid unduly influencing the outcome of the Poll, and to minimise the risk of confusion, no further information was provided to residents between 2 July and the day of the Poll. On 9 July 2010 a second mail shoot was then made to all households containing: the timetable for the Review; fact sheet (No 3) describing the Review timetable; an information booklet containing demographic and community information, details of the Parish Council and details of other governance structures/ opportunities currently in place. As we are at this stage within the initial consultation phase a feedback form inviting initial submissions on the three options together with a prepaid return envelope was also included. All residents, community organisations and businesses are eligible to engage in the review. To encourage wide consultation a 'collection point' has also been established at Dialstone Library for residents who may wish to hand in written feedback at this stage.
- 2.6 A webpage has also been created through which residents and other interested parties can make a submission as part of the consultation. Copies of all the factsheets and other consultation material will also be available for download from the website at www.stockport.gov/communitygovernancereview. An email address has also been created for public use. communitygovernancereview@stockport.gov.uk
- 2.7 The initial consultation period opened on 5 July and will close on 26 July 2010, during which time residents and businesses will be actively invited to give their views. These responses will then inform the development of the draft recommendations which this Committee will consider and be asked to agree and which will then be subject to a further period of consultation starting on 23 August and ending on 15 October 2010. This second period of formal consultation will be more extensive, again invite all relevant local people and groups and will include facilitated discussions. The proposed programme of consultation is the subject of a separate report on the agenda.
- 2.8 Following the close of the second consultation period the feedback received will need to be considered by the Committee prior to it making its final recommendations to the Council Meeting on 1 December 2010. Subject to Council Meeting approval, these final recommendations will form the basis of any Reorganisation Order to be published in December 2010.
- 2.9 For the avoidance of confusion, the role of the Committee is make recommendations on the proposals for the second phase of consultation and, in light of the feedback, on final recommendations to the Council Meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the report be noted.
- 3.2 That dates of future meetings of the Committee are agreed to meet the planned schedule of the review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of Stepping Hill Area Committee - 30 March & 20 April 2010

Report to the Executive Meeting 'Petition Regarding Offerton Park Parish Council' – 19 May 2010

Report to the Executive Meeting 'Offerton Park Parish Council - Community Governance Review' – 14 June 2010

Report to the Council Meeting 'Offerton Park Parish Council - Community Governance Review'- 1 July 2010

'Guidance on community governance reviews' - Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Mike Iveson on telephone number 0161 474 3208 or alternatively e-mail mike.iveson@stockport.gov.uk

Offerton Park Parish Council - Community Governance Review

Terms of reference for the Review

Powers of Review

Under powers contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Local Government (Parish and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (the Council) will undertake a Community Governance Review of the Offerton Park Parish Council (the Parish).

The Review will be conducted in accordance with latest guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

A brief outline of the Offerton Park Parish Council

The Offerton Park Parish Council lies within the Offerton Ward of the Metropolitan Borough of Stockport and comprises the two parish wards of Dial Park and Offerton Hall which are co-terminate with polling districts UD and UF of the Borough. Each of the parish wards has five elected parish councillors (in addition to the Borough Council ward representatives.) A parish precept is charged to residents of the parish.

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council operates an area committee system with each part of the borough being represented by one of seven area committees. The entire area of the Offerton Park Parish Council falls within the boundary of the Stepping Hill Area Committee.

Why the review is being undertaken

The Council has received two petitions in the following terms -

'We the undersigned residents of Offerton, who live within the Offerton Park Parish Boundary, do not believe the Parish Council is acting in the interests or for the benefit of the wider community, or serving any useful purpose and object to the additional tax burden levied on residents by the imposition of an unjustified Parish Precept.

We therefore petition the Principal Authority of Stockport to dissolve/ abolish the Offerton Park Parish Council as soon as possible, but prior to the commencement of the new Tax Year in 2010.'

The Local Government and Involvement in Public Health Act 2007 requires that where the electorate of a given area petition for changes to the governance arrangements (including abolition or dissolution of the parish), the principal authority may undertake a Community Governance Review.

For a petition to be valid it must satisfy certain conditions. For an area with between 500 and 2,500 local electors, the petition must be signed by at least 250 of them. The total number of verifiable signatures on both petitions is 348, representing 13.9% of the total Parish Council electorate of 2490. The petition is therefore valid for the purposes of the Local Government and Involvement in Public Health Act.

The petitions were considered at the meetings of the Stepping Hill Area Committee on 30 March and 20 April, 2010. The Stepping Hill area committee recommended that because the petitions request dissolution / abolition of the Offerton Park Parish Council a community governance review should be undertaken.

The responsibility for agreeing to conduct a Community Governance Review lies with the Council Meeting. The Council Meeting on 1 July, 2010 agreed to undertake a community governance review and agreed these terms of reference for the review. The Council Meeting was guided by the Executive Meeting who had agreed on 14 June, 2010 to recommend that a review be undertaken. Thus all successive administrative bodies of the Council have unanimously agreed to undertake the review.

The terms of the review

The Council will conduct the review in respect of the entire area of the Offerton Park Parish Council.

Taking into account local knowledge and experience of communities in their area the Council will make recommendations which aim to bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

In order to arrive at its recommendations the Council will -

- Consult local residents by arranging a series of public meetings to gauge public opinion on the operation of the current parish arrangements and to explain the consequences of abolition / dissolution;
- Consult local businesses, local public and voluntary organisations, schools and partner organisations including the Fire and Rescue, Transport, Waste Disposal, Health and Police Authorities together with any local residents' associations or community forums which local people have set up and which help make a distinct contribution to the community;
- Consider the need to conduct a local poll inviting the electorate of the Offerton Park Parish Council to indicate their preference on the future of the parish;
- Arrange for Council officers to attend a Parish Council meeting to seek their views on the review;
- Prepare a comprehensive document setting out demographic, electoral and statistical information about the parish as an aid to conducting the review;
- Produce information for publication on internet
- Fully take into account all representations received in connection with the review. When undertaking the review the Council will have regard to the need to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area and that community governance in the area is effective and convenient;

What can happen as a result of the review?

The Council will aim to conduct the review within 9 months of these terms of reference being agreed

The review must make recommendations on those matters considered and defined by these terms of reference. The review must make one of the following recommendations.

- a) recommendation that the Parish should not be abolished and that its area should not be altered
- b) recommendation that the area of the parish should be altered
- c) recommendation that the parish should be abolished.

In deciding what recommendations to make the Council will have regard to the need to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area and that it is effective and convenient. The 2007 Act provides that it 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.

The recommendations will take account of any representations received and will be supported by evidence which demonstrates that the recommended community governance arrangements meet the criteria set out in the 2007 Act. It is possible that the Council will make a recommendation which is different to the recommendation the petitioners wished the review to make. This will particularly be the case where the recommendation is not in the interests of the wider local community, such as where giving effect to it would be likely to damage community relations by dividing communities along ethnic, religious or cultural lines.

The review will consider the information it has received in response to consultations and will also use its own knowledge of the local area.

Establishing a Community Governance Review Committee

It is recommended that the Council Meeting establish a Community Governance Review Committee comprising five members (for the period of the Review) based on the political proportionality of the Council to progress the decision of Council that the Offerton Park Parish be reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and to report back to Council Meeting with recommendations following the review.

How will the recommendations be progressed?

The Council will publish its recommendations and ensure that those who may have an interest are informed of them.

Consequential matters

Any Reorganisation Order will cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the Order. These may include:

- the transfer and management or custody of property;
- the setting of precepts for new parishes;
- provision for the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities; and
- provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.

The Council will be guided by qualifying regulations.

Future effect on electoral arrangements

Any revised electoral arrangements as a result of the review will be introduced with effect from 1 April 2011.

Publication of these terms of reference

These terms of reference were approved by the Council Meeting on 1 July, 2010

Who should I contact to make my representations or comments?

Any person wishing to make representations or comments should contact:-

Mike Iveson. Head of Committee Services. 474 3208
mike.iveson@stockport.gov.uk

Date: 2 July, 2010

Timetable for the Offerton Park Parish Council Community Governance Review

Action	Timetable	Date
Publication of Terms of Reference	Not applicable	2 July 2010 following approval by the Council Meeting on 1 July 2010
Introductory Stage – Invite initial submissions	Three weeks	5 July – 26 July, 2010
Preparation of Draft Proposals	One week	27 July – 3 August, 2010
Publication of Draft Proposals	Not applicable	Following approval by CGR Committee
Consultation on Draft Proposals	Two months	23 August – 15 October, 2010
Preparation of Final Proposals	Two weeks	18 October – 29 October, 2010
Publication of Final Proposals	One month	1 November, 2010 following approval by CGR Committee Submissions invited.
Publication of Recommendations	Not applicable	December, 2010 following approval by the Council Meeting on 2 December Submissions invited.
Publication of any Reorganisation Order following consideration by Council Meeting	Not applicable	December 2010/ January, 2011



Fact Sheet 1
2nd July 2010

Offerton Park Parish Community Governance Review



Contents

- What is the Parish Council?
- What is a Community Governance Review?
- How will the review be carried out?
- Next steps...

Why are you writing to me?

Stockport Council has received two petitions from residents of Offerton asking for the Offerton Park Parish Council to be abolished. The petitions were signed by 348 residents of Offerton Park Parish, which is around 14% of all voters living within the Parish boundary. Legally Stockport Council must act upon these petitions by conducting a 'Community Governance Review'. This Fact Sheet explains what the review is and how it will be carried out.

Separately, the Offerton Park Parish Meeting on 8 June 2010 asked that Stockport Council carry out a poll, on its behalf, of residents living within the Parish boundary. Stockport Council has agreed and the poll will take place on 8th July 2010. More information on this is attached as Fact Sheet 2.

What is the Offerton Park Parish Council?

The Offerton Park Parish Council lies within the Offerton Ward of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. It is made up of two parish wards Dial Park ward and Offerton Hall ward. The Parish Council was set up in 2002 at the request of some local residents. It is made up of ten Councillors, five from each ward, who each serve four year terms. The next elections are due to take place in May 2011.

Parish Councils can get involved in a wide range of activities, such as installing litter bins or running festivals. They also work with the 'principal council' in their area, in this case Stockport Council, to co-ordinate local services.

Parish Councils are funded through a sum of money called a 'precept'. The exact amount you pay will depend upon the type of property that you live in. As an example in 2010/11 the average Band D property in Offerton Park Parish will pay £1,626.70 in Council Tax and £66.74 is the 'precept' charge taken by the Parish Council. The Parish Council invests this money back into the local neighbourhood to improve services and facilities.

What is a Community Governance Review?

The Community Governance Review will look at the most suitable way of representing the people of the Offerton area. This means making sure that local residents and other interested groups have a say in how services are delivered in the area.

How will the review be carried out?

Stockport Council has set out the following terms for the review:

- The review will be carried out by a specially formed Committee made up of Stockport Council Councillors from all political parties.
- It will consider the whole area of the Offerton Park Parish; a map showing the Parish boundaries is included in Fact Sheet 2 (enclosed).
- A full guide to the Parish will be published to give you more information about the Parish Council and your area.
- Local people and interested parties (for example, local businesses) will be asked for their views through the Offerton Park Parish Meeting, other specially set up public meetings and via letter or email.
- All of these views will be taken into account when making a final decision about how the people of the Offerton area will be represented in the future.

What will happen as a result of the review?

Once all of your views have been taken into account, the Review Committee will recommend one of the following options:

1. That the parish should continue as it is now, with the people of Offerton Park Parish represented by both Offerton Park Parish and Stockport Ward Councillors
2. That the Parish should be altered. This could include changing the size or the responsibilities of the Parish Council.
3. That the Parish Council should be abolished.

Key Dates

On 1st July Stockport Council agreed to carry out the Community Governance Review of Offerton Park Parish Council and set out the terms of the review.

The following timetable sets out the key dates for the review which must be completed by January 2011:

July	Initial public consultation
August	Review consultation and draft proposals
23rd August – 15th October	Consultation on draft proposals
November	Final proposals published
December	Publication of the final recommendations

What happens next?

Stockport Council will write to you again when further details of the review have been finalised. We will give you more detailed information and let you know how you can get involved.

In the meantime if you have any questions or would like to give us your views about the governance arrangements in your area, you can email us on:

communitygovernancereview@stockport.gov.uk or phone the Review Team on 0161 474 3216. This information is also available on Stockport Council's website at **www.stockport.gov.uk/communitygovernancereview**.

If you would like this information in another language or format, e.g. large print, on audio tape, in Braille or on disk, please contact 0161 474 3216

Fact Sheet 2

2nd July 2010

Offerton Park Parish Poll Thursday 8th July

Why are you writing to me?

The Offerton Park Parish Meeting on 8th June 2010 asked Stockport Council to carry out a poll of residents living within the Offerton Park Parish boundary. Stockport Council has agreed to the request and this Fact Sheet will explain what the poll is and how it will be carried out.

Separate to this, Stockport Council has received two petitions from local residents asking for the Offerton Park Parish Council to be abolished. Stockport Council is legally required to act on this by carrying out a 'Community Governance Review'. More detail on the review is included in Fact Sheet 1.

What is the Parish Poll about?

The poll asks local residents to vote on the following question set out by the Parish Meeting. The question is:

*It has been proposed that the Offerton Park Parish Council is abolished.
Do you agree with that proposal?*

The poll is a way of measuring your opinion and is not legally binding.

Is the Parish Poll part of the Community Governance Review?

Although they are happening at the same time, the Parish Poll and Community Governance Review are separate processes. However the results from the poll will be taken into consideration by the Review Committee.

Am I eligible to vote in the poll?

Anyone who currently lives within the Offerton Park Parish boundary (see map overleaf) and is on the current electoral register can vote in this poll. If you are not on the current electoral register, you will be unable to vote in this Parish Poll.

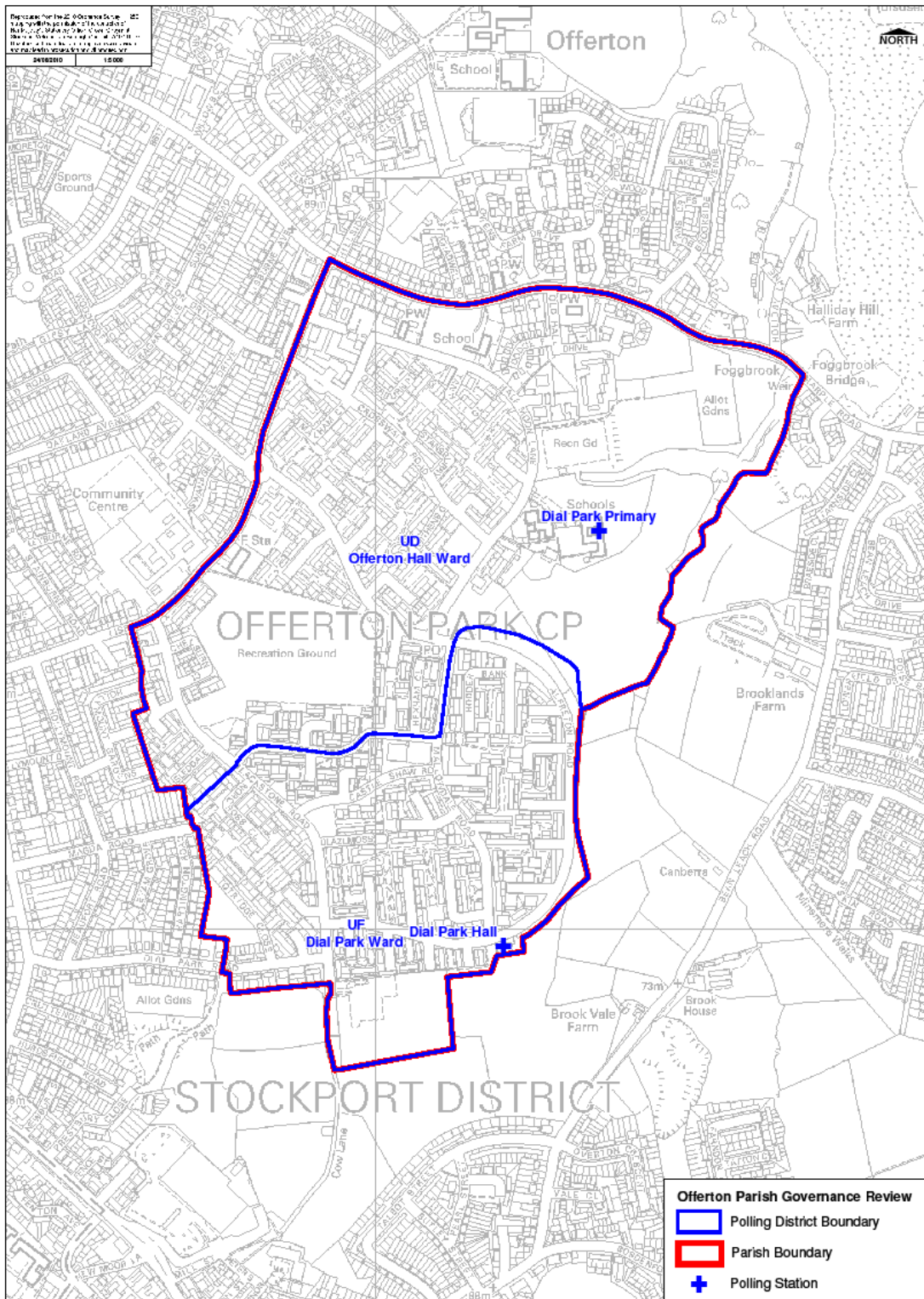
When and where can I vote?

The Parish Poll will be held between **4pm and 9pm** on **Thursday 8th July**. You do not need a poll card to vote as long as you are on the current register of electors.

The polling stations will be located at: (see map overleaf)

Offerton Hall Parish Ward	Offerton Children's Centre Community Room, at Dial Park Primary School, Half Moon Lane, Offerton, SK2 5LB	UD (polling district reference)
Dial Park Parish Ward	Dial Park Hall, Alfreton Road off Dial Park Road, Offerton, SK2 5PB	UF (polling district reference)

Map of Offerton Park Parish Council



Further Information

If you have any questions or would like any further information about the Parish Poll please contact the Elections Team at Stockport Council on 0161 217 6026 or email: elections.office@stockport.gov.uk .

If you would like this information in another language or format, e.g. large print, on audio tape, in Braille or on disk, please contact 0161 217 6026.

Fact Sheet 3
9th July 2010

Offerton Park Parish Community Governance Review



Contents

- What stage is the review at?
- How can I make an informed decision?
- How can I let you know what I think about the current situation?
- Next steps...

Why are you writing to me?

Stockport Council wrote to you last week to tell you about the start of a Community Governance Review of the Offerton Park Parish. Stockport Council must legally carry out this Review after two petitions were sent in from the community asking for the Offerton Park Parish Council to be abolished.

The Review will look at what is best to represent the views of the people of the Offerton area. This means making sure that local residents and other interested groups have a say in how services are delivered in the area.

To make sure that the outcome of the Review is the right one, we want your views. This fact sheet will tell you how you can get involved and have your say.

What stage is the review at?

The Review will run until December 2010. A full timetable can be found over the page telling you how you can get involved.

In this first stage we want you to tell us your opinions on how well you think the current arrangements for governing your area work. Are you happy with the current situation or do you want it to change? And if so how?


How can I make an informed decision?

To help you make your decision we have put together a booklet of useful information. It includes:

- General information about the Offerton area
- Information about the Offerton Park Parish Council which tells you what the Parish Council does, how it uses the money you pay into it and who serves on it.
- A section about the other governance arrangements in Offerton, such as Stockport Council's Stepping Hill Area Committee, and how you can get involved.

What is the timetable for the Review?

There are different stages to the Review which we must go through

Date	How you can get involved during the Review
 5th - 26th July	1 - Initial Consultation We want your opinions! You can tell us your views using the consultation response form or by emailing us on communitygovernancereview@stockport.gov.uk
August	2 - Draft Proposals The Committee consider your feedback and draft some proposals as to how arrangements in Offerton might look in the future.
23rd August – 15th October	3 - Second Consultation We want your views on the proposals. Keep an eye out for events in your community where we will be asking for your opinions.
November	4 - Final Recommendations The Committee look at your feedback and use it to make their final recommendations about future arrangements in Offerton.
December	5 - Final Publication The final recommendation will be published after December 2nd.

How can I let you know what I think about the current situation?

We want to know what you think! To tell us you can:

- **Fill out the response form** and send it back to us in the freepost envelope or drop it off in the box provided at Dialstone Library.
- **Use our online response form** which can be found on the Review website: www.stockport.gov.uk/communitygovernancereview
- **Write a letter** to: Community Governance Team, Democratic Services, Stockport Town Hall, Stockport, SK1 3XE.
- **Send an email** to: communitygovernancereview@stockport.gov.uk

The deadline for responses is **5pm on Monday July 26th**. Make sure you get your views to us by then so they can be taken into account.

What happens next?

Stockport Council will write to you again after the July deadline to let you know what kind of responses we have received. We will also give you more information about the next stage of the Review.

In the meantime, if you have any questions you can email us on: communitygovernancereview@stockport.gov.uk or phone the Review Team on 0161 474 3216.

This information is also available on Stockport Council's website at www.stockport.gov.uk/communitygovernancereview.

If you would like this information in another language or format, e.g. large print, on audio tape, in Braille or on disk, please contact 0161 474 3216



Community Governance Review

Offerton Park Parish

Stockport Council is carrying out a review of the way decisions are made on local issues in the Offerton Park Parish, and wants to hear your views. This process, called a *Community Governance Review*, will look at the best ways of helping you to influence decisions affecting you and represent the interests of your area. This can be done in a number of different ways, some of which are explained in more detail in this leaflet.

Why have you sent me this information pack?

This information pack is designed to help you to understand the current governance arrangements within the Offerton Park Parish and help you make an informed decision when it comes to making your views known on the future of the Parish. It also sets out some key information on who the residents of the Parish are and what kind of people live in your community.

Who is this information being sent to?

As well as residents, we are consulting businesses operating within the Parish, community groups, voluntary organisations, schools and other public services with an interest in the outcome of this Review.

What are the current arrangements?

Stockport Council is the 'principal council' for the borough. As such, it provides the main services for the Offerton Park Parish, and its role and obligations will not change whatever the outcome of this Review.

Below the level of Stockport Council, there are currently a number of forms of community governance including the Offerton Park Parish Council, the Stepping Hill Area Committee, Area Forums organised by Stockport Homes and meetings arranged by Greater Manchester Police. These are explored in further detail on pages 8-10.

The box below shows some of the responsibilities of parish councils to give you a better understanding of the current governance arrangements in the Parish.

What is a Parish Council and what is its role and responsibilities?

Town, Parish or Community Councils are the same in terms of their powers and abilities, but a Town Council can also elect a Town Mayor instead of a Chair. Offerton Park Parish has a Parish Council. A Parish Council is a democratically elected body that has the power to do a number of things, including providing allotments, bus shelters, supporting local crime prevention initiatives and local highway matters such as street lighting and maintenance of roadside verges. They can also be involved in the provision of community transport schemes, sport and recreation facilities and tourism. A Parish Council may perform all, some or none of the above functions depending on their population, size, facilities and budget. However, all Parish Councils are charged with providing a focus for representing local issues and identity and are consulted on planning applications in their area.

About the Offerton Park Parish area

Nobody knows their community better than local residents, but you might be interested to see some of the statistical information that local and national agencies use to plan services for the Offerton Park Parish.

People in the Parish

According to the 2001 Census (the most recent national survey undertaken), the number of people living in the parish is 3,762, with 1,732

males and 2,030 females. There are 1,570 households and most of the people living in the area (99%) consider themselves to be 'white'.

Households in the Parish

There are about 1,624 properties (which includes any empty properties and

buildings not used for housing) in the parish, of which 63% is social housing, with roughly 30% owner-occupied. By comparison, for Stockport as a whole approximately 14% of housing is social housing and with a further 77% owner-occupied.

The make-up of households in the Parish is set out in the table below:-

One person household - Pensioner	21%
One person household - Other	14%
One Family pensioner households	7%
One family households with no children	11%

One family households with dependent children	15%
One family households with single parent and dependent children	16%
One family households with children with no dependent children	11%
Other households	5%

48% of households had no car or van, meaning they would rely on public transport and local services, compared to Stockport as a whole where 24% of households had no car or a van.

Education in the Parish

As of May 2010 there were 678 young people of school age in the parish. 397 pupils are at primary school, 235 at secondary school, and the rest are either at nursery or special schools. 52% of the primary age pupils attend Dial Park Primary, with 18% attending St Philips Catholic Primary (both of these schools being within the Parish). Of those at secondary school 47% attend Stockport School (Mile End) while 22% attend Offerton High.

The figures for attainment in 2009 at Key Stage 2 (11 year olds) and for GCSEs are listed below:-

Key Stage 2 - 2009

There were 50 pupils

	Parish %	Stockport %	National %
English Level 4 and above	70	84	80
Mathematics Level 4 and above	60	82	79
Science Level 4 and above	82	92	88
English & Mathematics Combined Level 4 and above	54	77	72

Key Stage 4 – 2009

There were 44 pupils

	Parish	Stockport	National
	%	%	%
5 + A* - C	31.8	68.6	69.8
5 + A* - C including English & Maths	29.5	55.3	50.7
1 + A* - G	90.9	98.7	99.5

Health in the Parish

This is how local people have described their health as compared to residents elsewhere in Stockport:-

They are in...	Parish	%	Stockport %
Good health	2,215	58.9	69.2
Fairly good health	1,004	25.7	21.7
Not good health	543	14.4	9.1

Some 26.8% of residents in the parish have a 'limiting long-term illness', this is higher than the 17.7% average for the whole of Stockport.

Voting and community engagement in the Parish

Turnout at elections can help provide an insight into how well communities feel engaged in what is happening in their area. In the most recent elections held in Stockport and the Parish, **voter turnout from residents within the parish has been as follows:-**

Parish by-election (16 July 2009)

Ward	Turnout %
Offerton Hall	10.2
Dial Park	12.3

Stockport Council elections – Offerton Ward (6 May 2010)

Polling District	Turnout %
UD (Offerton Hall Ward boundaries)	46.7
UF (Dial Park Ward boundaries)	41.6

Income in the Parish

The average income level for households within the Parish is £19,694 compared to £31,034 for Stockport as a whole (this is based on 2010 figures).

£19,694

...the average household income in the Parish.

About 7% of the people in the Parish who are of working age are claiming Job Seekers Allowances.

In total, about 30% of working age people in the Parish are claiming out-of-work benefits of some kind.

Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit Claimants - May 2009

	Parish %	Stockport %
% of households claiming housing and/or Council Tax benefit	47.6	20.3

The percentage of children Aged 0-15 in a household where housing and/or Council Tax Benefit is claimed

	Parish %	Stockport %
Income Support	25.8	8.6
Job Seekers Allowance	2.4	1.3
Income Support OR Job Seekers Allowance	28.1	9.8

Why do we have a Parish Council in Offerton?

The Offerton Park Parish Council was created in 2002 following the submission of a petition from local residents to the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Stockport Council carried out a comprehensive consultation with local residents during 2001 on the idea of setting up a Parish Council to seek the views of local residents. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister examined the case for a Parish Council in Offerton, including the outcome of the consultation and made an Order to establish the Offerton Estate Parish Council. In 2006, the Parish Council changed its name to the Offerton Park Parish Council to better reflect the boundaries of the Parish which were wider than the Offerton Estate itself.

The Parish Council has now been in existence for over eight years.

About the Parish Council

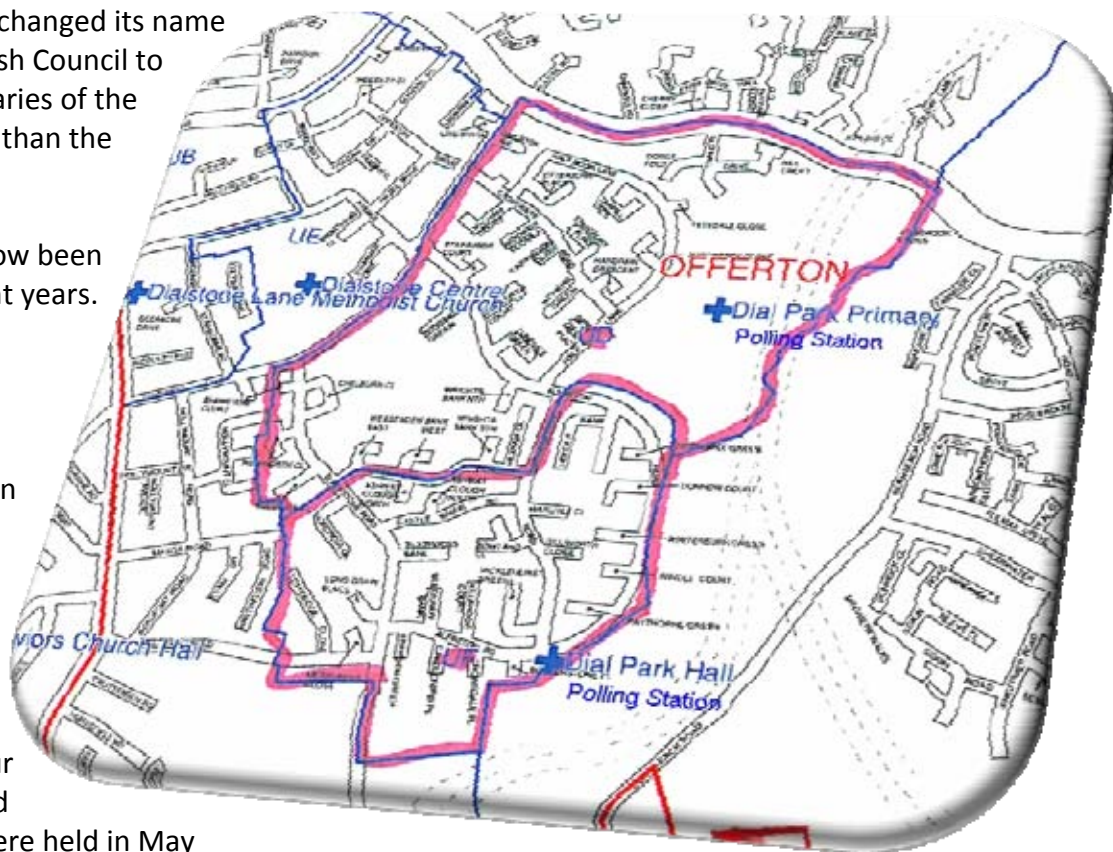
The Parish Council has ten Parish Councillors. Each councillor is elected to represent one of the two wards of the Parish Council (Dial Park and Offerton Hall) and serves for a period of four years. The last scheduled elections in the Parish were held in May 2007, with by-elections subsequently taking place in May and November 2008 and June 2009 to fill vacancies which came about following resignations from the Parish Council. The Parish Council elects a Chair from amongst its members to preside over the Parish Council for a period of one year until the next Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Parish is comprised of 1,624 properties and has a population of 3,627. A

detailed demographic breakdown of the Parish is provided on pages 4 and 5.

Elections are next scheduled to take place for the Parish Council in May 2011.

The Parish Council has its offices on Hexham Close and employs a Parish Clerk whose primary role is to ensure that the decisions and actions of the Parish Council are lawful.

More information on the role of the Parish Council can be found on page 3.



Where is the Offerton Park Parish?

The Offerton Park Parish lies within the Offerton Ward of Stockport Council, and is made up of two Parish Wards: Dial Park and Offerton Hall. A map of the Parish showing the boundaries of the two wards and its location in the context of the wider Offerton area is shown above.

How is the Parish Council funded?

Parish Councils are funded through a charge added to your Council Tax. This is known as the precept. The amount of this is something that a Parish Council has to decide for itself and will depend on what services and facilities it wants to provide. Unlike the Council Tax charged by Stockport Council, the precept cannot be 'capped' (capping is where the government places a limit on the amount of the charge or an increase in it).

For the 2010/11 financial year, the Parish Council has set a budget of £59,632. The amount that

each household will pay will depend on which Council Tax band your property falls within. For illustration, these amounts are shown below:-

£66.74

...the contribution
a Band D property
makes to the
Parish Council.

Band	Council Tax in Stockport	Council Tax for the Offerton Park Parish	Level of Precept paid to the Offerton Park Parish Council
A	£1,039.97	£1,084.46	£44.49
B	£1,213.31	£1,265.21	£51.90
C	£1,386.63	£1,445.95	£59.32
D	£1,559.96	£1,626.70	£66.74
E	£1,906.61	£1,988.18	£91.57
F	£2,253.28	£2,349.68	£96.40
G	£2,599.93	£2,711.16	£111.23
H	£3,119.92	£3,253.39	£133.47

The average Band D property within the Parish will therefore pay a total of £1,626.70, with £66.74 of that amount being paid to the Offerton Park Parish Council.

What do other Parish Councils charge?

All parish council's are unique and have their own set of priorities and challenges. There will therefore be great variation in the level of the precept charged by each parish council and the amount charged will depend on the services that each parish council provides.

While there are no other parish councils within Stockport, there are fifteen parish councils within the Greater Manchester area and a further two nearby in Cheshire East. **The level of precept charged by each is shown in the table opposite:-**

Parish	Band D Precept
Blackrod Parish Council	£21.26
Carrington Parish Council	-
Disley Parish Council	£38.23
Dunham Massey Parish Council	-
Haigh Parish Council	£11.89
Horwich Town Council	£29.86
Mossley Town Council	£7.30
Partington Parish Council	£42.50
Poynton with Worth Parish Council	£38.46
Ringway Parish Council	-
Saddleworth Parish Council	£17.90
Shaw & Crompton Parish Council	£14.54
Shevington Parish Council	£33.69
Warburton Parish Council	-
Westhoughton Town Council	£16.98
Worthington Parish Council	-

Who else represents my views in the Parish?

The Parish is within the Offerton Ward of Stockport Council which elects three councillors, each for a four year term (these are in addition to the ten Parish Councillors elected separately).

Stockport Council provides most of the local services in the area, such as bin and recycling collection, park maintenance, schools, road maintenance, social services. The Council has an 'Executive' model of decision making where most of the major decisions are taken by the ten Executive Councillors, who sit together in the Executive (like a cabinet). There are various other Committees that are consulted on certain matters, make decisions on local issues or have specific responsibility for dealing with planning or licensing applications. There are also a number of forums which specifically represent the interests of the Offerton area:-

There are a number of ways you can get involved in your community from attending your area committee and contributing to the development of new initiatives for local residents.

Stepping Hill Area Committee

The Area Committee is the main locally focussed decision making body of Stockport Council, and includes the Councillors for the Wards of Hazel Grove, Stepping Hill and Offerton. The Area Committee meets every month at Stockport Town Hall at 6pm.

At every meeting there is the opportunity for the public to ask questions of the Committee. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team attend these meetings to answer questions, as does the local Area Conditions officer to talk about issues around littering, recycling, waste collection, fly tipping and graffiti. The Area Committee also make decisions on some planning applications, local traffic schemes and highway works. There is also a small pot of money available to the Area Committee to make grants to local community groups for projects in the area.

Offerton Ward Committee

In 2008 Stockport Council set up Ward Committees for the three wards that make up the Stepping Hill Area Committee. The Offerton Ward Committee was one of these. Meeting bi-monthly in the ward, these meetings are an opportunity to meet with ward Councillors, as well as the local policing team, to discuss issues affecting the Ward. The meetings are less formal than the Area Committee because they do not have formal decisions to take and represent a smaller area.

Other Stockport Council Committees

All the main decision-making bodies of the Council, such as the Executive, Council Meeting, Planning & Highways Committee, Licensing Committee etc., are open to the public. These all take place at the Town Hall and start at 6pm and all provide an opportunity for the public to submit questions in advance of the start of the meeting.

Stockport Homes East Area Forum

Area Forums are held three times a year and provide a valuable opportunity for you to find out what is happening in your area. They allow tenants to influence how money will be spent on estate improvements, ask questions of local housing staff and find out how Stockport Homes are performing. These meetings take place at various locations within the East District Housing area.

Greater Manchester Police

As well as attending the Stepping Hill Area Committee and the Offerton Ward Committees, the East Area Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) regularly hold meetings and surgeries in the communities they serve. These are advertised on their website and on posters in the local area.

The Police also carry out 'Street a Week' consultation with residents, knocking on doors and asking people what they think are the problems in the area.

Stockport LINK

The LINK is a network of many groups and individuals across the Stockport community to give them a stronger voice on health and social care issues through regular consultation with the community and service users, as well as working with the NHS Trusts and the Council on developing and improving services. Anyone can join the LINK and there are regular elections to the Core Group that oversees the work of the LINK.

Tenants' Federation

The Federation is made up of representatives from the Tenant and Resident Associations (TRAs) across Stockport and co-opted members from areas without TRAs. They work in partnership with Stockport Homes and Stockport Council to improve life for tenants and leaseholders and meet once a month.

There are currently no Tenants or Residents Associations operating in the Offerton area, although Stockport Homes will offer support to any residents who wish to set one up.

Offerton Estate Community Empowerment

This initiative is being funded by Manchester & District Housing Association, which owns 300 of the 1,600 properties in the neighbourhood,

working with local grant maker, 'The Community Foundation for Greater Manchester' in order to develop and train a panel of local people who will make decisions on grant bids received from local grass roots voluntary and community groups who are working to improve and enhance the lives of local residents. The opportunity to get involved is open to all residents of the Offerton Estate, regardless of who their landlord is.

Stockport Impact

The aim of IMPACT is to improve the health of local communities by offering funding to groups to start up health projects/activities. Every area of Stockport is part of an Impact group and each area has its own budget. Impact has funded lots of activities/projects in Stockport including allotment projects, equipment for scouts & brownies groups, sports equipment for youth groups, healthy eating courses, tai chi groups, falls prevention courses for the over 60's and many more. Impact also arranges various one off activities for you to get involved such as first aid and self defence.

You don't have to attend formal meetings in order to become more involved in your area.

Every three months, each area has an open public meeting, which gives local residents the chance to say what health activities they would like to happen in their area.

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

Local people are represented on the Board of Governors of the Foundation Trust that runs Stepping Hill Hospital. Anyone in the borough is able to become a member of the Trust and stand for election as one of the four representatives for the 'Stepping Hill Area' on the Trust Board.

Connecting Communities

This project, funded by the Government, is to reinvigorate and connect communities to ensure they are well placed to emerge stronger and more cohesive. The project is run by the Council, Stockport Homes and other housing providers, NHS

Stockport, the Police and the Parish Council, as well as other community groups. As part of this there is ongoing consultation, including public meetings and focus groups, and the **'You Say We Pay' events** – asking residents directly about how money is spent in the area. Residents were invited to vote on various schemes to improve the wellbeing of the area put forward by local community groups, who could gain up to £1000 in funding. There has been one such event in March 2010 with another due to take place on 24 July 2010. An action plan will be developed to help local groups better engage with the community and to show where extra help will be needed to do this.

So, what do you think?

We now need to know what you think should happen in the Offerton Park Parish. We have included a brief questionnaire with this leaflet which you can complete and return in the enclosed **FREEPOST** envelope.

Alternatively, you can email us your views at communitygovernancereview@stockport.gov.uk, submit your views online at www.stockport.gov.uk/communitygovernancereview or write to us at Community Governance Review, Democratic Services, Stockport Council, Town Hall, Stockport, SK1 3XE.

Whichever way you choose to submit your views, please ensure they are with us no later than Monday, 26 July 2010.

CONSULTATION PROGRAMME**Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy)****MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

Proposed consultation programme for the Offerton Park Parish Community Governance Review.

INFORMATION

There are four stages of consultation during the timeframe of the Community Governance Review. The feedback received during these consultation periods will be directly taken into consideration when compiling the draft and final proposals. The proposed consultation programme outlined in this report, includes a draft approach to delivering effective consultation which involves all key stakeholders in Review.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to agree:

- The proposed consultation programme.
- To receiving updates on the development of the consultation programme and feedback received through consultation events.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Holly Rae on telephone number 0161 474 3014 or alternatively email holly.rae@stockport.gov.uk

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The purpose of the Community Governance Review is to determine the most suitable way of representing the people of the Offerton area. This means making sure that local residents and other interested groups have a say in how services are delivered in the area. The Review will involve seeking the views of local residents, businesses, community groups, local agencies (such as the Police and housing providers) in the area about what they feel about the local governance arrangements.
- 1.2 The timetable for the Review has been compiled in line with latest guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Within the timeframe of the Review, there are four stages of consultation; these are outlined in detail in section five. The feedback received during these consultation periods (in particular the first and second stages) will be directly taken into consideration when compiling the draft and final proposals. As such ensuring that effective consideration of the approach to consultation will be key in delivering the Community Governance Review.
- 1.3 Outlined below is the proposed consultation programme for the Review. The detail to this approach will be developed as further information becomes available.

2.0 Objective of the Consultation

- 2.1 The key objectives of the consultation are to:
- Enable active involvement in and understanding of the Community Governance Review
 - Inform the development of the draft and final governance proposals
 - Ultimately, the objective of the consultation is to ensure the outcome of the Review reflects the views of the majority of Offerton Park Parish residents.

3.0 Communication

- 3.1 Successful consultation will be dependent upon effective communication of key information. An outline of the key communication areas is listed below. The Review team are working closely with Marketing and Communications Unit to develop an effective communication approach.
- The reasons for launching a Community Governance Review
 - The timescale and process for the Review
 - The parameters of the Review
 - What are the options for residents and key stakeholders
 - What are the implications of changes to governance arrangements
 - How stakeholders can get involved in the consultation
 - What are the current governance arrangements in the area

4.0 Stakeholders

4.1 Stakeholders will include (but will not be limited to):

- Offerton Park Parish residents
- Business owners
- Ward Councillors
- Offerton Park Parish Council
- Community groups
- Local public agencies (e.g. Police and housing providers)
- Interest groups
- Other

5.0 Consultation Technique / Activity

5.1 Communication about the Community Governance Review will be delivered by the following resources:

- Dedicated email address:
(communitygovernancereview@stockport.gov.uk)
- Fax
- Post
- Phone (0161 474 3216)
- Exhibits (i.e. posters) in public places – libraries, Council administration and consultation locations.
- Press releases
- Fact Sheets sent to all residents of the Parish at key consultation dates.
- Accessibility support (e.g. translation, Braille, audio tape, large print)

5.2 In addition, below is a specific schedule of activities which will be employed as part of the consultation process:

Consultation Activity	Timing
Introductory Stage – Invite initial submissions (stage 1)	5th – 26th July
<u>Purpose:</u> Submissions / responses received at stage 1 will be taken into consideration when draft proposals are drawn up.	(3 weeks)
Circulate stage 1 consultation response form to all residents and businesses in Offerton Park Parish. Form will be sent alongside; letter, fact sheet and information booklet to support respondents' decision making.	9 th July
Put in place a 'drop box' in Dialstone Library to allow response forms to be completed or returned by hand.	9 th July
Launch online form for responses to allow for electronic capturing of feedback.	9 th July

Consultation on draft proposals	23rd August – 15th October
<u>Purpose:</u> Stakeholders will be asked to feedback on the draft proposals during this 9-week consultation period. This information will be taken into consideration to inform the final proposals.	(9 weeks)
Circulate draft proposals consultation response form to all residents and businesses in Offerton Park Parish. Form will be sent alongside; letter, fact sheet and information booklet to support respondents' decision making.	
Put in place a 'drop box' in Dialstone Library to allow response forms to be completed or returned by hand (as per stage 1).	
Activate online form for responses to allow for electronic capturing of feedback.	
Events (such as forums, meet and greet sessions) will be held with stakeholders. It is expected three, independently facilitated, forums will be held.	
Publication of Final Proposals	1st November
Submissions invited	
Publication of Recommendations	3rd December
Submissions invited	

6.0 Key issues to be considered

6.1 The key issues to be considered as part of the consultation exercise are stakeholders accessibility to and understanding of information, as well as their ability to engage with the Council and feed into consultation (both at events and through other formats e.g. response forms). Ensuring these key areas are taken into consideration will ensure a robust consultation exercise in which all stakeholders have the opportunity to get involved and influence the final proposals.

All events will be fully accessible and follow the guidance in the Council's Consultation Handbook., including;

- Accessibility to forum events (e.g. wheelchair access, hearing loops,
- Accessibility to written information (e.g. understanding and readability of written correspondence)
- Impartiality of forum facilitators
- Ease of attending consultation events (e.g. timing of events – morning /afternoon /evening)

6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of the final recommendations will be conducted, it is intended that these key issues and the guidance outlined in the Council's Consultation Handbook will be addressed through this process.