

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

27 June 2022

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Report of the Executive Head of Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Administration Committee:

- (1) agrees to conduct a Community Governance Review of the Parish Council; and
 - (2) approves the Terms of Reference and indicative timetable of the Review (appendix 1).
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Summary

Part 4, Chapter 3, of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements to Local Government and local communities in England.

At their Annual General Meeting on 18 May 2022, Hedge End Town Council resolved that Eastleigh Borough Council conducts a Community Governance Review in time for the 2023 Town Council Elections to better equalise councillor/elector ratios.

Statutory Powers

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Strategic Implications

1. The content of this report does not directly contribute to the achievement of Corporate Plan objectives. However, given population and housing growth, it is important time is taken to review the community governance arrangements for Parish Councils when requested and ensure they are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and effective and convenient.

Introduction

2. Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities now have the power to stimulate debate in respect of parish

boundaries. It is a review that can take place for the whole, or part of, the Borough to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
 - The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
 - The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election, council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the Council, and parish warding), and
 - Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.
3. The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:
- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
 - Are effective and convenient.
4. In doing so the community governance review is required to take into account:
- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
 - The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.
5. As the Principal Authority, Eastleigh Borough Council is responsible for undertaking community governance reviews.
6. The last review of Parish Council arrangements within the Borough of Eastleigh took place in 2018.
7. On 18 May 2022, [Hedge End Town Council](#) (HETC) resolved:

To request Eastleigh Borough Council conducts a Community Governance Review in time for the 2023 Town Council Elections to better equalise councillor/elector ratios.

Terms of Reference

8. The Executive Head of Governance (Monitoring Officer), with support from key staff, will be responsible for making draft and final recommendations. The Council will be required to approve the final recommendations prior to the Community Governance Order being made.
9. A full consultation process will form part of the review, to take full account of the views of local people.

10. This Committee is asked to agree the Terms of Reference and indicative timeline (appendix 1). The current ward boundaries for Hedge End Town Council are shown in appendix 2.
11. The Review will be conducted using electoral data taken from the December 2021 electoral register:

Parish	Ward	Electorate – 1 December 2021
Hedge End Town Council (total electorate 16718)	Berrywood	2023
	Dodwell	640
	Freegrounds	1624
	Shamblehurst	1452
	St Helens	2194
	St Johns	2455
	Station	2689
	Wellstead	1306
	Wildern	2335

Financial Implications

12. There will be minimal administrative costs relating to any potential changes. The costs of staff resources in undertaking this review will be absorbed within current staffing budgets.

Risk Assessment

13. The Borough Council has a responsibility, under its governance arrangements, to ensure that parish councils within the Borough are, in electoral terms, structured and organised appropriately, in order that they can serve the public need as effectively as possible.
14. Any recommendations arising from the review will need to be agreed by Council in November 2022 ahead of the publication of the electoral register on 1 December 2022. The Council has 5 months to complete this review and consultation periods will be limited to 2-3 weeks as per the draft timetable (appendix 1) which may limit responses. Resources and progress will be closely monitored by the Executive Head of Governance (Monitoring Officer) to ensure the programme remains on track. Other priorities may have to be paused or alternative resourcing arrangements identified to ensure that this review is effectively progressed.

Equality and Diversity Implications

15. When conducting community governance reviews, the Council will ensure that all affected residents are given the opportunity to comment and feedback using a variety of communication mechanisms to ensure inclusivity and attract a diverse mix of opinions reflecting community needs.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

16. There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from this decision, it is a decision concerned with governance arrangements.

Conclusion

17. This Committee is asked to agree to conducting a Community Governance Review for Hedge End Town Council, the scope of which is detailed within the Terms of Reference (appendix 1).

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EXECUTIVE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER)

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Appendices Attached: one

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

* None.