



Council 22 July 2019

Petition for Community Governance Review for Deene and Deenthorpe Parish Council.

Purpose of report

To inform councillors of the background to the petition and the proposed programme for the review.

Appendices

Appendix A - Flowchart of Community Governance Review Process.

1.0 Background

1.1 East Northamptonshire Council received a valid petition on 13 June 2019 from registered electors in the Deene and Deenthorpe area of the District requesting the overall number of councillors be increased from 6 to 7 councillors and that all 7 councillors represent the whole of the parish area. This request would require the existing wards of Deene and Deenthorpe to be removed, leaving a single parish area.

1.2 The request petition was signed by 44.6% of the electors in the Deene and Deenthorpe area, the threshold being 37.5%. The proposed new single parish area would comprise 86 properties with a current electorate of 168. This compares with the current warding as follows:

| <u>Parish Ward</u> | <u>Number of Properties</u> | <u>Registered Electors</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Deene | 29 | 47 |
| Deenthorpe | 57 | 121 |

The background for the request, as stated by the petitioners, can be summarised as follows:-

- Over the next 5 years there is likely to be significant development in both of the current wards of the parish (at Tresham and Priors Hill). Removing the warding would enable a 'whole' council approach and reduce the risk of 'lop-sided' representation as these developments proceed at different paces;
 - There have been difficulties in recent years of getting people to stand in a specific ward when vacancies arise.
- 1.3 The process for the creation, amendment or deletion of a parish is known as a Community Governance Review and is set out in Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This requires this Council to publish Terms of Reference for the review which cover:
- How the Review will be conducted
 - Expected timescales
 - What the Review will focus on
 - What the key considerations will be
 - Factual electoral and parish information
- 1.4 The council is required to complete the review within 12 months. The council does have the ability to consider undertaking a review of other areas at the same time. As a wide ranging review was undertaken in 2013/14 this is not recommended at this time. (Community Governance Reviews can be commenced either as result of

receipt of a valid petition or by the determination of this council).

2.0 Next Steps

2.1 The review will look at all options for future parish governance arrangements within the Deene and Deenthorpe Parish area. These will include:

- Keeping the status quo and the current parish ward boundaries
- Any other arrangements which come out of the consultation process.

2.2 This council is required to ensure that the community governance within the area under review will be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. In doing so the Review is required to take into account the impact of community governance on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries.

2.3 A flowchart outlining the key stages in the process can be found at Appendix A. It should be noted that there are two stages for consultation with affected residents and other stakeholders as outlined in 2.4 and 2.5 below. It is anticipated that these will take place in the autumn of 2019 and winter 2020 respectively with the final report being agreed by this Council in Spring 2020. A fuller timetable will be published in the Terms of Reference.

2.4 The Council will comply with the statutory consultative requirements by:

- Consulting with local government electors for the Deene and Deenthorpe Parish area. It is proposed to include Attainers (16 and 17 year olds) who are on the Electoral Roll in any consultation;
- Consulting with any other person or body which appears to have an interest in the review. This will include Deene and Deenthorpe Parish Council, neighbouring Parish Councils, ward councillors from the affected and neighbouring wards, and other elected representatives such as MPs, MEPs, County Councillor and PCC;
- Notifying and consulting the County Council and Corby Borough Council; and
- Taking into account any representations received in connection with the review.

2.5 In order to undertake the Review, officers will consider the consultation responses and prepare draft recommendations for further consultation. A final report will then be prepared for consideration by this Council. Terms of Reference for the Review will be submitted to the next meeting of Council for approval.

3.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.1 The process to be followed is laid down in legislation, supplemented by guidance. Every attempt will be made to engage all registered electors in the process through a consultation strategy within the terms of reference to be developed and considered by Council. An Equality Impact Assessment will be produced as part of the review.

4.0 Privacy Impact Implications

4.1 The main privacy impact arising from this report is the collection of any additional personal data (not already included in the Electoral Roll) as a result of the consultation exercise. . The terms of reference to be contained in the forthcoming report to Council will contain details of the process for contacting individual electors to participate in consultation. The reporting of the outcomes of consultation will be anonymised and the source data deleted when the review is completed.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The process for the conduct of the Review is defined in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972, together with the related guidance. These will be reflected in the Terms of Reference.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 There are no known new risks arising from the information contained in this report.

7.0 Resource and Financial Implications

7.1 There will be resource implications in terms of staff time in undertaking this review but it is anticipated that any additional financial implications for consultation activity will be met from existing budgets.

8.0 Constitutional Implications

8.1 There are no proposed changes to the Constitution as a result of this report.

9.0 Customer Service Implications

9.1 There are no specific customer services implications arising from this report at this stage.

10.0 Corporate outcomes

10.1 The work reported here contributes to the corporate outcomes of Effective Management and Knowledge of Customers and Communities by responding to a request for consideration of a change to Parish arrangements in part of this council's district.



11.0 Recommendation

11.1 The Council is asked to note:-

- (a) the receipt of a petition for a Community Governance Review in Deene and Deenethorpe;
- (b) that detailed terms of reference will be brought back to the next meeting of council.

(Reason: To ensure Councillors are aware of this process in relation to the requested review and consider if the scope of the review should be widened.)

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| Legal | Power: Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Local Government Act 1972 |
| | Other considerations: |
| Background Papers: Petition for Review | |
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| Date: 10/07/19 | |

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| CFO 11/07/19 |  | MO 10/07/19 |  | CX | |
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Flowchart of Community Governance Review Process

