

REPORT AND UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- In September 2016, the JPC requested SDC to carry out a Community Governance Review to dissolve the Grouping Order to create a Joint Parish Council for the parishes of Beaudesert & Henley in Arden.
- This would mean the election of new Councillors to establish one new parish council with two parish wards; Henley in Arden Ward (7 Cllrs) and Beaudesert Ward (5 Cllrs). The two wards would maintain local circumstances and connection, separate representations and two electoral rolls. There would be one Parish Assembly. The new council would, at its first meeting, resolve to adopt the status of town council.
- At the JPC Meeting in October 2016, I reported that SDC had advised that their Audit and Standards Committee had agreed to recommend to a full Council Cabinet meeting on 24 October 2016 that a Community Governance Review be commenced with final recommendations being put to a full Cabinet meeting on 27 Feb 2017.
- At the JPC Meeting in November 2016, following discussions with David Dalby, Democratic Services Manager at SDC, I was advised that SDC had confirmed that members of the JPC would have to stand down and seek re-election in 2017 for the adoption of town status to proceed.
- I also mentioned that if the JPC made representations to SDC at that time, it would be possible to postpone the introduction of town status until the current term of office ends for Councillors in 2019.
- Following discussions, it was agreed that the JPC postpone looking into the feasibility of Henley gaining town status claiming it would have a financial impact on both the parishes of Beaudesert & Henley in Arden by potentially having to hold two elections in a relatively short period of time, one in 2017 and another in 2019.
- With the possibility of two elections in a short space of time and the necessity to fill twelve positions for councillor with all that would ensue, it was agreed to postpone requesting SDC to carry out a Community Governance Review immediately and review the situation in the Summer of 2018, with the view that the JPC could request SDC to commence the process at that time.