

COUNCIL

3 JULY 2018

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEADERSHIP SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY

A.2 Community Governance Reviews

(Report prepared by Karen Neath)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To agree the final recommendations for two Community Governance Reviews within the District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the meeting of Full Council on 15th May 2018 a report was considered on Community Governance Reviews and it was agreed that:-
 - (a) *in relation to the two Community Governance Reviews for which public consultation has been undertaken:-*
 - i. *the number of Harwich Town Councillors will remain at 16 with the existing parish ward distribution; and*
 - ii. *a boundary change be implemented in order to make the St Osyth Parish and District boundaries coterminous.*
 - (b) *draft recommendations as set out in (a) be made available for public comment in line with the previously agreed timetable; and*
 - (c) *no Community Governance Reviews be taken forward at this time for the following Parish Councils: Alresford, Ardleigh, Beaumont-cum-Moze, Elmstead, Frating, Great Bentley, Great Oakley, Lawford, Little Bentley, Little Bromley, Little Clacton, Little Oakley, Ramsey and Parkeston, Tendring, Thorpe-le-Soken.*
- The draft recommendations at a) above were advertised in the local press and on the Council's website.
- No comments were received on the draft recommendations other than confirmation from St Osyth Parish Council of their original comments. This consultation closed on 15th June.
- The Electoral Review Working Group were advised by email that no additional comments had been received and that the draft recommendations would now be put forward to Council as the final recommendations.
- Council is therefore now asked to agree the final recommendations i.e. that
 - The number of Harwich Town Councillors remains at 16 with the existing parish ward distribution, for the following reasons:-

Harwich Town Council had requested an increase in the number of

Councillors from 16 to 17 to even out the representation across the wards. There were 26 replies to the public consultation of which 6 (24%) supported an increase in Councillors and 19 (76%) did not. This was a requested change and there is no other factor that would require an increase in Councillors. No comments were received on the draft recommendations. Therefore, given the responses received, it is agreed that the number of Harwich Town Councillors remains at 16 with the existing ward distribution.

- A boundary change be implemented in order to make the St Osyth Parish and District boundaries coterminous, for the following reasons:-

This review was implemented because there is currently a small area of land that, following the District Boundary Review, sits within the St Osyth District Council boundary but is not within the St Osyth Parish boundary. The review asked whether this section of land should be brought within the St Osyth Parish boundary. There were 8 responses of which 5 (62%) agreed with the proposed boundary change and 3 (38%) did not. No comments were received on the draft recommendations other than confirmation from St Osyth Parish Council of their original comments. This is not a requested change but a change that would neaten an overhanging anomaly and assist with the implementation of new electoral arrangements. Given this and the small number of respondents against, it is agreed that the boundary change does go ahead to make the Parish and District boundaries coterminous.

- A delegation is sought from Council to allow the Head of Legal and Governance to take the steps to implement the recommendations. No further action would be required in relation to Harwich as the recommendation is to leave the number of councilors and wards unchanged. However, a reorganisation order will be required to effect the recommendation in relation to St Osyth. A model order and the procedure to be followed is set out in the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the then Communities of Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The reorganisation order will need to be made available at the Council Offices together with a map showing the effect of the boundary change. Certain organisations (the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the Office of National Statistics, the Director General of the Ordnance Survey, Essex County Council and our external auditors) need to be informed when the order has been made. The reasons for the decisions, as set out above, will also need to be published.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:-

- a) The final recommendations, in relation to the two Community Governance Reviews for which public consultation has been undertaken, are:-**
 - i. the number of Harwich Town Councillors remains at 16 with the existing parish ward distribution; and**
 - ii. a boundary change should be implemented in order to make the St Osyth Parish and District boundaries coterminous.**

b) Delegation be granted to the Head of Legal and Governance to implement a) above, in accordance with the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued jointly by the then Communities of Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, including:-

- i. Drawing up, publicising and disseminating the necessary reorganisation order to implement a)ii);
- ii. Publication of a map showing the effect of the reorganisation order for a)ii); and
- iii. Publication of the reasons for the decisions taken in a).

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 is incurred in undertaking Community Governance Review consultations but this is not expected to be significant and can be met from existing budgets.

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

There are none.