

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

04 June 2019

LEAD OFFICER: Programme Manager

Community Governance Update

Executive Summary

1. This report outlines the current status of a potential Community Governance Review, which will be brought before Civic Affairs Committee with appropriate Terms of Reference at the next Civic Affairs meeting on 03 September 2019. This report is for information only, to keep members informed and up to date of progress.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Committee notes the status of this potential Community Governance Review as outlined in the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. Update for information only

Details

Thriplow and Heathfield warding representation

4. A request has been received from Thriplow Parish Council that the number of councillors distributed between their current two wards be amended from; Thriplow Village (7) and Heathfield (2) to a fairer geographical representation of the electorate, amending the distribution to: Thriplow Village (5) and Heathfield (4). There has been no request for a change to the number of overall Councillor seat requirements. Terms of Reference will be brought before the next Civic Affairs Committee meeting (expected early September 2019) seeking authorisation to commence the review.
5. The current electorate for Thriplow and Heathfield is 887 (May 2019). This is broken down to Thriplow Village Ward (384) and Heathfield Ward (503) (May 2019). The existing number of parish councillors is 9, split between Thriplow Village Ward (7) and Heathfield Ward (2)
6. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the 2007 Act”) provides for a Principal Council to conduct a review of the community governance arrangements for the whole or part of its area for the purpose of considering whether

or not to make any changes to Parish boundaries or size, and/or the creation of new parishes; and the review of the electoral arrangements for new and/or existing parishes. Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows principal councils to decide how to undertake such a review, provided that they comply with the duties in the Act which apply to councils undertaking reviews. If, following a review, the Council decides that changes should be made to the electoral arrangements they may make an Order giving effect to the changes.

7. The Community Governance Review process, once commenced must be concluded within 12 months of the publication of the terms of reference. Any resulting change from the review would take effect from the next scheduled Parish election, unless an out of turn election is called.

Options

8. Update for information only

Implications

9. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Staffing

10. Staff time will be required to carry out the review when commenced; however, this is likely to be minimal given the nature of the review. The time will be spent consulting interested parties, taking account of any representations received and reporting back to the Committee.

Equality and Diversity

11. The Council will work with Thriplow Parish Council to identify and consult with interested parties.

Effect on Council Priority Areas

12. **A modern and caring Council.** Appropriate community governance arrangements will help the Council to sustain and improve community cohesion and resilience.

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Request to amend warding representation from Thriplow Parish Council

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