

To: Cllr Steve Watkins, Chair of General Purposes Committee

Cc: Cllr John Baker, Vice Chair of General Purposes Committee

Natasha Taylor, Monitoring Officer

Mr Brian Dunleavy, Democratic Services Manager

Dear Cllr Watkins

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 23 OCTOBER 2025

I write with reference to item 7 on the meeting agenda, specifically the recommendations made regarding the Parish boundary of Eggington from the Stage 1 consultation of the Community Governance Review.

The report for the Stage 1 consultation states 'Guidance suggests that it is good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years'. You will be aware that there was a boundary review for the Parish of Eggington not more than 4 years ago and the results of which were to retain the boundary where it is. The residents of Clipstone Park voted almost unanimously in favour of the boundary remaining where it is and from our communications with residents this remains the overwhelming majority. Another review of the boundary is not wanted or needed by the residents of Eggington Parish and would be seen by them as a waste of CBC time and money.

Further, I include below from the report, the recommendation made for Eggington Parish (Page 32, 7.2 Appendix A):

Reason for recommendations: The recommendation to move the boundary is made in accordance with the request of a number of Councillors from Leighton Linlade Town Council (LLTC) to ensure effective and convenient local government and to improve representation and enhance community engagement and cohesion.

To make a recommendation to change a parish boundary impacting 1559 electors (who have shown no desire to relitigate the boundary review from a few years ago), based on the personal desire of a minority number of LLTC councillors seems non-sensical. LLTC had an extraordinary meeting in which this matter was voted on and the majority vote was that LLTC had no desire to adjust its boundaries.

The comments in the report from residents are from a tiny population sample and are not conclusive for any particular preference. The consultation itself was also setup in a manner which illicit response mainly from those that want a change but not from those that want to keep the status quo. As such responses from residents can't be held to be a string indicator on their own. That being said, there were still a number of responses from Eggington Parish

residents making it clear they do not want a boundary change as they are very happy with the services of their Parish Council.

I note that on pages 32 to 33 of 7.2 Appendix A you have the statement that representatives of Eggington Parish Council read out at the LLTC extraordinary meeting, this still accurately reflects our position.

In conclusion, Eggington Parish Council requests that the committee amends the recommendation made for the Eggington Parish boundary. There is no evidence in the report to show there is support to warrant the current recommendation to change the boundary. Changing the boundary is not endorsed by LLTC or Eggington Parish council, additionally it is our strong belief that it is a change not desired by the majority of residents in Clipstone Park and Eggington village as they have an effective parish council working for their benefit already.

So, in whose benefit is this change?

Should you have any queries on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

Cllr King (Vice-Chairman) on behalf of Eggington Parish Council.

