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Consultation for Proposed Headington Community Council

Oxford City Council would like to know your views on whether a community council should be established for the Headington area.





Introduction

Following the successful Headington neighbourhood planning referendum in 2017 the Headington Neighbourhood Forum (the Forum) has made a formal request to Oxford City Council to hold a consultation on the Forum's proposal to set up a community council.

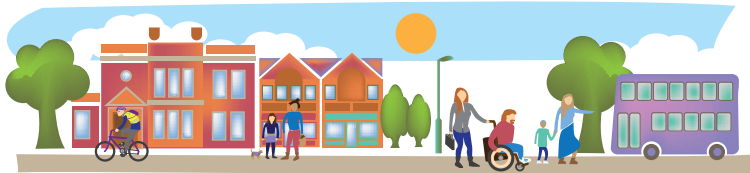
This information booklet is being delivered to all households in the affected area so that public opinion is taken fully into account when the Council takes a final decision in the autumn of this year.

What has been requested?

The Forum's request asked the City Council 'to create a community council to cover the whole of the Headington Neighbourhood Area, as defined in the Headington Neighbourhood Plan 2017–2032'.

The law requires that a 'community governance review' be carried out where a new parish (community) council is suggested and this booklet is the consultation element of the review.

The Forum has asked that the new council be styled as a community council. This has all the same powers and duties as a parish council. The difference is only in the name.



Why are we consulting you?

The City Council will be undertaking a consultation as a valid request for a community council has been received from the Neighbourhood Forum. The map on pages 8 and 9 shows the area under consideration. The area has an electorate (all the people in the area who are entitled to vote at an election) of around 11,000.

The aim of the review is to judge the public support for the creation of a community council. The area is currently unparished so does not have a parish or community council.

We want to know your views on the best way forward for the area.

What is the timetable?

The timetable is as show below:

Stage	Timing	Function
Stage One	July–August 2019	Distribution of pamphlet and a six-week period for replies
Stage Two	September 2019	Reviewing replies and preparing to report to Council
Stage Three	7 October 2019	Report to Council on consultation results
Stage Four	April 2020	(if approved) Creation of community council
Stage Five	May 2020	(if approved) First elections to the new council



What will happen after the consultation ends?

Once we have received your views we will consider the results of the consultation exercise and a report will be made to Full Council at the City Council. It is Full Council that will make a final decision as to whether a community council should be created.

What does a community (parish) council do?

Community councils are democratically elected bodies that have statutory powers. They have two main roles – community representation and local administration. They are statutory consultees on planning matters and provide a focus for representing local issues and identity. They will work with local organisations and other tiers of local government.

They can also provide services to the local community which can include: community grants, bus shelters, play areas, events and festivals, among many other things.

A community council should represent a distinctive and recognisable community.



How are these things paid for?

Community councils are funded through a precept – a charge which is added to and collected as part of your Council Tax. The amount of the charge is something that each community council has to decide for itself and it depends on what services and facilities the community council wants to provide.

Below is a table showing the precepts charged by the four current parishes in Oxford and what that equates to for a notional Band D property in their different areas. The ‘unparished area’ is the remainder of Oxford City that isn’t covered by a parish. The City Council estimates what the services provided by parishes would cost for the rest of the City and this figure appears in the table below. For 2019/20 that cost is £15.88.

Parish	Total parish budget 19/20	Average Band D 19/20 (per annum)
	£	£
Littlemore	97,476.55	54.21
Old Marston	58,571.56	46.02
Risinghurst and Sandhills	51,583.70	35.08
Blackbird Leys	55,524.81	18.97
Unparished Area	600,658.32	15.88

Each property in a parished area pays the difference between the ‘unparished area’ precept and the total shown for their parish. For example, properties in Blackbird Leys Parish pay an extra £3.09 for their parish, those in Littlemore pay an extra £38.33.

These figures are for information only. It is the responsibility of each community council to determine the nature and level of its costs, which will be linked to its activities and the level of support required to deliver those activities, e.g. salaries of any employees and running costs.



How many parish councillors would there be?

There are no set rules on how many councillors there should be, based on electorate. The community council would need to be warded (split into wards) because it crosses more than one City Council ward. The councillors would then be shared across those parish wards.

Shown below are the figures for the existing parishes within Oxford.

Council	Electorate	Number of parish councillors	Electors per councillor
Blackbird Leys	8527	14	609
Littlemore	4152	16	260
Old Marston	2643	12	220
Risinghurst and Sandhills	3053	20	153

The City Council, if it agrees to create the community council, would draw up a warding scheme and the numbers of councillors across those wards. With an electorate of 11,000 in the proposed area a possible number of councillors could be between 15–20.



How to respond to the consultation

You can respond by:

- using the comments page at the back of this booklet, insert into an envelope, write 'FREEPOST, Oxford City Council' on the front and post;
- give your view online at the Council's consultation portal:
www.oxford.gov.uk/headingtoncommunitycouncil
- write to Headington CGR, Electoral Services, The Town Hall, St. Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX

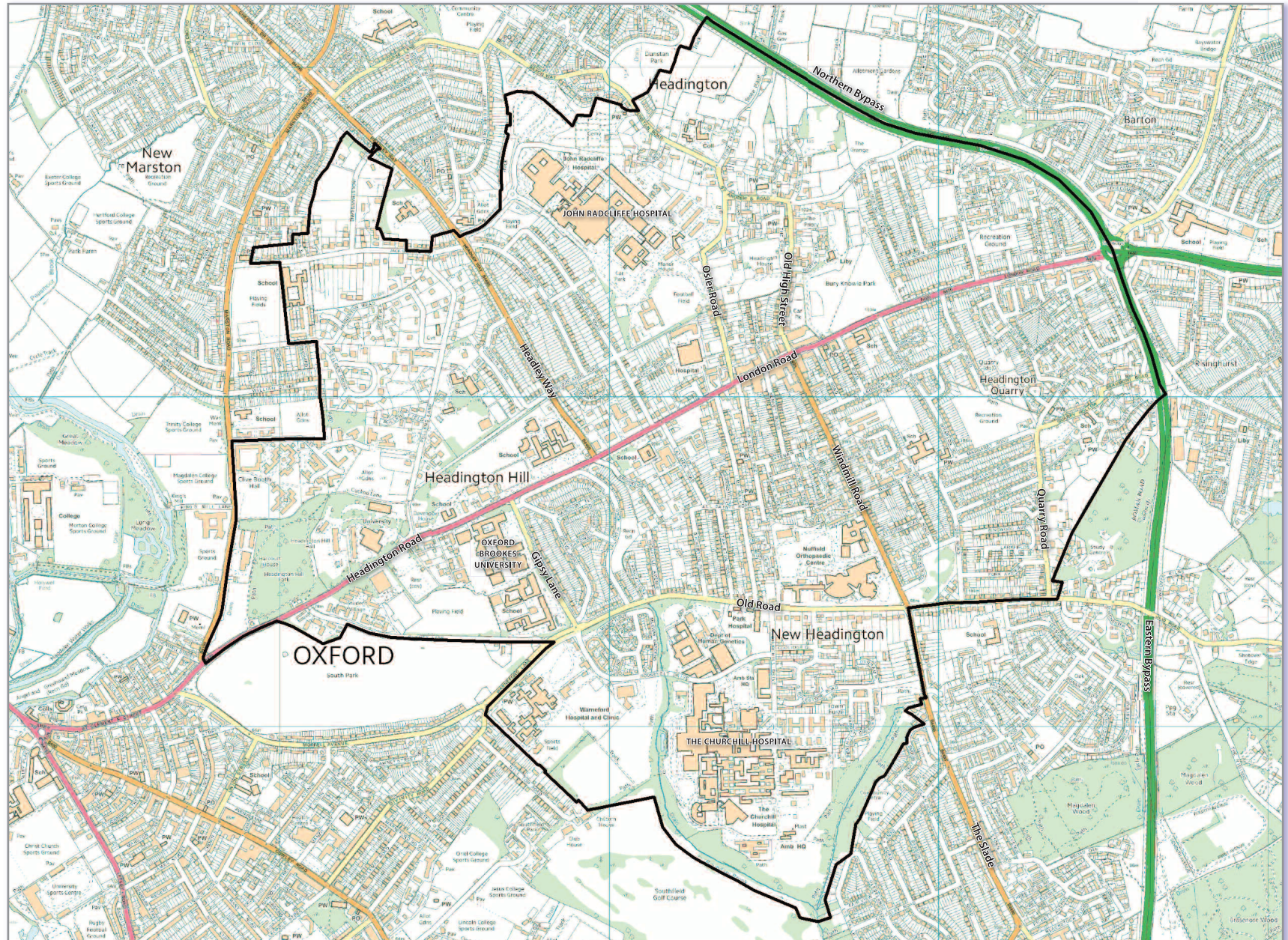
The closing date for comments is Friday 23 August 2019.



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Map showing the
boundary of the proposed
community council.



Map © Crown Copyright and
database right 2019.
OrdnanceSurvey 100019348.



Your Response

To what extent do you agree or disagree that a Community (Parish)
Council should be created for the area shown on the map?

1 ☐

Strongly
agree

2 ☐

Agree

3 ☐

Neither agree
nor disagree

4 ☐

Disagree

5 ☐

Strongly
disagree

*Tick the box that applies to you

Name:

Postcode:

This information, will only be used to verify residency and will not be retained beyond analysis of the consultation, used for any other purpose or passed to any other party or organisation.

Please write here any comments you have about the proposal

continue overleaf



Please write here any other comments you have about the proposal

Return to: 'FREEPOST Oxford City Council'
(if you wish you can scan in this page and e-mail it to
headingtonCGR@oxford.gov.uk).

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