

Appendices: 2



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

10th September 2018

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Final recommendations - Hunsbury Meadows Parish Community Governance Review
---------------------	--

1. Purpose

- 1.1 At its meeting on 22 December 2017 the Council agreed to carry out a Community Governance Review to consider moving Pineham Housing Developments within the boundaries of Hunsbury Meadows Parish and not be left within Upton Parish. The Terms of Reference of the review were approved. The initial responses to the first stage of the public consultation were considered by Council at its April meeting and recommendations published. This report presents final recommendations following the further consultation required under the guidance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council consider the following recommendations:

(a)The Pineham Housing Development be merged with Hunsbury Meadows Parish

(b)The boundary between Upton Parish and Hunsbury Meadows Parish follow the River Nene to include the polling district SNUP2. (PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED MAP SHOWING BOUNDARIES MARKED APPENDIX 1)

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of a district to consider one of the following:

1. Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes.
2. The naming of parishes and the style (i.e. whether to call it a town council or village council etc. of new parishes;
3. The electoral arrangements for parishes – the ordinary year of election, the size of the council, the number of councillors to be elected and parish warding;
4. Grouping parishes under a common parish council, or de-grouping parishes

3.2 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the District Council must aim to ensure that community governance in the area under review and that it reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area. That it is effective and convenient and takes into account any other arrangements for the purpose of community representation or community engagement.

In addition when considering this, the Council must have regard to two key principles:

1. the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion

and

2. the size, population and boundaries of any new local community or parish.

Such a review includes the following stages in chronological order;

- 1) Setting terms of reference of the review
- 2) Publishing the terms of reference (for the purposes of the Act, the review formally commences when the terms of reference are published);
- 3) Undertaking consultations with local government electors for the area and any other person or body (including the Parish Council) who appears to have an interest in the review.
- 4) Considering representations
- 5) Preparing and publishing draft proposals
- 6) Undertaking consultation on the draft proposals

- 7) Considering representations
- 8) Publishing recommendations
- 9) Making an order to bring into effect any decisions arising from the review
- 10) A review must be concluded within 12 months of the publication of the terms of reference.

3.3 In the present review the appropriate statutory notices were published and a specific section on the Council's website was set up. A relevant consultation letter (because any changes would impact on the current parished area and precept for residents) was sent to ALL properties in the Upton Ward both for the initial and final consultation. The result of both the initial consultation and final consultation was a majority in favour of the merging of polling districts SNUP1 and SNUP2 to become Hunsbury Meadows Parish. (PLEASE SEE RESPONSES AT APPENDIX 2)

3.4 Parish matters to be considered

The summary recommendations of the review and constitution process are as follows

(a) The Pineham Housing Development be moved into Hunsbury Meadows Parish

(b) The parish boundary to follow the River Nene to include the polling district SNUP2

(c) The existing number of Councillors for both Upton and Hunsbury Meadows will fall within the recommended ratio.

The electorate of the proposed Hunsbury Meadows Parish is 1424. The recommended Councillor allocation is 6-12. There are 8 Councillors in Hunsbury Meadows Parish.

The electorate of the proposed Upton Parish Council is 4954. The recommended Councillor allocation is 9-16. There are 11 Councillors in Upton Parish.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

The intentions of a Community Governance Review is to ensure that parish Councils reflect the identities and interests of the community. The financial implications are minimal and referred to in 4.2 below.

4.2 Resources and Risk

Resources involved will mainly be employee time. There will be a cost of printing and distribution of consultation documents. There is no power to recharge the cost of the review because the statutory duty to conduct the Review rests with the Council.

4.3 Consultation

Consultation has taken place on both draft and final recommendations. Financial implications are referred to in 4.2 above. In considering the recommendations in 2.1 above the Council must have regard to the results of the consultation as enclosed in Appendix 2,

4.4 Legal

Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves power to District Councils to undertake Community Governance reviews.

4.5 Equality

There are no diversity and equalities implications arising from the report

5. Background Papers

Plan

Consultation

Diana Bowden
Electoral Services Manager

