

MINUTE EXTRACT

Cabinet Meeting – 23rd March 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

Community Governance Reviews - Billingham Town Council and Elton Parish Council

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented final recommendations following consultation on draft proposals in respect of community governance reviews of Billingham Town Council and Elton Parish Council.

Following receipt of a petition which called for the abolition of Billingham Town Council, a Community Governance Review commenced. The opportunity was also taken to conduct a Community Governance Review in relation to Elton Parish Council.

A Community Governance Review enabled a principal council to review and put in place new arrangements, making changes to current community governance systems and structures, for example by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town councils in the review area.

The Government had emphasized that the aim of a review should be to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy, and result in more effective and convenient delivery of services.

The timetable for the review was approved by Cabinet and Council and recognized that a review had to conclude within 12 months from receipt of a valid petition (received 26 June 2015).

The key stages of the reviews remaining were as follows:-

Final recommendation to Cabinet 23.3.16

Final recommendation to Council 27.04.16

Final Recommendations and reasons for the decision published and stakeholders informed on 28.04.16

Recommendations implemented from 28.04.16

Implementation of any proposed abolition of Billingham Town Council and Elton Parish Council will be dependent upon the time it will take to finalise and publish a re-organisation order.

An integral part of the review was to consult with the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body, including a local authority (i.e. the Town Council) that appeared to have an interest in it. The first stage of the consultation was detailed within the report.

The responses to the first stage of the consultation and feedback were detailed within the report.

Comments from other stakeholders were also previously presented to Cabinet and Council were summarised within the report.

It was noted that Billingham Town Council was created following a petition for a new Parish Council which received Full Council support in 2005.

Following Cabinet and Council consideration, public notices were displayed and information was included on the Council's website indicating the Council's intention to retain Billingham Town Council and Elton Parish Council. No further representations had been received and Cabinet was therefore asked to make final recommendations to Council confirming the draft proposals.

Following Cabinet's consideration, Council at their meeting on the 27.4.16 would consider Cabinet's final recommendations. Decisions would be published and stakeholders informed on the 28.4.16.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. Billingham Town Council be retained.
2. Elton Parish Council be retained and a process to elect Members is commenced, following final Council approval, but that if this process and any necessary co-option does not deliver a Parish Council that is quorate then the required action should be taken to secure the dissolution of Elton Parish and the abolition of the Parish Council.