

COUNCIL

23 JANUARY 2018

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEADERSHIP SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY

A.5 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

(Report prepared by Karen Neath)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update on Community Governance Reviews across the District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the meeting of Full Council on 21st November 2017 a report was considered on Community Governance Reviews and it was agreed that:-
 - a) *the terms of reference attached at Appendix A to item A.5 of the Report of the Head of Leadership Support and Community, for a Community Governance Review for the land in the St Osyth District Council area but not in the St Osyth parish area, be agreed and that this Community Governance Review be now commenced;*
 - b) *a Community Governance Review of the number of seats on Harwich Town Council be undertaken and that terms of reference be brought back to the next Council meeting for approval;*
 - c) *no Community Governance Review be taken forward at this time for the following Town / Parish Councils: Bradfield, Brightlingsea, Frinton and Walton, Great Bromley, Manningtree, Mistley, Thorrington, Weeley and Wix;*
 - d) *a Community Governance Review to merge Lawford, Manningtree and Mistley Parish Councils be undertaken only if all three parish councils ask for one; and*
 - e) *Community Governance Reviews for areas of the Tendring District not mentioned in a) to d) above be further considered by the Electoral Review Working Group following the receipt of further information and that their recommendations be brought to a future Council meeting.*
- In accordance with resolution b) above, terms of reference for a review of the number of seats on Harwich Town Council are attached at Appendix A. Draft terms of reference were considered by three members of the Electoral Review Working Group on 8th January 2018 and subsequently circulated to all Members of the Working Group for agreement.
- The timetable for both the St Osyth and Harwich Community Governance Reviews is as follows:-

Action	Date
Terms of Reference published and start of consultation	24 January 2018
End of consultation	31 March 2018 •
Consideration by Electoral Review Working Group	April 2018
Draft recommendations considered by Full Council	15 May 2018 •
Consult on draft recommendations	16 May 2018 to 15 June 2018
Consideration by Electoral Review Working Group	June 2018
Final recommendations considered by Full Council	3 July 2018
Final proposal and order publicised	September 2018
Final arrangements incorporated in Local Elections	May 2019

- Consultation will take place by way of letters to the households in the area under review and to Harwich Town and St Osyth Parish Councils and through the website and a press release.
- In relation to resolution e) above further information is being gathered and will be presented to a future meeting of the Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:-

The terms of reference attached at Appendix A, for a Community Governance Review of the number of seats on Harwich Town Council, be agreed.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Council is encouraged to periodically consider whether Community Governance Reviews are undertaken.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

Some cost would be incurred in undertaking Community Governance Review consultations but this is not expected to be significant and can be met from existing budgets. Any subsequent decisions to abolish, set up or otherwise change the arrangements for Town and Parish Councils would be likely to have financial implications but would depend on the action to be taken and cannot be quantified at this time.

Risk

Community Governance Reviews would need to be carefully considered and undertaken in line with statute and guidance to ensure that the outcome is the best one for local residents.

LEGAL

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the legal responsibility and arrangements for undertaking Community Governance Reviews.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are none.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

There are no background papers.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review – Harwich
