



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	South Holland District Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 11 May 2022
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Community Governance Reviews
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To consider a request for Community Governance Reviews (CGR) for the Parish of Cowbit to increase the number of Councillors from five to seven and for Holbeach to decrease the number of Councillors from eighteen to sixteen.
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<i>N</i>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	Portfolio Holder for Corporate & Communications
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Assistant Director - Governance (Monitoring Officer)
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Rhonda Booth, Deborah Wright, Electoral Services Lead Officer
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Holbeach Hurn; Holbeach Town; Moulton, Weston and Cowbit; Whaplode and Holbeach St Johns;
<b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>	<i>N</i>

## SUMMARY

Under Section 79 to 102 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIH) approval be given to carry out reviews for the Parish of Cowbit to increase the number of Councillors from five to seven and the Parish of Holbeach to reduce the number of Councillors from eighteen to sixteen.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cowbit Parish Council – To approve to undertake a Community Governance Review for the Parish of Cowbit;
2. Holbeach Parish Council - To approve to undertake a Community Governance Review for the Parish of Holbeach;
3. That delegated powers are given to the Monitoring Officer to carry out the Reviews;
4. To agree the timetable for the Reviews as attached at Appendix A.
5. That the Monitoring Officer reports the findings of the Reviews to Council for final decision;

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The objective of undertaking a community governance review is to ensure that local governance will continue to be effective and convenient and will reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 – To not approve the Community Governance Review for Cowbit Parish and Holbeach Parish.

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIH) devolved the power to take decisions relating to the creation and abolition of parishes, the boundaries of parishes and the electoral arrangements of parish councils from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal councils.
- 1.2 A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a legal process whereby Councils can create parish councils, review and change parish boundaries and in extreme cases, abolish parishes. The Council must ensure that the community governance in the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient. It is important that recommendations made through a CGR should bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

The minimum legal number of parish councillors for each council is five. There is no maximum number and no other legislative guidance with regard to the ideal number of parish councillors.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) published guidance in 1988 on the suggested number of parish councillors to be allocated depending on the size of the population being represented.

Electors	Councillors	Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7	10400	17
1400	8	11900	18
2000	9	13500	19
2700	10	15200	20
3500	11	17000	21
4400	12	18900	22
5400	13	20900	23
6500	14	23000	24
7700	15	Over 23000	25
9000	16		

## 2.0 REPORT

### Cowbit Parish Council

The Parish of Cowbit currently has an electorate of 1175. At a recent parish council meeting, Cowbit Parish Council voted in favour of requesting South Holland District Council to conduct a Community Governance Review, with a view to increasing their council size from five to seven. This is to ensure a fair representation within the Parish given the increased electorate in recent years.

### 2.1 Holbeach Parish Council

At recent parish council meetings Holbeach Parish Council voted in favour of requesting South Holland District Council to conduct a Community Governance Review with a view to reducing their council size from eighteen to sixteen members by removing two seats, one from Hurn ward and one from Town ward. The reason for their request is due to the fact that they have not had a full complement of councillors for a number of years. Holbeach Parish Council has 18 seats.

2.2 The total electorate of Holbeach Parish Council is currently 8309. The electorate of the wards within the Parish area are set out below:

Parish Ward	Electorate	Current number of seats
Holbeach Hurn	1802	4
Holbeach Town	6232	12
Holbeach St Johns	419	1
Holbeach Drove	256	1

## 3. CONCLUSION

3.1 That the Council considers Community Governance reviews to be carried out for the Parishes of Cowbit and Holbeach.

## 4. EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

4.1 None.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP

5.1.1 None

### 5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.2.1 None

### 5.3 STAFFING

5.3.1 Additional work will be undertaken by the Electoral team.

### 5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.4.1 The reviews to be conducted having regard to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Council's Constitution.

## **5.5 DATA PROTECTION**

5.5.1 None

## **5.6 FINANCIAL**

5.6.1 The reviews will have financial implications which have not been budgeted for in relation to advertising, printing and postage costs in undertaking the consultation – these costs will have to be found from existing budgets.

## **5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT**

5.7.1 None

## **5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

5.8.1 Consultation will take place with the Member of Parliament for South Holland and the Deepings, Parish Councillors, local electors, the local members for Holbeach Town ward, Holbeach Hurn ward, Whaplode and Holbeach St Johns ward, Moulton, Weston and Cowbit ward, Lincolnshire County Council and other interested parties. The timescale for a community governance review is governed by Statute. The reviews must be completed within 12 months from the date of issue of the Terms of Reference.

## **5.9 REPUTATION**

5.9.1 None

## **5.10 CONTRACTS**

5.10.1 None specific

## **5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER**

5.11.1 None

## **5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

5.12.1 The reviews will be carried out with due consideration to equality and diversity needs of those involved.

## **5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

5.13.1 None

## **5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.14.1 None

## **6. ACRONYMS**

6.1 CGR – Community Governance Review  
LGPIH – Local Government & Public Involvement in Health 2007  
NALC – National Association of Local Councils

### **APPENDICES**

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	<i>Timetable for Review</i>
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
<b>Document title</b>	<b>Where the document can be viewed</b>
The LGPIH	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance</a>

<b>CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT</b>
A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council

<b>REPORT APPROVAL</b>	
Report author:	Rhonda Booth, Deborah Wright rbooth@sholland.gov.uk, dwright@sholland.gov.uk
Signed off by:	Assistant Director - Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Approved for publication:	Portfolio Holder for Corporate & Communications