

MINUTE EXTRACT

Cabinet Meeting – 20 April 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Community Governance Review - Grindon Parish

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented feedback from consultation with stakeholders in Grindon Parish.

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.

All principal councils had a legal duty to carry out a community governance review if they received a valid petition. For a community governance petition to be valid in an area of less than 2500 electors, as was the case with Grindon, it must be signed by at least 187 local government electors, define the area to which the review related and specify one or more recommendations.

This petition called for the splitting of Grindon into two separate parishes along the ward boundaries of Grindon East and Grindon West with an alteration to the boundary line as shown on the proposed new parish boundaries that was attached to the report.

The timetable approved by Cabinet and Council recognised that the review must conclude within 12 months from receipt of a valid petition (received September 2016).

The key stages of the review were as follows:-

Consultation with all Local Government Electors in the area 9 January 2017 – 28 February 2017 - complete

Consideration of the wider forms of Community Governance in the area 9 January 2017 – 28 February 2017 - complete

Initial findings are considered and draft proposals presented for consideration by SMT 13 March 2017 - complete

Cabinet meeting 20 April consider findings.

Draft recommendations to Council 3 May 2017

Consult on draft proposals 8 May 2017 to 31 May 2017

Final recommendation to Cabinet 15 June 2017

Final recommendation to 21 Council June 2017

Final Recommendations and reasons for the decision published and stakeholders informed on 22 June 2017

Implementation will be dependent upon publication of a re-organisation order. Any changes would come into force at the next ordinary parish elections in May 2019.

A range of consultation mechanisms had taken place:-

- A letter to every local government elector explaining the issue with a consultation reply slip attached that asking for views
- Review Notices placed on the web and displayed within the Parish
- Consultation with the Parish Council, Ward Members, MP, the Locality Forum and residents' groups
- Press release

A number of comments were also received on the reply slips and these were attached were attached to the report.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. Grindon Parish be abolished and Grindon Parish Council be dissolved and that two new parishes and parish councils be created based on the ward boundaries of Grindon East and Grindon West.
2. The new parish in the Grindon West Ward be called Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish and the new parish in the Grindon East Ward be called Wynyard Parish.
3. Thorpe Thewles Parish Council comprise 7 Parish Councillors and Wynyard Parish Council comprise 9 Councillors.
4. Subject to further consultation on the above proposals and final agreement by Council 21 June 2017, a reorganisation order be made to implement the changes which would come into force at the next ordinary parish elections in May 2019.