

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting10th September 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

Community Governance Review

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the community governance review for Billingham Town Council

Following receipt of a community governance petition which called for the abolition of Billingham Town Council, the report invited consideration of the proposed approach to a community governance review in response to the petition and a review in relation to Elton Parish Council.

All principal councils had a legal duty to carry out a community governance review if they receive a valid petition. For a community governance petition to be valid in an area of more than 2500 electors, as was the case with Billingham Town Council (27,080 electors), it must be signed by 7.5% of local government electors; define the area to which the review related, and specify one or more recommendations. This petition called for the abolition of Billingham Town Council. Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 a principal council had the power to undertake a community governance review, and must set terms of reference that allowed for the petition to be considered. The petition received contained in excess of 2,700 signatures of which 2031 had been confirmed on the electoral register. The petition was therefore valid.

In addition it was noted that Elton Parish Council had not operated since 9 December 2008 when all Councillors resigned. Following the resignations the process was followed to fill the casual vacancies and notices of vacancy were displayed on two separate occasions between December 2008 and May 2015. In addition, since the resignations there was two scheduled Parish Elections and no nominations were received. It was therefore proposed that a community governance be conducted to review to consider the abolition of Elton Parish Council and that the detail, key stages and timeline of this review mirror that of Billingham Town Council. Key Stakeholders would include the MP and Ward Councillors.

The report highlighted the DCLG Guidance and the approaches to the review. The terms of reference for Billingham Town Council and Elton Parish Council were attached to the report.

The key stages of the reviews and the range of consultation mechanisms were detailed within the report.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. A Community Governance Review of Billingham Town Council commences following the receipt of the valid petition from residents.
2. A Community Governance Review of Elton Parish Council be undertaken following an extended period of inactivity.
3. The Terms of Reference for both Community Governance Reviews, timetables and consultation programmes be agreed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

A valid petition has been received in relation to Billingham Town Council therefore a Community Governance Review is required by law to be carried out. Elton Parish Council has been inactive for eight years and has no parish councillors. A review is therefore warranted.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

N/A

Proper Officer

14 September 2015