

POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS REVIEW AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

To: Council

Date: 12 July 2018

Author: Electoral Services Team Leader

[T49]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the outcome of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review and a Community Governance Review.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) Approve the Returning Officers recommendations as set out in the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review (PDR) as set out in Appendix A.
- (ii) Approve the draft Community Governance Reorganisation Order 2018 as set out in Appendix B

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review.

In order to reflect the new warding arrangements agreed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), the Council must conduct a Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review (PDR).

Members are requested to recommend the Returning Officer's Proposals for the PDR as set out in Appendix A.

3.2 Community Governance Review

On 22 February 2018 Council (Agenda Item 11), Members approved the commencement of the Community Governance Review (CGR) which sought to amend minor boundary changes identified by the District Council and Witchford Parish Council. Bottisham Parish Council also made representations to increase its number of councillor's from 11 to 12.

3.3 Terms of Reference and a Public Notice were approved for the CGR. As part of the initial consultation process, the commencement of the CGR was published on the Council's website, sent to all parish councils within the district; and a consultation letter enclosing copies of the public notices was widely

circulated to local stakeholders. A Members seminar was held on 22 March 2018.

- 3.4 Representations were received from Witchford, Sutton, Haddenham, Witcham and Wentworth parish councils, together with two proposals from District Ward Members. In addition a representation was received from a member of the consultee register stating that they were not in favour of increasing Bottisham parish council from 11 to 12 councillors.
- 3.5 The Terms of Reference were amended accordingly and a draft proposal was approved by Council on 19 April 2018 (Agenda Item 11).
- 3.6 As part of the consultation process, which ended on 25 June 2018, the draft proposal was published on 20 April 2018. A Members seminar was held on 15 May 2018; representations were made at the seminar to consider adding a further property into one of the proposals.
- 3.7 Stakeholders that may be affected by the review were sent copies of a consultation letter together with a copy of the draft proposals and associated maps and were requested to make any representations by the 25 June 2018.
- 3.8 Representations were received from Witchford and Mepal parish Councils, asking us to add in small pockets of land which would clearly define the boundary line.
- 3.9 The Council received correspondence from the owners of Amberlea Country Kennels raising questions on the boundary area, the difference in Council Tax and planning designation. Officers have responded directly to the queries raised and the owners are broadly supportive of the proposals now their questions have been answered.
3. The draft proposals were amended accordingly and the Final Terms of Reference are now submitted at Appendix B for recommendation for approval. If approved the Community Governance Order will be made.
- 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT
- 4.1 There are no additional cost implications to the budget of the Council.
- 4.2 The recommendations would see revised levels of precepts collected by each of the Council's affected, but this is not a matter that can be considered as material under a Community Governance Review unless it makes the relevant authority financially unviable. These minor changes are not considered to significantly affect the nine Council's budgets.
- 4.3 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) is attached at Appendix C.

5.0 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix A Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
- 5.2 Appendix B Community Governance Reorganisation Order 2018
- 5.3 Appendix C Equality Impact Assessment

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Relevant Electoral Services files, Electoral Commission guidance on Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations The LGBCE guidance on Community Governance Reviews	Room 214 The Grange Ely	Joan Cox Electoral Services Team Leader (01353) 616460 E-mail: joan.cox@eastcambs.gov.uk