

Community Governance Review – Stage 2.

Progress so far

Stage 1

During the first stage consultation period which ran from 3 March 2014 to 2 June 2014 the council invited local residents, businesses and other interested parties to submit their views on who should represent them locally in Margate. These were the options available. <link>

Submissions, views and comments were made to the council during the initial consultation period.

Stage 2

The Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party considered a report outlining the consultation responses at its meeting on 3 July 2014. A copy of the report can be accessed here <link>. Recommendations were put forward and it was agreed that the following proposal be taken forward to the next stage of public consultation.

Proposal for the future governance arrangements for Margate.

A division of the existing unparished area into two separate Parishes; a Town Council which will serve the wards of Cliftonville East, Cliftonville West, Dane Valley, Garlinge, Margate Central, Salmestone and Westbrook and will be known as Margate Town Council. Ward boundaries will remain unchanged and 17 Town Councillors will be elected; a Parish Council which will serve only the ward of Westgate-on-sea and will be known as Westgate Parish Council. The ward boundary for Westgate-on-sea will remain unchanged and 10 Parish Councillors will be elected.

Elections to the proposed Margate Town Council and Westgate-on-sea Parish Council will be held on 7 May 2015 alongside the scheduled local elections.

The boundaries of the two proposed Parish/Town Councils can be seen on this map.<link>

Suggested cost to each resident (precept) for the new Town/Parish Councils:

Margate Town Council	Band D equivalent	£ (see annex 3)
Westgate-on-sea	Band D equivalent	£ (see annex 3)

For additional information, precept details for existing Parish/Town Councils in Thanet and the Margate Charter Trustees can be viewed here <link>

Parish/Town Councils are the most local tier of local government in England with specific powers and budgets for which they are democratically accountable. They provide a range of services which vary between one parish council and another but may include community centres, police community support officers, youth clubs, maintenance of public open spaces, children's play area equipment, community events, environmental projects such as

landscaping, tree planting, seats and bins, as well as being consulted on local planning applications.

Powers and duties available to Parish/Town Councils <link>

Parish/Town Councils pay for these services by collecting a payment (precept) from their residents each year in addition to the Council Tax charged by the District Council.

An important part of this review <link> will be to think about the governance/electoral arrangements that may happen as a result of any changes to the current arrangement for local governance in Margate (the Margate Charter Trustees <link>). This includes the way in which a Parish Council is created and includes:

- the ordinary year in which elections are held;
- the number of councillors to be elected to the Parish/Town Council;
- the division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
- the boundaries of those wards;
- the number of councillors to be elected to the wards;
- the names of the wards;
- the potential cost to the residents of the proposed Parish.

If a new Parish/Town Council is created, Parish/Town Councillors will need to be elected and they will decide the services to be delivered and the exact cost (precept) to be charged to each Parish/Town resident in addition to their Council Tax.

A key part of this review is to give residents, businesses and interested organisations an opportunity to give us their views on the proposal for two new Parish/Town Councils for the currently unparished area of Margate and to potentially get more involved in the delivery of services.

Respond to the consultation

Two public meetings will be held to discuss the proposal.

- **7pm (Date) (Margate Venue)**
- **7pm (Date) (Westgate Venue)**

Please complete the consultation response form <link> to give us your views.

The closing date for responses is Monday 29 September 2014.

If you have any queries regarding this consultation or the Community Governance Review please contact Electoral Services on electoral.services@thanet.gov.uk or call 01843 577500.

If you would prefer a hard copy of the consultation form please email Sharon Kelley Sharon.kelley@thanet.gov.uk or call 01843 577050.