

# Meeting Notes

<b>Subject :</b>	Governance Review Working Party
<b>Date:</b> 10 February 2015	<b>Venue:</b> Town Hall
<p><b>Those Present:</b>            Cllr Tony Batchelor – RPC            Cllr Chris Callow – RPC            Cllr Ray Parsons - RPC            Cllr John Stevens – RPC</p> <p>Cllr Ted East - DTC            Cllr Peter Evans – DTC            Cllr Albert Wooldridge – DTC            Town Clerk, Sarah Todhunter – DTC            Deputy Town Clerk, Simon Fisher - DTC</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b>            Cllr Kelvin Nash - DTC            Parish Clerk, Stan Johnson – RPC</p> <p>Sarah Todhunter took notes</p>	

Item	Notes:	Action:
1.	<p><b><u>Cost of shared services</u></b>            As instructed at the meeting held on 22 January, DTC officers distributed a financial model that shows the value of services provided by Devizes but with shared use by the parish of Roundway.s</p> <p>There was broad agreement, that the services as listed as being shared were a fair reflection of the position to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twinning</li> <li>• Grants</li> <li>• Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Community Spaces</li> <li>• Christmas activities</li> <li>• Community Safety</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that the revenue surplus &amp; deficit arising from the Corn Exchange and Town hall should be apportioned</p> <p>In the event that these shared services were recharged on the basis of benefit derived from the parish of Roundway it would represent a significant cost to Roundway that it was acknowledged that it was not currently paying.</p> <p>The inevitable increase in Council Tax for Roundway parishioners continues to be of concern for the Roundway representatives although it was generally recognised that there was inequity in the current arrangements</p>	

## Meeting Notes

	<p>Roundway representatives were concerned about how the increase could be “sold” to their residents although are mindful that the decision actually lies ultimately with Wiltshire Council</p> <p>It was also noted that the financial model of shared services whereby Roundway Parish Council might be cross charged for the services received but currently not paid for, would actually be more expensive for Roundway parishioner than the model previously submitted on the basis of merged councils.</p> <p>This would be the result of economies of scale in operation service delivery and procurement as well as removing duplication of services.</p>	
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Community Boundaries</u></b></p> <p>It was again agreed that if no existing boundaries were in place the natural boundary would encompass all of the urban development that includes Devizes, Roundway and parts of Bishop Cannings although previously it has been recognised that if the Marina area of Bishops Cannings be removed from Bishops Cannings parish, then the Parish would become unsustainable.</p> <p>There is no desire on the part of either Roundway or Devizes Parish Councils to undermine the viability of Bishop Cannings</p> <p>The arrangement for potential warding was discussed and broadly agreed that the current Wiltshire Council ward arrangements, perhaps with some minor tweaks would serve as well as any other arrangements.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b><u>Next Steps</u></b></p> <p>The only main obstacle for the two councils formally coming together would seem to be the increase in council tax for Roundway parishioners.</p> <p>Although the Roundway Parish representatives agree that the current situation is not equitable, Roundway Parish Council needs to formally consider its position with regard to a coming together of the two councils</p> <p>It was noted that Devizes Town Council has an agreed position that it supports the areas of Roundway and Devizes coming together as a single municipal parish area.</p>	<p><b>Roundway Parish Council to formally agree a position</b></p>
	<p><b>Next Meeting – None Arranged</b></p>	