

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD  
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW RESPONSES**

**LOCAL RESIDENTS**

**Response 1**

Dear Sirs,

The remit for the Governance Review should include the neighbouring parished communities such as Eton that could be economically advantaged/disadvantaged by the formation of a new Town Council in Windsor and to establish whether the neighbouring parished communities could be absorbed into that new council.

.....

**Response 2**

Dear Sirs

I wanted to respond to you about the governance review that is taking place on the Windsor Town Council. I strongly support this as a resident in central Windsor – and support the formation of this council in the whole of the unpaid area of Windsor. Also I would say that the governance review process is too long and a new council should be initiated by May 2022 at the latest.

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**Response 3**

I would like to register my support for the formation of a town council in Windsor, I have lived here for over 40 years and have seen power slipping away from Windsor residents over the years.

We are a historical town and must be allowed to govern the future regarding the development to retain the character of this beautiful place as well as providing good services for all residents.

I would hope that the council could be in place in the next 2 years.

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**Response 4**

Dear Sirs

I would like to share my view on the fact that I believe Windsor needs its own town council – for the whole of Windsor

Also I would like to state that I feel 2023 is too long away and would urge you to consider 2022 for election of local councillors

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## **Response 5**

I enthusiastically support the proposal to establish a Windsor Town Council (WTC) to bring decision-making on some issues closer to the people of the town. I resent the fact to decisions about Windsor are taken in Maidenhead and that the majority of councillors on the RBWM Council represent Maidenhead wards. Windsor has little in common with Maidenhead, I can't even remember the last time I ever went there, it was certainly very many years ago.

While a WTC will have limited powers it will nevertheless provide a 'voice' for Windsorians which should carry weight with the RBWM.

Like many others in The Boltons area we are very unhappy to have been placed in the Old Windsor ward - again an area with which we have little in common when we feel ourselves to be part of Windsor itself. The establishment of a Windsor Town Council will help overcome this feeling of double isolation.

In answer to your specific questions -

There is a very strong appetite in the community for a WTC.

Very clearly Windsor town has a sense of community identity I myself am a member of The Windsor and Eton Society, a Patron of the Windsor Festival and am involved in many other community activities in the town.

Those driving the proposal for a WTC have a very clear plan which I fully support.

The WTC should have wards to reflect the various - sometimes quite small - communities within the town.

Finally, I understand it has been suggested that the first elections might take place in 2023 (!). I see no good reason for such a lengthy delay. With goodwill and efficiency such elections could be held in May 2021, or at the very latest May 2022.

I hope these comments are helpful.

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## **Response 6**

Dear Sir,

As a long term resident of Windsor (35 years) I would like you to take into consideration my views regarding the formation of a Windsor Town Council: -

1. I am wholly behind the idea of a Windsor Town Council and I feel that it will bring a number of areas into "local control". In addition, it will enable many more local residents to engage with their Local Authority.
2. The current proposed timescales for implementation of a Windsor Town Council by elections in May 2023 are far too protracted and need to be significantly reduced. I don't underestimate the work that will be required to establish the requirements, governance and interfaces that will be required for the formation of this council.

However, with a willingness on all sides and some hard work by the Windsor residents I'm sure that a date for elections in May 2022 could be achieved.

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**Response 7**

I am writing in support the formation of the Windsor Town Council in the whole of the unparished area.

The governance review process is too long and a new council should be initiated by May 2022 at the latest.

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**Response 8**

We attended the Windsor town council forum online this week and wish to add our support for this proposal.

Please could RBWM leaders explain why it would take so long to move this forward? If there is support at all review stages in 2021, why does it then take 12-18mths to move to complete in July 2023?

Please also advise whether existing Windsor Councillors offer their support for the Town Council proposal or whether they have an imminent alternative plan for Windsor town centre. What is proposed as it stands to promote our wonderful town centre whilst remaining fully under RBWM management? What is the alternative plan without a Town council? We are prepared to hear the case but would like to know what that involves.

What is the current planned budgetary spend on Windsor town 2020/21?

We would appreciate your feedback on these important areas as residents consider the Town Council option as a very viable alternative

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**Response 9**

Dear Sir / Madam,

As a Windsor and Bolton Avenue resident for the last 40 years, I wish to confirm that I support the formation of the Windsor Town Council, in the whole of the unparished area.

I am also concerned that the governance process is far too long and a new council should be initiated by the end of May 2022, at the very latest.

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**Response 10**

Hi there

I support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development.

.....  
**Response 11**

Dear RBWM staff,

We write to support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development.

.....  
**Response 12**

Dear sir or madam,

I support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development

.....  
**Response 13**

Hello

I live on St Leonard’s Hill and am writing to support the formation of a Windsor Town Council by May 2021 to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development.

.....  
**Response 14**

Dear sirs. I want to express my support for a Windsor town council to be in place by May 2021.

I support the formation of this town council to protect our assets including our open spaces.

The process of forming a town council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development.

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**Response 15**

To whom it may concern

I fully support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from overdevelopment and to address other shortcomings affecting the town in line with town council parameters.

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**Response 16**

I support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development.

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**Response 17**

I, [REDACTED] would like Windsor to have its own town council, preferably starting as soon in 2021 as possible.

I would also like acknowledgment of this communication.

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**Response 18**

I support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development.

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**Response 19**

Dear Sir / Madam

**Windsor Town Council Governance Submission**

1) What is the appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor? Is a parish council needed or desired?

My view is that yes there is an appetite for the creation of a Windsor Town Council as demonstrated by the collection of signatures to the petition and conversations on the doorstep. Localised decision making will enable scarce resources to be targeted to where they are most needed and will benefit the town, bringing a sense of pride and belonging to us all.

Being a Coordinated & Strong Voice for Windsor (Planning, WLC, Bins, Car Parking, Anti Social Behaviour, etc).

An enabler of Local Projects (creating play areas, dog areas, disabled bay parking, improving the local area with flower planting, creating wildflower meadows, extra litter bins etc)

Promoting Civic Pride & Community Engagement (Guild, Volunteering, Festivals, Social Events, Memorial Events, Fund Raising)

Ensuring robust Governance & Democracy - (giving local neighbourhoods a Democratic voice, accounting for precept and spending, responding to Consultations, creation of Citizen Assemblies (based on areas of interest i.e. environmentalism)

2) Is there a sense of community identity in the review area and should this community be represented by its own parish council?

My view - West Windsor residents consider ourselves as Windsorians and decisions made in the town centre affect all of us. It would be unnecessarily divisive and inefficient to split the town into two or more competing parishes

3) How could a new parish council take shape?

My view - A single Windsor Town Council representing resident interests across the whole unparished area, to enable a more localised approach to decision making in the town.

4) Should a new parish council be warded to reflect the communities that exist in the review area? If so, how should these boundaries be drawn?

My view - Windsor has a number of distinct communities which could be equally represented in a Town Council through warded areas, for example the Laing Estate could deliver two representatives to the town council.

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**Response 20**

I support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development.

This town council should be in place by Summer 2021.

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**Response 21**

I have been looking at various discussions about Windsor having a Parish Council. Having only lived in Windsor for 4 years it amazes me that such a diverse and high

profile area does not have a Parish Council. As a rtd Salvation Army minister I have lived and worked in many communities. It is the people who are the essence of a community. They understand the area and are the face and heartbeat of the community, not the commercial institutions or Castle and Court. Governance should be by the local people, with the people. I hv watched the Dedworth community reach out to its neighbours thru Covid. Councillors, health professionals, Police and locals have worked together based at All Saints Church where the West Windsor Hub was established. They could teach RBWM community and the value of all accountability. Centralisation is not a good thing. I hope you can point these thoughts in the right direction. Thank you.

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**Response 22**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am strongly in favour or creating a new town council for Windsor. Windsor is a unique community, with different challenges and opportunities than other parts of the Borough and deserves a focus to address the needs of the community. I believe a parish council will help engage the local community into the development of the community

Windsorians are a distinct group of residents, often longstanding, use the facilities of the town and demonstrate a sense of pride in their town and community. Giving this group a bigger I say in how the town develops is important to grow local democracy.

I believe the parish council should be warded to reflect the different communities and they should be drawn to represent Windsor unlike the existing matching up of Bolton Avenue into Old Windsor. Consulting the residents on how this would work is important and I think there are distinct groups and areas which would make this straightforward.

Combining the Boltons, Nightingale Walk, Bolton Avenue, up Vanistaart Road bounded by the football ground makes some sense to me.

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**Response 23**

Hello,

I wish to register my support for a Windsor Town Council. I feel that much of RBWM is 'Maidenhead-centric', and Windsor would be better served by having its own body. I live in Datchet.

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**Response 24**

I fully support the proposal for a Windsor Town Council

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**Response 25**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you as a resident of Windsor SL4 3DZ and feel strongly that there is a strong appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor as it will benefit all in the town.

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**Response 26**

To whom it may concern,

I would like to see a Town Council in Windsor to improve democratic representation, give local people a voice on local matters, to harness volunteer energy and goodwill, to ensure the rates precept collected in Windsor is spent in Windsor, to be able to plan for Windsor as a whole and to enable local influence on decisions made for Windsor.

This would bring Windsor into line with the rest of the Borough and enable the Boltons area to have its own local ward representation.

Thank you for taking my wishes into consideration.

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**Response 27**

Hello,

We would like to see a Town Council in Windsor to enable the taxes raised locally are spent locally and fairly. And to give local people a voice on local matters in a democratically represented manner.

Sincerely,

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**Response 28**

To whom it may concern....

I want to see a Town Council in Windsor to improve democratic representation : to give local people a voice on local matters: to harness volunteer energy and goodwill: to ensure the rates precept collected in Windsor is spent in Windsor: to be able to plan for Windsor as a whole: to enable local influence on decisions made for Windsor and to also bring Windsor into line with the rest of the Borough.

Thank you

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**Response 29**

Dear RBWM team,

As part of the current RBWM community governance review Stage 1 Consultation I would like to express my support for the formation of a Windsor Town Council.

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**Response 30**

If this means councillors will be paid the usual £6000++ we do not need a Parish Council. We have too many councillors earning too much money from our taxes. Windsor & Maidenhead works reasonably well as it is. However giving the bin contract to Serco is a disgrace, remember The Olympic and Test and Trace disaster

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**Response 31**

Comments in support of a Windsor Town Council.

Windsor residents would like a say on local issues.  
Our rates to support what happens in Windsor. Residents to have a say.  
To prevent feeling overwhelmed by Maidenhead issues.  
Local groups such, as residents' associations, would like to have some influence in what goes on in their Ward.

With thanks.

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**Response 32**

Dear Sir,

My reply with answers and comments to your letter regarding Community Governance Review

- 1) Town Council is essential.
- 2) There is a sense of community in Windsor.
- 3) The Council should shape with its own elected council members to decide.
- 4) The Council should reflect all the people of Windsor. I personally do not think there's a necessity for the council to be warded to reflex communities in Windsor. The lifestyle of Windsor residents do not vary great deal.

I must point out Windsor is a very special Town with the Windsor Castle and Her majesty Queen being a resident.

Windsor is a tourist town, with needs accordingly.  
I been living in Windsor over 35 years. The big difference during this period is the buildings of extra large buildings that do not bend with the existing character and environment. If we had Windsor Town Council, local Councillors would have been more sensitive.

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**Response 33**

**REF: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL**

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed Windsor Town Council terms of reference.

**Stage 1 Consultation (July - October 2020)**

1. What is the appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor? Is a parish council needed or desired?
2. Is there a sense of community identity in the review area and should this community be represented by its own parish council?
3. How could a new parish council take shape?
4. Should a new parish council be warded to reflect the communities that exist in the review area? If so, how should these boundaries be drawn?

Yours sincerely



**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

**1. What is the appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor? Is a parish council needed or desired?**

Comment 1

Formation of a Town Council

Democracy works well when devolved to, and acted on, at the lowest level nearest the community.

However, formation of a Town Council should not be used as an excuse to increase or duplicate the democratic or financial overhead.

In principle, I am supportive of the proposal to form a Windsor Town Council.

**2. Is there a sense of community identity in the review area and should this community be represented by its own parish council?**

Comment 2

Yes.

### Comment 3

The following community groups, amongst many others, are active in the review area.

- Windsor Town Forum
- Windsor 2030
- Windsor Neighbourhood Plan

One community group is a registered charity.

- The Windsor and Eton Society, incorporating Windsor Heritage.

One residents association is a registered political party.

- West Windsor Residents Association

A number of residents associations operate in the review area.

Volunteers from the town, borough, and further afield are active in Windsor community groups. As well as the community groups already mentioned, the following groups operate in the Windsor area.

- RBWM Ambassadors (since the London 2012 Olympics)
- Street Angels
- Ceremonial Wardens
- Windsor Foodshare
- Windsor Homeless Project

### **3. How could a new parish council take shape?**

The Terms of Reference note that the proposal is “2.1 ... limited to the “unparished parts of Windsor located in and around the town centre and this specified area will form the scope of the review. The unparished parts of Windsor comprise twelve polling districts spanning the wards of Clewer & Dedworth East, Clewer & Dedworth West, Clewer East, Eton & Castle and Old Windsor.”

Noted.

### Comment 4

Polling Districts

The polling districts reflect the natural boundaries of developed Windsor town and part of the Windsor Great Park.

### Comment 5

Polling Districts

The last boundary commission changes split the Boltons from Windsor into Old Windsor, creating a disconnect of community governance.

I hope that creation of a Town Council will improve the perceived democratic governance of the area.

#### Comment 6

##### Terms of Reference

The 'Guidance on Community Governance reviews (March 2010)' 1, from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England indicates that the Terms of Reference should be wider than the current proposal. I refer to paragraphs from this document in later comments.

#### Comment 7

##### Number of Councillors

The consultation should include developing options for the proposed number of councillors to be elected for parish wards. (Paragraph 165 1.)

#### **4. Should a new parish council be warded to reflect the communities that exist in the review area? If so, how should these boundaries be drawn?**

#### Comment 8

##### Future Size of the Electorate

The review should include data on the future size of the electorate, as early as possible.

(Paragraphs 170 and 171 1.)

#### Comment 9

##### Councillors and seats

In principle, I am supportive of the proposal to ensure that the number of councillors is representative across electors and wards.

#### Comment 10

##### Councillors and seats

Although there is a legal minimum of five councillors, the numbers should be enough to be able to operate effectively and efficiently, without becoming an overly large talking shop that is ineffective.

The consultation should include options for the proposed number of councillors to be elected for parish wards. (Paragraph 165 1).

#### Comment 11

##### Wards and electorate

The ward structure in Windsor (ToR Appendix 1) shows five wards, and twelve polling districts. Four of the wards have similar electorate numbers (ToR Table 1) approximately 4,500 to 5,500, and Old Windsor ward has just 1,714. The polling districts are quite variable in number of electors, from 89 to 3,319.

- Option 1 – Unwarded
  - There are widely varying numbers of electors in each of the polling districts.
  - This option is not attractive for a representative Town Council.
  
- Option 2- Warded
  - With the limited information available, option 2, following the five existing wards would appear to be the most appropriate approach.

## Comment 12

### Councillors and Seats

For a Parish Council electorate of 23,000, an appropriate number of councillors could be between 13 and 31. (Paragraph 154 1).

My preferred option is to aim for a lower number, perhaps nine or thirteen.

- Seats: Option 1
  - Two councilors per large ward (8)
  - One councilor for the small ward (1)
  - Making for nine seats
  
- Seats: Option 2
  - Three councilors per large ward (12)
  - One councilor for the small ward (1)
  - Making for thirteen seats

A larger number would risk becoming a talking shop.

## **5. Other Parish Council shaping comments**

### Comment 13

#### Political Composition of the Working Group

“... will comprise 5 elected members (3 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Local Independent) and will meet periodically as required to consider the representations received at the end of each stage of consultation. The Working Group will decide upon the content of the Draft and Final Recommendations put forward to Full Council in July 2021 for consideration.”

Noted.

### Comment 14

## Indicative budget

Analysis of the ToR data 4, using the high and low precept values, indicates the approximate budget could range from £350,000 to £1,125,000?

The consultation should consider whether all of the Town Council budget is transferred from the RBWM budget to the Parish. Or the precept is an incremental charge, in part or whole.

As a delegation of powers, the Town Council should not duplicate effort nor employ extra manpower. In other words, the result of this consultation should not be an excuse to incur extra costs, such as employing a Town Clerk or paying councillor allowances, that are simply passed on as an increased council tax.

## Comment 15

### Proposed Responsibilities (appendix 5)

The long list of potential responsibilities of a Town Council should be limited to those important to the local community. The formation of a Town Council should not be an excuse to create a talking shop, nor create additional overheads or duplication of those responsibilities retained by the Borough.

### Planning

After careful consideration, the one single purpose of a town Council that stands out is 'planning'. I.e. to follow-on from the work of the Windsor Neighbourhood Plan. As the Plan goes to referendum in 2021, the current team will have completed its' purpose in developing the Plan.

The new Town Council should be the forum to consider the planning applications for the Town. To assess applications against the approved Plan, adopted Borough-Wide Design Guide, Borough Local Plan, and make representations to the RBWM planning decision process as to their suitability.

## Comment 16

### Timetable

Noted. The end date for elections concurs with the published community governance review guidance.

## Comment 17

### Parish Charter

The ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD CHARTER WITH PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS. The consultation should include a requirement to follow the charter outline and principles and engage with the formal review that is due in April 2021.

## Comment 18

[www.windsortowncouncil.uk](http://www.windsortowncouncil.uk)

The windsortowncouncil.uk group have lobbied residents with flyers, looking for support for a Town Council. Their flyer suggests a number of ambitions and areas of that could fall either inside or outside the legal responsibilities of a Town Council.

However, their public zoom meeting on 1st October made very individualistic contributions, with no practical proposals nor roadmap for a Town Council.

### **6. Consultation**

We look forward to engagement from CGRWG, with further information about the strategy, organization and details of the proposed Town Council.

## Comment 19

Community engagement

The working group should be advised to engage with the local community and groups to seek ideas and options, and validation of the stage 2 proposals.

### **7. References and analysis**

1. [https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/10387/communitygovernance-review-guidance.pdf](https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/10387/communitygovernance-review-guidance.pdf)

Section 2: Undertaking community governance reviews

Undertaking community governance reviews

35. Principal councils must consider the wider picture of community governance in carrying out their reviews. In some areas there may be well established forms of community governance such as local residents' associations, or community forums which local people have set up and which help make a distinct contribution to the community. Some principal councils may also have set up area committees which perform a specific role in the local community.

36. In undertaking a review, section 93(5) requires principal councils to take these bodies into account. Potentially, as representatives of their community, these bodies may be considered as foundations for or stages towards the creation of democratically elected parishes (further information about other non-parish forms of community governance can be found in Chapter 4).

Section 5: Electoral arrangements

Council size

154. In practice, there is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population. Research by the Aston Business School Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO, 1992), found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between 5 and 8 councillors; those between 501 and 2,500 had 6 to 12 councillors; and those between 2,501 and 10,000 had 9 to 16 councillors. Most parish councils with a population of between 10,001 and 20,000 had between 13 and 27 councillors, while almost all councils representing a population of over 20,000 had between 13 and 31 councillors.

#### Parish warding

158. Parish warding should be considered as part of a community governance review. Parish warding is the division of a parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors. This includes the number and boundaries of any wards, the number of councillors to be elected for any ward and the names of wards. The number of councillors to be elected for parish wards.

165. If a principal council decides that a parish should be warded, it should give consideration to the levels of representation between each ward. That is to say, the number of councillors to be elected from each ward and the number of electors they represent.

#### Electorate forecasts

170. When considering the electoral arrangements for a parish, whether it is warded or not, the principal council must also consider any change in the number or distribution of the electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts. The most recent electoral register should be used to gain an accurate figure for the existing electorate. Planning assumptions and likely growth within the area, based on planning permissions granted, local plans or, where they are in place, local development frameworks should be used to project an accurate five year electorate forecast. This ensures that the review does not simply reflect a single moment but takes account of expected population movements in the short- to medium-term.

171. Electorate forecasts should be made available to all interested parties as early as possible in the review process, ideally before the formal commencement of the review so that they are available to all who may wish to make representations.

2. <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/councillors-andmps/parish-and-town-councils-charter>

3. <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/elections-andvoting/election-results/borough-elections-2019-ward>

#### 4. Analysis of ToR data

Parish	Budget	Precept	Household	Seats	Councillor	Electorate	Councillor
	2020/21	2020/21			Budget	Estimate	Electorate
Shottesbrooke	Nil	Nil					
Sunninghill & Ascot	£ 201,690	£ 31.00	6,506	16	£ 12,606	13,012	813
Waltham St Lawrence	£ 24,500	£ 36.07	679	7	£ 3,500	1,358	194
Hurley	£ 38,351	£ 38.11	1,006	10	£ 3,835	2,013	201
Bray	£ 171,460	£ 38.97	4,400	15	£ 11,431	8,800	587
Wraysbury	£ 84,800	£ 39.65	2,139	11	£ 7,709	4,277	389
Cookham	£ 123,973	£ 41.86	2,962	15	£ 8,265	5,923	395
Bisham	£ 31,139	£ 42.07	740	6	£ 5,190	1,480	247
Cox	£ 150,341	£ 49.33	3,048	15	£ 10,023	6,095	406
Eton	£ 94,647	£ 52.02	1,819	14	£ 6,761	3,639	260
Sunningdale	£ 192,379	£ 55.51	3,466	10	£ 19,238	6,931	693
Datchet	£ 142,818	£ 63.70	2,242	15	£ 9,521	4,484	299
Old Windsor	£ 160,500	£ 66.78	2,403	13	£ 12,346	4,807	370
Horton	£ 33,556	£ 72.67	462	9	£ 3,728	924	103
White Waltham	£ 126,687	£ 99.74	1,270	8	£ 15,836	2,540	318
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,576,841</b>	<b>£ 47.58</b>	<b>33,142</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>£ 9,615</b>	<b>66,284</b>	<b>404</b>
<b>Windsor estimate</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Precept</b>	<b>Household Estimate</b>			<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Seats</b>
Mean	£ 535,088	£ 47.58	11,247			22,493	56
Low	£ 348,642	£ 31.00					
High	£1,121,726	£ 99.74					

5. Analysis of Potential Town Council Responsibilities

Function	Powers & Duties	Consultation Comments and Suggested TC Responsibilities		
		Yes	No	Optional
1. Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers to provide allotments.</li> <li>• Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied and if reasonable to do so</li> </ul>		No. Windsor Allotments and Home Gardens provide allotments.	
2. Borrowing money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power for councils to borrow money for their statutory functions or for the prudent management of their financial affairs</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
3. Baths (public)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide public swimming baths</li> </ul>		No. The Windsor leisure centre is managed by a separate organisation.	
4. Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to acquire and maintain</li> <li>• Power to provide</li> <li>• Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries</li> </ul>		No. There is no obvious necessity.	
5. Bus Shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide and maintain shelters</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
6. Byelaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to make byelaws for:</li> <li>• Places of public recreation</li> <li>• Cycle parks</li> <li>• Public swimming baths</li> <li>• Open spaces and burial grounds</li> <li>• Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
7. Charities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duties in respect of parochial charities</li> </ul>		No.	

Function	Powers & Duties	Consultation Comments and Suggested TC Responsibilities		
		Yes	No	Optional
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to act as charity trustees</li> </ul>		I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
8. Clocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide public clocks</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
9. Closed Churchyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers to maintain</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
10. Commons and common pastures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers in relation to Inclosure, regulation, management and provision of common pasture</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
11. Conference facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
12. Community centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives</li> <li>• Power to acquire, provide and furnish community buildings for public meetings and assemblies</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
13. Crime prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to spend money on crime detection and prevention measures</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
14. Ditches and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to drain and maintain ponds and</li> </ul>		No.	

Function	Powers & Duties	Consultation Comments and Suggested TC Responsibilities		
		Yes	No	Optional
ponds	ditches to prevent harm to public health		I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
15. Entertainment and the arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of entertainment and support of the arts</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
16. Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti and offences under dog control orders</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
17. General Power of Competence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power for an eligible council to do anything subject to statutory prohibitions, restrictions and limitations which include those in place before or after the introduction of the general Power of competence</li> </ul>	Yes. Subject to governance.		
18. Gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to accept</li> </ul>	Yes. Subject to governance.		
19. Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridle-ways.</li> <li>Power to light roads and public places</li> <li>Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motor-cycles.</li> <li>Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening.</li> <li>Power to provide roadside seats and shelters.</li> <li>Power to consent to a local highway authority stopping maintenance of a highway or stopping up/ diverting a highway</li> <li>Power to complain to district council about</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	

Function	Powers & Duties	Consultation Comments and Suggested TC Responsibilities		
		Yes	No	Optional
	<p>the protection of rights of way and roadside waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to plant trees and shrubs and to maintain roadside verges</li> </ul>			
20. Honorary titles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to admit to be honorary freemen/ freewomen of the council's area persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
21. Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to participate in schemes of collective investment</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
22. Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of</li> <li>Power to accept gifts of land</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
23. Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of bins</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
24. Lotteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powers to promote</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
25. Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to establish or acquire by agreement markets within the council's area and provide a market place and market buildings</li> </ul>		No. I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
26. Mortuaries and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powers to provide mortuaries and post-</li> </ul>	.	No.	

Function	Powers & Duties	Consultation Comments and Suggested TC Responsibilities		
		Yes	No	Optional
post-mortem rooms	mortem rooms		I am struggling to see a sensible purpose for creating an extra TC layer.	
27. Neighbourhood planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers to act as lead body for a neighbourhood development plan or a neighbourhood development order.</li> </ul>	Yes. This is perhaps the most important responsibility.		
28. Newsletters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide information relating to matters affecting local government</li> </ul>			
29. Nuisances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to deal with offensive ditches</li> <li>• Power to acquire and maintain land for open spaces</li> </ul>		No.	
30. Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation</li> </ul>			Maybe This needs discussion
31. Parish Property and documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers to receive and retain</li> <li>• Duty to deposit certain published works in specific deposit libraries</li> </ul>		No.	
32. Public buildings and village hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to acquire and provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies</li> </ul>		No.	
33. Public Conveniences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide</li> </ul>		No.	
34. Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to provide a wide range of recreational facilities</li> <li>• Provision of boating pools</li> </ul>		No.	
35. Right to challenge services that are provided by a principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right to submit an interest in running a service provided by a district, county or unitary authority.</li> </ul>			Maybe This needs discussion.

Function	Powers & Duties	Consultation Comments and Suggested TC Responsibilities		
		Yes	No	Optional
authority				
36. Right to nominate and bid for assets of community value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right to nominate assets to be added to a list of assets of community value and the right to bid to buy a listed asset when it comes up for sale</li> </ul>	Yes. This makes sense that the local community can be engaged.		
37. Town and Country Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to be notified of planning applications if right has been requested</li> </ul>	Yes. This is perhaps the most important responsibility.		
38. Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to encourage tourism to the council's area</li> </ul>			Maybe This needs discussion.
39. Traffic Calming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes</li> </ul>		No.	
40. Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powers to spend money on community transport schemes</li> </ul>			Maybe This needs discussion.
41. War memorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to maintain, repairs, protect and adapt war memorials</li> </ul>		No.	
42. Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to utilise wells, springs or streams for obtaining water</li> </ul>		No.	
43. Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power for councils to have their own websites</li> </ul>	Yes.		
Ref: Wiltshire Parish List	<a href="https://www.wiltshire-alc.org.uk/attachments/article/107/Powers%20and%20duties%20of%20local%20councils.pdf">https://www.wiltshire-alc.org.uk/attachments/article/107/Powers%20and%20duties%20of%20local%20councils.pdf</a>			
44. Car Sharing Scheme.	Power to establish and maintain, or to assist others, in car sharing scheme for benefit of persons in council's area			Maybe This needs discussion.
45. Chairman's Allowance	Power to pay the chairman reasonable allowance		No.	
46. Change of use	Power to use land by a parish council for another		No.	

Function	Powers & Duties	Consultation Comments and Suggested TC Responsibilities		
		Yes	No	Optional
of land	purpose other than what it was acquired for			
47. Citizen's Advice Bureau	Power to assist bodies such as CABs in advising individuals and by making or receiving communications or by providing representation to or before any body or person in asserting an individual's rights or obligations	Yes This needs discussion.		
48. Education	Right to appoint school governors		No.	
49. Investigation and publicity	Power to investigate the need for public passenger transport; the use and need for roads; the management and control of traffic		No.	
50. Staff	Power to appoint staff under reasonable terms and conditions		No.	
51. Subscriptions to County ALC, NALC and other associations	Power to subscribe to local government associations			Maybe This needs discussion.

End

### **Response 34**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm in favour of a Windsor Council and completely divorce ourselves from Maidenhead. I feel like we are the poor cousins.

If Eton, Ascot and any other local community wants to join us are welcome.

It's quite obvious Maidenhead are taking a larger proportion of the revenue than they deserve. Can understand that one year they are up and the following year down. All I see is from Maidenhead is Take, Take, Take. I wonder how the Councilor's sleep at night.

I remember that school in Holyport received all the money that should have been distributed to all Communities.

The tip was taken away from Tinker's Lane in Windsor putting more expense on East Bouough residents to travel to Maidenhead, a cost in time and pollution.

The Ring Road in Maidenhead between the A308 and A4, a good idea and relieved traffic congestion on Castle Hill roundabout. How many years have Windsor been complaining about the congestion along Imperial Road with traffic going to Legoland and the Council have not addressed it. Many suggestions were put forward but no action taken. Even Legoland paid £100,000 for alterations to the traffic light system in St. Leonard's Road over 3 weekends as a temporary alternative to see how it worked. It was a good idea but caused chaos because the Council never advertised it not even to the Bus Company, how deplorable is that?

The problem has been there in Imperial Road since the Safari Park was there.

A good alternative was to divert the traffic along the A308 then build a road across country coming out the other side of Legoland at the Winkfield roundabout on the way to Ascot. Problem solved. As they say "There's none so blind .... ..".

What about the problem with the bus stop in the lower end of Peascod Street. We had a good service with the No. 2 going into Oxford Road and out along William

Street. But a Councilor who owned the gentleman's outfitters had it changed. Now we have to 'Duck and Dive' between Charles Street and Victoria Street. Selfish or what?

Then the hassle with Bridgewater Terrace when the threat of the Windsor Link Railway made the properties unsellable. The Council could have put a stop to that.

Squires Garden Center and Madina Dairy in Shirley Avenue (Vale Road) still no progress on redevelopment and housing after all these years. We need affordable housing and more importantly social housing for our youngster's. Once again the Planning Department under Jane Jackson won't allow building. How incentative is that?

I don't know what goes on with Shanlies Builders in Maidenhead but we all know they receive all the big building contracts but then they are very generous to Maidenhead.

It would be nice to be able to pop into either town and or go to a bank and park for free. The Council save a penny and lose a pound.

I expect many others will be able to see how we in Windsor are the 'Poor Cousins'.

You have my permission to print my response but not my name please.

.....

**Response 35**

I think it is ridiculous to create a new town council for Windsor, it just means more people arguing over the same old things.

All they have been going on about is the "precept" that isn't being used but swallowed up by the whole borough, why can't the ward councillors use their part of this "precept" to help their own wards?

Also, from what I have seen so far, the town council will be made up mainly of people who are part of the West Windsor Residents Association which means that they are going to be biased from the outset.

Based on what I have seen on social media, certain people should really NOT be allowed to be on a town council if they can behave in such a way to other residents of their town.

.....

**Response 36**

Hi

I support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to enhance our local democracy and protect all our assets including our open spaces. I also believe that the process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting those assets referred to above from over development.

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### **Response 37**

You asked for views about electoral representation in Windsor:-

I have concerns that Windsor is rapidly becoming viewed locally as a suburb of Maidenhead. Visiting the town hall or the local tip from Windsor is a major outing and difficult to achieve without your own transport. In some parts of the UK even towns separated by the width of a river have their own town councils. So in my view a Windsor Town Council is essential to allow local people's views to be properly represented. We are proud of our town - we need greater opportunities to express our views..

The most heavily populated area of Windsor lacks Parish Councils which are the first step in allowing people to represent their views. The Parish Councils which do exist should be encouraged to be more open about their activities. Current circumstances discourage attendance to express views on local matters personally and opportunities to contribute electronically in Old Windsor have to be registered more than a month in advance. Minutes are not available until two months after the meeting because the PC insist they must to approved before being published. Providing they are clearly marked DRAFT there is no reason why they can't be published as soon as they are prepared. Equally they should be reasonably comprehensive. Minutes such as "the Chairman reported to the Council on matters of current business" are not helpful or informative.

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### **Response 38**

Dear Sirs

I have known Windsor for 40 years. It breaks my heart to see the deterioration of its buildings, quality of shops and social problems. My friends no longer shop there, preferring Bracknell.

Windsor feels sleazy and run down. I have twice reported seeing drug exchanges in broad daylight. There is still a rough sleeper problem. I resorted at one point to writing to a member of the Royal family to explain my frustrations and how badly this reflects on the castle.

Having tried to speak to a person in the council responsible for the upkeep of the town he told me he would get back to me as he was busy putting up the Christmas lights but never did. I did not take the matter further because the system for reporting problems or complaints is too impersonal and complicated.

Essentially, the council based in Maidenhead is far too remote from what is happening in Windsor. There has never been a greater need for a group of people to monitor Windsor more closely and act on it's behalf. Their task is to rescue a run down town and they will need immense support, especially given the challenges of Covid and increase in shopping by internet.

Last January I tore a ligament on a broken paving stone in Windsor. I began to realise as I walked around that it is in such appalling state it could have happened anywhere. I've finally stopped going into Windsor after it was announced the Advantage Card parking facilities were no longer available. Without doubt this kept the life of the town going and was much appreciated by local people. Is it really worth jeopardising the final heartbeat of a town for the sake of some extra income?

I suggest a new group of people look to other towns to see and share ideas as to why they are successful - for example Winchester, in how it looks after the upkeep of its old buildings, Witney where free parking is plentiful and keeps the place vibrant, Camberley where projects are thoughtful and of high quality.

Currently, the best part of Windsor is along by the old fire station and newly built Windsor college. It has a distinct community spirit and sense that local people care.

Finally, I miss the beautiful department stores of Windsor - Caley's was amazing and Fenwicks with its memorable open evenings. Right now I can only buy the expensive Clarins skincare range I use in Boots - and that's not a good enough shopping experience to make my going into Windsor worthwhile.

I hope my comments are helpful and taken into account. I would appreciate an acknowledgement of this e mail.

.....

**Response 39**

To whom it may concern,

With reference to the proposal for a Windsor Town Parish council we are very much in favour for the following reasons.

We would like to see a local representation to voice our own opinion on local matters and to ensure the rates collected in Windsor are spent in Windsor so as to make our own decisions.

It is not right that other boroughs have Town Councillors and not us.

Time has come for us as residents to have our say. We, living in the Bolton area need our own ward representation.

.....

**Response 40**

Here are my views

1. Windsor needs a town council now to cover all wards currently un-parished. It is undemocratic for Windsor Residents not to have the same level of scrutiny enjoyed by other parts of the Borough.

2. The new town council needs to include the whole of un-parished Windsor.

3. The period of Consultation is far too long; the target should be to hold elections earlier and certainly not later than May 2022. This isn't rocket science!

4. The town forum should be retained in the short term as a backstop to cover items which initially might be outside the remit of a Town Council but the long term aim should be for the new Town Council to work up a strategy for Windsor which reflects its unique place in the UK as well as the wishes of the people who live in the whole town. The people of Windsor should not have decisions made about their town by people who live in Maidenhead, Ascot etc

.....

**Response 41**

Dear Sir/Madam;

I am writing to express my support for the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces.

The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets, particularly from inappropriate or over development.

.....

**Response 42**

Dear sir/madam,

This is a wonderful idea. I would like to offer my support wherever I can, in my limited capacity.

I had no idea that Windsor didn't have a Town Council, I suppose I just assumed that it was there and beavering away in the background, without me realising.

Congratulations on recognising this need and working so hard to get in place, the systems that should always have been there, to support the local people.

I myself am not a native Windsorian, I come from a little village outside Ely. We always had our parish Council in the Village, Ely Town Council, and Cambridge District Council (formerly we also had East Cambs District Council) to represent us at every level.

It has surprised me that the same is not in place here and I've lived here for 16 years now.

I wish you every luck in your endeavors. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help.

.....

**Response 43**

We wish to express our support for the establishment of a Windsor Town Council. Windsor has a historically based identity which is at risk of being submerged in the Royal Borough, as presently constituted, since Maidenhead is a larger entity with its own character. In addition, there are questions which would be better regulated locally rather than by decisions made by persons outside our immediate area. After all, we are not even in the same parliamentary constituency.

Even matters which would remain the legal responsibility of the Royal Borough Council would benefit from a formal comment by a locally elected body, in analogy to the representations which can be made by local parish councils.

.....

**Response 44**

As a town centre resident I support proposals for a Windsor Town Council to better represent and to meet the needs of our distinct area and to improve the accountability of our local government.

I believe a lower tier of representation will help Windsor to thrive for residents, businesses and visitors.

I recognise that this is likely to mean an increase in my council tax to cover the additional administrative costs.

As a member of the Windsor Town Centre Business Neighbourhood Plan (Windsor2030) I hope that a future Windsor Town Council maintains and delivers the vision of both the Windsor NPs, acknowledging that for Windsor to thrive our businesses need to be supported to thrive as well.

Thank you for taking my opinion into account.

.....

**Response 45**

Good afternoon. Hope you are keeping well.

I took a call this afternoon from a resident that would like to make a representation to be considered by the consultation to establish a town Council for Windsor.

██████████ would like to make the representation that she believes that Windsor should have it's own town council to take account view of residents.

Windsor residents should have a greater say on what happens in Windsor and there should be representatives who can take account specifically of the views of Windsor residents and be accountable for any decisions that affect Windsor primarily.

.....

## **Response 46**

Dear Sirs

My name is [REDACTED]

I am a member of the Windsor Town Council (Proposed) Steering Committee and an advocate of widening Local Democratic Franchises.

***The views expressed here are my own views as a Resident and may not reflect the agreed views of The Windsor Town Council (Proposed) Steering Committee.***

### **1) *What is the appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor? Is a parish council needed or desired?***

I first came to hear of a proposal to establish a Windsor Town Council in 2019 and endeavoured to find out what the implications of this proposal might be.

The first thing I discovered was that I was paying an Unparished Precept on top of my Council Tax and I had no idea what this was for, how it was administered or who decided what should be the level of Precept.

This jarred with me because I do not believe that there should be Taxation without Representation.

I further discovered that almost every other area of RBWM has Democratic Representation in the form of a Parish or Town Council to administer their Parish Precept, and I could not find a logical reason as to why I was being denied access to that Tier of Democracy simply based on my Postcode.

Upon further investigation, I found that the way our Unparished Precept was calculated offered no granularity or insight as to whether the Precept levied bore any relationship to the activities (Usually performed by a Parish/Town Council) being carried out in the Unparished Area of Windsor.

This could mean that the Precept may be too high, or maybe even too low.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the Unparished Precept appears to cover activities in both Windsor and Maidenhead and the apportionment of cost is done on headcount rather than actual cost of Delivery to a particular area.

There remains a question mark about whether one Unparished Area is subsidising another.

Furthermore no account appears to be taken of Revenues raised from assets that might normally be associated to a Parish/Town Council.

I am a firm believer in the concept that a Precept levied for a Geographic area should be:

- based entirely on the Granular activity and services provided in that area

- ringfenced for exclusive use in that Geographic Area
- offset by the revenues raised from defined and accountable assets associated to that Geographic Area

Furthermore I believe that having a Democratically Elected body in the form of a Parish/Town Council would open up opportunities to take advantage of Grants/Community Infrastructure Levies for exclusive use in the Geographic area and decisions on where and how that money is spent would be done by Locally elected people from within that that Parish/Town Council

Currently our Democratic Representation in our Unparished area consists of having Borough Ward Representatives who cover large areas with very little resource. A Parish/Town Council would give residents the opportunity to be represented in their local neighbourhood and feedback issues and concerns in a coordinated manner to Borough Councillors where competences fell to the Borough Councillor, and to have issues that were associated to the competences of the Parish/Town Council resolved in a more timely manner.

When I surveyed my local street, Residents were almost unanimously unaware that:

- They were being charged a Parish Precept
- Who decided at what level the Precept should be set
- Who Decided upon what the Precept should be spent
- No Local Democratic process existed for administering their Precept
- Where they could find granular and detailed information on how their precept was audited and accounted
- Their Unparished Precept was not ringfenced for use in the Windsor Unparished Wards

**2) *Is there a sense of community identity in the review area and should this community be represented by its own parish council?***

Yes there is a sense of Community Identity in the review area, this area is clearly defined as Windsor both to people who live here and to people from just outside the area, regionally and nationally. There is a clear Windsor identity recognised by local sports and civic groups, residents and tourists alike.

Major Tourist attractions describe themselves equally as Windsor no matter what part of the Town they are located, for Example Legoland Windsor, Windsor Racecourse and Windsor Castle. People from Windsor participate in events and competitions as Windsor Football Club, Windsor Rugby Club, Windsor Cricket Club etc drawing participants and spectators from all parts of Windsor.

**3) *How could a new parish council take shape?***

I envisage a Windsor Town Council taking shape and evolving over time. Initially I expect a Windsor Town Council to take on basic competences such as care of

Green Spaces, Street Lighting, Pathways, Cemeteries, Street Furniture, Allotments etc, however I expect these competences to expand and be subject to a Devolution arrangement with RBWM on a case by case basis where a business case can be made for improving the services delivered as per the needs and requirements of local residents.

I think it is important to recognise the distinct possibility that RBWM may (in time) be forced to amalgamate with other Local Authorities to achieve economies of scale for Statutory Service provision, and that Non Statutory Services could be better delivered by a Local Town Council.

This would create a clear distinction between Services that are funded by Central Government and discretionary services that should be directly funded by discreet and local taxation.

**4) Should a new parish council be warded to reflect the communities that exist in the review area? If so, how should these boundaries be drawn?**

I believe that a new Parish/Town Council should be warded to represent genuine natural local neighbourhoods with 2 Parish/Town Councillors per Ward.

I do not believe it is necessary to have equal populations within Wards however it would be very useful to create of equal Wards based on the amount of Precept raised in each ward. This would ensure a fairness in the Ratio of Taxation to Representation.

I would also like for a Referendum to be held prior to the establishment of a Parish/Town Council to ensure that there is Democratic Mandate.

I would like for it to be noted that these are my own personal views as a Resident and do not necessarily reflect the agreed view of the Windsor Town Council (Proposed) Steering Committee.

.....

**Response 47**

I fully support the proposed formation of a Windsor Town Council

.....

**Response 48**

Dear Sir/Madam

I support the formation of a Windsor Town Council to protect all our assets including our open spaces. The process for forming a council is too long and should be implemented much sooner by May 2021 to increase its effectiveness at protecting these assets from over development.

.....

## **Response 49**

Hi There

I am emailing my support for the creation of a Windsor Town Council. I think there is a vibrant community in the whole of Windsor full of compassion and an interest in coming together for the good of everyone that would be greatly enhanced by a Parish council to facilitate it and harness it all together. Decisions regarding our town should be made at a local level by residents who fully understand the implications of the impact they will make. Wards and ward representation would be a helpful way of doing this and giving everyone a voice and a representative who they know and can speak to.

Living in the 'Boltons' which was shamefully reallocated as a ward to Old Windsor without any consultation, I felt disenfranchised and feel that a Town Council would give me back my positive sense of belonging to Windsor.

I would like to see this implemented as soon as possible as there is energy and zeal to progress it and ideally by 2022

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## **Response 50**

Dear Sir / Madam

### **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW ~ WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL**

#### **Stage 1 Consultation**

This is my response to the Borough's invitation for an expression of views on the following:

1. What is the appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor? Is a parish council needed or desired?
  - a. Support for creating a new Town Council has been demonstrated by the number of signatures that appeared on the e-petition and the written petition. It is understood that the total number of signatures comfortably exceeds the 7.5% threshold, 1661 electors, set by the Council for considering this matter.
  - b. The public meetings that were held before the Covid lockdown, to discuss the proposal, attracted keen interest and support.
  - c. The need for a Town Council was recognised by those who have been involved in the preparation of the Windsor Neighbourhood Plan. Subsequent custodianship of the WNP is best undertaken by a Windsor Town Council, whose councillors are focussed on the local needs and opinions.
  - d. The need is further endorsed by local Ward Councillors, who have voiced support for the benefits that should accrue from partnership working with Town Councillors.

2. Is there a sense of community identity in the review area and should this community be represented by its own parish council?

- a. The review area embraces the compact urban area of town of Windsor, plus those rural areas of the Great Park that historically have been part of the electoral wards that are part of the town.
- b. The sense of identity is demonstrated by the active participation of local residents in many activities that are based in Windsor.

Residents' associations include the West Windsor Association, the Ward Royal Association, the Boltons' Association and others who actively engage with local matters.

Sporting activities, interest groups like the art clubs, the allotments and gardeners' association, the U3A and the churches participate in the life of the town and demonstrate the presence of community identity.

Parents provide much support to local schools and reside in different parts of the town.

Charitable work is undertaken by voluntary groups.

All of these activities involve local people working together for a common good that benefits the town and its residents

This was further demonstrated by the participation of residents from all parts of the town in the preparation of the Windsor Local Plan.

- c. This sense of community exists despite the potential impact of the trunk road from Junction 6 of the M4, running south past Legoland. This can create a 'them and us' attitude to certain local issues, even though these matters affect the entire Windsor population.
- d. The fact is that more residents live west of the trunk road than on the east side - 57% compared with 43%. Subsequent residential development west of the trunk road, particularly of apartments / flats, will have increased the residential population in the west side of the town.
- e. A Windsor Town Council has the potential to further draw residents together, to identify, discuss, address and resolve local issues.

[https://web.archive.org/web/20110927062450/http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/public/elections\\_ppr\\_polling\\_stations\\_list.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20110927062450/http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/public/elections_ppr_polling_stations_list.pdf)

The Working Group that has been assembled to promote this proposal wishes to ensure that Councillors focus on local issues that concern the town.

3. How could a new parish council take shape?

- a. The Borough would recognise that the Windsor Town Council working party has a key role to play in setting up the Town Council.
- b. The Borough would discuss and agree with the working party the way forward for the Town Council to become reality.
- c. A constitution for the new Town Council would be produced and approved by the Borough.

- d. Terms of reference, timetable and roles / responsibilities for the start-up period would be discussed and agreed.
  - e. Start up funding would be identified and provided.
  - f. Key delivery items and dates for the start-up process would be identified and assigned to those involved.
  - g. Windsor residents would duly be informed of the creation of the new Town Council, its role and how it functions.
  - h. Residents would be invited to stand for election as parish councillors  
The Town Council would then assume its duties.
4. Should a new parish council be warded to reflect the communities that exist in the review area? If so, how should these boundaries be drawn?
- a. The parish council should be warded and the boundaries should mirror those of the Borough council.
  - b. Those areas of the town that have been assigned to Old Windsor for Borough elections should be assigned wards in the new parish council elections.
  - c. This will ensure that residents readily understand and are able to identify with the ward boundaries.
  - d. The number of parish councillors should be allocated on the basis of one per 1,500 residents or such lower figure as is typical of other parished districts in the Borough.

It is estimated that 1 per 1500 residents would deliver 15 Parish Councillors, which should be a viable group that is able to work together to manage the matters that would be the Town Council's responsibility.

.....

**Response 51**

... RBNW's well establish'd historic names are utilised for identity's continuity purposes:

Castle, Park, and the Clewer trio ...!

... My as-proposed electoral arrangements, with cllr (member) details are:

- \* 5-cllr = Castle: wEC1, wOW3, & wEC2;
  - \* 2-cllr = Park: wCDE3, & wOW4;
  - \* 5-cllr = Clewer East: wCE1, wCE2, & wCE3;
  - \* 4-cllr = Clewer North: wCDW1, & wCDE1;
  - \* 4-cllr = Clewer South: wCDW3, & wCDE2;
- ... Total 20 (twenty) member CP's council ...!

... Trinity - commonly known as the-cavalry garrison church - is former Clewer Within's revised name since ... Expansion Act 1920.

... RBNW's lineage is hung-on-panels in the Vestible of the Guildhall in High Street, SL4.

... New Windsor's establish'd names - before current interegnum - must be retain'd as they would afford continuity roots: a new town up-stream of a Saxon village on Ham Island in the river, Thames.

.....

**Response 52**

We feel this would be a positive move forward to encourage more of an identity in Windsor and encourage community spirit, it currently feels like we live in a 'no man's land' situation.

To clarify items that affect solely Windsor can be 'highjacked' by other councillors who have their own agendas.

.....

**Response 53**

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

**RE: Governance review Response - Windsor Town Council**

You have asked four questions relating to the possible creation of a Windsor Town Council which I **SUPPORT**.

**There are at least fourteen cogent reasons for setting up a town council for Windsor, viz:**

✓ Until 1974, Windsor had its own town council, based in the Guildhall, purpose built in the 17th century as focus for town pride and dignity. Since 1974's abolition, Windsor has drifted, without voice of its own, in an era of great and increasing changes. It looked to its councillors in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), but RBWM has its own dynamics and agenda wider than Windsor's. Apathy has set in; as shown by the lack of engagement in the Windsor Town Forum.

✓ The lack of a town council means Windsor loses out on grants or schemes open to town or parish councils only, a focused body will unashamedly advocate the interests of our community.

✓ The cost of a town council is bugbear to many; but it would be 70p a week or less for most council tax payers. The ability to precept provides a relative stability of income (again supporting long-term planning) and a means of raising funds from the community for reinvestment in the community for communal benefit. The ambition is for the town council to seek other revenue streams to help bolster public finances.

✓ Windsor is not free of precept at present. It is taxed for “special expenses”, its amenities such as the leisure centre exist, but the town has no say in the matter.

✓ Windsor is not a prototype for town or parish councils in RBWM. Fifteen other villages or towns already have one. They do not regard this as waste of money, or as unwanted extra bureaucracy. Why is Windsor to be different? It is time to bring the town in line with the rest of the borough.

✓ Since the 2011 Localism Act over 170 new Town Councils have been created. Parish and town councils have more powers and rights these days under present Government policy.

✓ The wider population of Windsor want a Town Council, the petition which collated over 2000 signatures represents the whole town, whilst businesses are also supportive.

✓ The Windsor Town Council will work alongside RBWM, providing additionality to services and ensuring targeted local provision.

✓ Town councils exist at a scale that reflects people’s patterns of social interaction and their identification with place. They can therefore act to facilitate community activities, organise and sponsor community events and promote community spirit and inclusiveness.

✓ Town councils play a vital role in supporting local clubs and organisations. The opportunity exists to donate grants to community groups, sports clubs, charities and other voluntary sector organisations each year – funds that are not available in communities without councils.

✓ There is approximately one Borough councillor for every 2500 residents. With greater local engagement, community and town councils can be more responsive than higher tier authorities to community needs and interests, and to the diversity of interests and needs within a community.

✓ The authority of town councils comes from their electoral mandate. Unlike the officers of non-statutory community associations, town councillors are accountable to the local electorate and may be removed at election time. Furthermore, they are accountable to the whole community, not to a paid-up membership, and therefore have an incentive to engage with and represent all sectors of the community, not just those most predisposed to join local societies

✓ Participation as a community or town councillor more substantially engages an individual in public service in local government than participation in a non-statutory community association. Community and town councils can provide a ‘training ground’ for individuals who may subsequently progress to serve as county or county borough councillors, or to stand for higher political office.

✓ The statutory constitution of community and town councils gives them a relative security of existence. Unlike non-statutory community associations, they are not dependent on recruiting members or securing a continuity of funding from grant-making bodies. This means that community and town councils can plan on a longer-term basis and have more capacity to take on larger-scale projects.

### **1) What is the appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor? Is a new parish council needed or desired?**

- 1.1 – A Windsor Town Council will enable greater representation of local views and provide opportunities for greater participation in the democratic process.
- 1.2 – Mobilising and co-ordinating the community in action is a driver of the town council project, when speaking to community groups they are seeking a more localised and harmonised approach to support their work.
- 1.3 - A local Town Council will enable community projects, promote local issues and make for healthier democratic process.
- 1.4 - Our local borough councillors have identified a significant increase in their caseload and consequently have asked for a layer of Government which brings representation to the people whilst enabling borough councillors to focus on the strategic improvements across the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.
- 1.5 - A Windsor Town Council will bring additionality to RBWM services, supporting the borough in delivering its strategic objectives.
- 1.8 – The online and paper petition generated interest with over 2000 signatures both online and on paper, with the whole community energised to support

### **2) Is there a sense of community identity in the review area and should this community be represented by its own parish council?**

- 2.1 - Windsor is one town and one community.
- 2.2 - Dividing the parishes would be inefficient and lead to division in the town, this MUST be avoided.
- 2.3 - The creation of a Town Council would strengthen this cohesion and bring further benefit to the residents of the town

### **3) How could a Windsor Town Council take shape?**

- 3.1 – A co-ordinator of community action to co-ordinate the efforts of community groups which would make them firstly more efficient and would enable greater representation of their views, bring democracy to the local level.
- 3.2 - Planning applications would be considered by the Town Council, enabling local and community groups to voice their opinion, ensuring a more co-ordinated community response to developments.

### **4) Should a Windsor Town Council be warded?**

- 4.1 - There are many different communities within Windsor who all deserve representation. These wards should be equally weighted in terms of seats at the table regardless of size of electorate. Prioritising community identity over electorate parity will ensure all communities have the ability to participate in local decisions.
- 4.2 - The anomaly in West Windsor concerning the area between the West of the Willows Path and Oakley Green Road needs addressing as part of this review, especially in light of the proposed developments in AL21.

4.3 - The recent boundary review provided more problems than it solved with the Bolton's now considered a part of Old Windsor in terms of RBWM representation, this would need addressing as part of the process.

I look forward to the next stage of the process, to bring greater representation to the people of Windsor in a timely and efficient manner, bringing the town in line with the rest of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and to support the primary authority in delivering local services to local people.