

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Vicky Thomson, Democratic Services and Legal Manager

To: Council – 17 December 2014

(Author: Rhonda Oldfield, Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

Subject: Community Governance Review – Gedney Parish Council

Purpose: To approve the final recommendations for the Community Governance Review of Gedney.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the membership of Gedney Parish Council is reduced from 11 to 9 with effect from the next scheduled elections in May 2015;
- (2) That the number of seats of Gedney Parish Council will be made up of 4 seats representing the North Ward and 5 seats representing the South Ward.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolved the power to take decisions relating to the creation or 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.
- 1.3 In April 2014, Gedney Parish Council expressed an interest in reducing their council size from 11 to 9 councillors due to the council not having had a full complement of councillors for a number of years due to the lack of candidates willing to join the council.
- 1.4 It was proposed to remove 2 seats – one from the North Ward and one from the South Ward prior to the next election in 2015.
- 1.5 A review of Gedney Parish Council was approved by full Council on 18 June 2014, following a request from Gedney Parish Council to reduce their council size from 11 to 9 Councillors

2.0 CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The Council published the Terms of Reference and notified stakeholders and invited individual submissions from 1 July 2014. No submissions were received.
- 2.2 Draft recommendations were published and consulted on from 3 September 2014 until 4 October 2014 – no responses were received.

3.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Taking into account the guidance, the statutory obligations and the results of the consultation exercise, the recommendation is that the membership of Gedney Parish Council is reduced from 11 to 9 with effect from the next scheduled elections in May 2015, and the number of seats of Gedney Parish Council will be made up of 4 seats representing the North Ward and 5 seats representing the South Ward.

4.0 **OPTIONS**

- 4.1 That approval is given for a Community Governance Order to be made;
- 4.2 To not grant the Community Governance Order.

5.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 A Community Governance Order would encourage a full complement of Parish Councillors.

6.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 6.1 The expected benefits to be drawn from this are more effective local governance.

7.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

- 7.1.2 None specific in this report.

8.2 **Constitution & Legal**

- 8.2.1 An Community Governance Order will be made by the District Council in due course.

9.3 **Contracts**

- 9.3.1 None specific in this report.

10.0 **Corporate Priorities**

- 10.1 To Enable our Communities;
- 10.1.2 To Develop Stronger Communities.

11.0 **Crime and Disorder**

- 11.10 None specific in this report.

12.0 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

- 12.10 The Review was carried out with due consideration to the equality and diversity needs of those involved.

13.0 **Financial**

13.10 None specific in this report. All costs associated with the consultation were found from existing budgets.

14.0 **Health & Wellbeing**

14.10 None specific in this report.

15.0 **Risk Management**

15.10 None specific in this report.

16.0 **Staffing**

16.10 No additional staffing resources were required

17.0 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

17.10 The Review was undertaken within the advertised timescales and took place with the Member of Parliament for South Holland and the Deepings, Parish Councillors, local electors, the local member for Gedney Ward, Lincolnshire County Council and other interested parties.

18.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

18.10 Gedney

19.0 **ACRONYMS**

19.10 CGR – Community Governance Review

Background papers:-

Extract of minutes of the meeting of Gedney Parish Council, held on Tuesday 8 April 2014.

Lead Contact Officer

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Director / Officer who will be attending the Meeting

Name and Post:

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report: None

