

Community Governance Review – Final Recommendations

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL



DATE	19/07/2023
PORTFOLIO	Leader
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PURPOSE

1. To report the findings of the review to Full Council for decision.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Council approves the following recommendation from the Community Governance Review Recommendation (Appendix A):
 - i. To increase the number of seats on Worsthorne with Hurstwood Parish Council from 7 to 9 from the next scheduled elections in May 2024.
 - ii. To authorise the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to prepare and make a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order, and to take such steps as considered necessary to give effect to the decision of the Council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To ensure that local governance continues to be effective and reflects the identities and interests of local communities.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Background

4. The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolved the power to take decisions relating to the creation or abolition of parishes, parish boundaries and electoral arrangements of parish councils from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal councils.

5. A Community Governance Review (CGR) was initiated following a valid request from the Parish Council at their meeting on 24th January 2022.
6. At its meeting on 28th September 2022 Burnley Council approved the CGR.
7. It was proposed to increase the number of seats on Worsthorne with Hurstwood Parish Council from seven to nine.

Report

8. Following approval at Full Council, Terms of Reference were published for the CGR (Appendix B), stakeholders were notified and individuals invited to submit comments on the proposals.
9. No responses were received during the initial consultation period.
10. Draft recommendations (Appendix C) were subsequently published based on the feedback received and consulted on. One response was received from a borough councillor stating that they had no objections.
11. In undertaking a CGR and in taking a decision as to whether or not to give effect to a final recommendation 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
 - Effective and convenient
12. In considering the above criteria the CGR is required to have regard to influential factors including:
 - the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
 - the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.
13. When considering the number of Councillors to be elected for the parish the review must have regard to the number of local government electors for the Parish and any changes in that number which are likely to occur in the period of 5 years beginning with the day the review starts.
14. In making recommendations the reviews have considered information received in the form of expressions of local opinion on the matters considered by the review, representations made by local people and other interested persons, and the use of knowledge of the local area.
15. The final recommendations take account of representations received through the community governance review process and supporting evidence which demonstrates that the proposed electoral arrangements would meet the criteria set out in the 2007 Act. Throughout the process we have used the NALC table that recommends the number of Councillors to electorate, as set out in Appendix B
16. To implement the recommended changes to electoral arrangements will require a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order to be made. It is proposed that the Order will take effect on the 1st April following the date on which they are made with the revised electoral arrangements for the Parish Council coming into force at the first parish elections following the Order. The revised electoral arrangements in this instance will therefore come into force at the next elections to the parish council which will be May 2024. In support of this timetable an officer delegation is proposed to make the Order and to take all necessary and desirable steps to give effect to the decisions of the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

17. The order will be made using existing resources.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

18. None.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

19. Member Structures Working Group.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

16. Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (DCLG/Electoral Commission)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf

FURTHER INFORMATION

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