

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT TO: Electoral Arrangements Committee 16 September 2008  
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Principal Solicitor

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### **ARBURY PARK PARISH REVIEW – CREATION OF ORCHARD PARK PARISH AND ORCHARD PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

#### **Purpose**

1. To consider whether to make a recommendation to Council on electoral arrangements for Orchard Park Community Council. This follows the Council resolution of July 2008 to make a reorganisation order establishing a new Parish of Orchard Park from the area of Impington Parish and subsequent consultation on the electoral arrangements for the new parish council.
2. To update Members on the consultation which is underway regarding the electoral arrangements for Orchard Park.

#### **Background**

2. The full background and process is as set out in the previous report to this Committee from the Principal Solicitor in July 2008.

#### **Considerations**

3. The considerations with regard to electoral arrangements are set out in the consultation information posted on the Council's website and circulated amongst local ward Members, Impington Parish Council and the Arbury Park residents association. It states as follows:

*“South Cambridgeshire District Council (‘SCDC’) wishes to create a new parish and parish council for the area of South Cambridgeshire situated on the northern fringe of Cambridge and known as the Arbury Park or Arbury Camp development. This area is shown shaded orange on the attached plan. SCDC has decided that the parish council for the new parish shall be called Orchard Park Community Council. SCDC seeks your views on the proposed electoral arrangements set out below:*

The Council is required to consider the electoral arrangements that will apply to the new Community Council, and whether any changes are required to the electoral arrangements for Impington Parish Council (as the new parish has been formed from part of Impington Parish). By ‘electoral arrangements’ we mean the number of parish councillors to be elected to the new and existing councils and whether or not the new parish should be divided into wards. Electoral arrangements also include fixing the date for elections to the new community council.

SCDC does not propose to make any changes to the electoral arrangements for Impington Parish Council as the number of councillors elected to that Council was never increased to take account of the additional workload flowing from the development at Orchard Park. A small part of Impington Parish will be transferred to Milton Parish and this area is shown shaded yellow on the attached plan. This

change will mean that the whole of the Cambridge Regional College site will be in Milton Parish. No residents will be affected by this change and SCDC does not propose to make any changes to the electoral arrangements for Milton Parish Council.

SCDC's view is that the new parish is not large enough to justify dividing it into wards and that a single election of councillors to the community council is convenient and practicable. The proposal is that there should be 9 councillors on the community council. This recommendation is based on the predicted size of the electorate in the parish once the development is completed and occupied, and is comparable with similar sized parish councils within the SCDC area. Comparison with other parishes in the district accords with guidance from the Electoral Commission on fixing the size of parish and community councils.

SCDC wishes to allow for early elections to the new community council, as the next parish council elections are not scheduled to take place for some time. SCDC is able to modify the relevant legal provisions to provide for the first election to the parish council to be held sooner, with councillors serving a shortened first term to allow the community council's electoral cycle to return to that of the district ward. SCDC aims to arrange elections to the new community council on Thursday 27 November 2008. The parishes within the district have elections on a four yearly cycle with one of those years being reserved for county elections. Therefore parish elections take place in three out of the four years with one third of the parishes each having elections each year. It is proposed that elections for Orchard Park Community Council follow the same cycle as Impington and Histon and therefore that the ordinary year of elections will be 2012.

If you wish to comment on these proposals which will be considered further by the Electoral Arrangements Committee of SCDC on 16<sup>th</sup> September please e-mail [catriona.dunnnett@scambbs.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.dunnnett@scambbs.gov.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> September so that your views can be taken into account by the Committee. "

The plan referred to is **attached** and marked Appendix A.

#### **Consultation on the proposed electoral arrangements:**

4. The consultation on these proposals ends on 15 September 2008. Details of representations made during the consultation period will be provided at the meeting.

#### **Recommendation**

5. That Members consider the responses received and formulate a recommendation to Council as to the final terms of the reorganisation order including the proper reference to a plan showing the parish boundary changes.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: The July 2008 report to the Electoral Arrangements Committee  
Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007  
CLG/Electoral Commission 'Guidance on community governance reviews' April 2008  
The Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008  
The Local Government Finance (New Parishes) (England) Regulations 2008  
Representations from interested parties

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