

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT

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**REPORT TO:** Civic Affairs Committee

20 June 2013

**AUTHOR/S:** Senior Lawyer

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### TRUMPINGTON MEADOWS COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

#### Purpose

1. To consider Haslingfield Parish Council's request for a Community Governance Review ("CGR") to be undertaken in respect of Trumpington Meadows pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act ("the 2007 Act"). A copy of the request is annexed to this Report.

#### Recommendation

2. (i) That the Committee agrees that a CGR should be undertaken to consider the future governance arrangements for the new community at Trumpington Meadows but that it should not commence until the occupation level of new properties in the Haslingfield part of Trumpington Meadows reaches 100 (presently none are in South Cambridgeshire District Area), which is not expected until 2014/15.  
  
(ii) That officers commence informal discussions with all interested parties after the developer's building programme for phase two of Trumpington Meadows has become clear with a view to taking "soundings" on process, boundary treatment and governance structure.

#### Background

3. The letter points to fundamental differences between the long established community in the parish of Haslingfield and the new community that is beginning to establish itself and grow at Trumpington Meadows.
4. The letter urges SCDC to undertake a CGR "at the appropriate time" with a view to creating a new parish and parish council at Trumpington Meadows.

#### Considerations

5. (i) Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows the Council to decide how to undertake a CGR provided that it complies with the duties specified in the 2007 Act namely undertaking consultation; reflecting identities and interests of the community; governance arrangements must be effective and convenient; and the Council must take into account existing/potential arrangements and also representations made.  
  
(ii) Under existing regulations, a CGR once started must be completed within 12 months. DCLG is considering reducing the time frame and making other changes to the CGR process. A key feature of any CGR is consultation with local residents/electors but this is difficult to do when attempting to put in place a governance structure for a new community which has barely started.  
  
(iii) An added complexity is the fact that Trumpington Meadows crosses the District/City boundary with the early phases of development concentrating on the City

side. To date approximately 110 houses are occupied on the City side and 0 houses occupied on the District side. The new Primary School and Community Facility, which is on the District side is well advanced and completion of the building is expected early in July 2013, with the school formally opening for children in September 2013, and the Community Facility available for community use at the same time.

(iv) Trumpington Meadows is just one of several new communities which will cross the District/City boundary. Each so called "Fringe Site" will require a CGR at the appropriate time and each CGR will have to have regard to local sensitivities regarding boundary treatment, process and structure. This is borne out in the letter from Haslingfield Parish Council and is likely to be echoed in future CGRs concerning the proposed new communities at Wing, Darwin Green and Northstowe.

### Implications

6.	Financial	If a CGR is to be undertaken there will be associated costs of publicity and consultation which need to be met by the Council. It is not possible to quantify those costs at this stage.
	Legal	Compliance with the 2007 Act and associated guidance will help avoid challenge to the process or the outcome.
	Staffing	It is expected that a CGR can be carried out within existing staff resources in community and legal.
	Risk Management	None
	Equal Opportunities	None

### Consultations

7. None at this stage of the process.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Letter from Haslingfield Parish Council dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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