

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**Report of the Executive
Director of Legal and
Governance**

Community Governance Review

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To recommend that the council undertakes a Community Governance Review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the council undertakes a community governance review under the terms of reference outlined in Appendix 1.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Community governance reviews provide the opportunity for principal councils to review and make changes to community governance within their areas. It can be helpful to undertake community governance reviews in circumstances such as where there have been changes in population, or in reaction to specific or local new issues.
- 3.2 Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 transferred the power to undertake a Community Governance Review to Local Authorities. Local Authorities have discretion on when to conduct reviews but government guidance indicates that they should be conducted at least every 10 years.
- 3.3 Barnsley MBC has never conducted a community governance review for the entire borough and 2017 is the opportune time to conduct a review to ensure that we are adhering to government guidance and that any changes agreed to are in place in good time for the next scheduled parish council elections in 2019. As there are no scheduled elections in 2017 there is capacity within Electoral Services to carry out the review that would be unavailable in future years where there are elections.
- 3.4 There are currently 17 parishes in the Barnsley MBC area, 16 parish councils and a parish meeting: Billingley Parish Council, Cawthorne Parish Council, Dunford Parish Council, Great Houghton Parish Council, Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth Parish Council, High Hoyland Parish Meeting, Hunshelf Parish Council, Langsett Parish Council, Little Houghton Parish Council, Oxspring Parish Council, Penistone Town Council, Shafton Parish Council, Silkstone

Parish Council, Stainborough Parish Council, Tankersley Parish Council, Thurgoland Parish Council and Wortley Parish Council.

4. Proposal and justification

4.1 That a Community Governance Review of the entire borough be undertaken.

4.2 That the review should consider:

- The modification of parish boundaries due to any recent or pending housing developments within the parished areas
- The grouping together of parishes where one or more parishes are struggling to sustain themselves
- The electoral arrangements of the parishes including the number of members of each council and any warding arrangements
- The creation of a new parish if there is interest from the community
- The dissolution of parishes if no other way of sustaining the parish can be found. Government guidance advises against the dissolution of a parish unless there is no alternative, therefore the review is only likely to recommend this option in very exceptional circumstances.

5. Consideration of alternative approaches

5.1 The council could choose not to conduct a community governance review. This would leave us open to criticism as we would not be adhering to guidance on this issue. It would also increase the likelihood of a petition to compel us to hold a review.

6. Implications for local people / service users

6.1 There are no direct implications from this report as the final proposals are subject to a final vote from council.

7. Financial implications

7.1 None.

8. Employee implications

8.1 None

9. Communications implications

9.1 None

10. Consultations

10.1 None

11. Background papers

11.1 None.

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Financial Implications /
Consultation
*(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer
where no financial implications)*