

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Council
18 July 2017

From: Chief Executive

Subject: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – CONSULTATION RESPONSES ON DRAFT PROPOSALS

Aiskew, Bedale and Leeming Bar Wards

1.1 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report sets out the further consultation responses received in respect of the Council's draft proposals for the community governance arrangements of two parishes, namely Bedale and Aiskew, and seeks approval of the final recommendations that there be no changes to the current community governance and electoral arrangements.
- 1.2 Members will recall that a Community Governance Review was triggered following receipt of a petition which proposed that the Aiskew Ward of Aiskew Parish be merged with the Parish of Bedale to create a new parish of Bedale with Aiskew, together with the creation of a new Parish Council called Bedale Town Council. The Leeming Bar ward of Aiskew Parish was excluded from the petition proposal.
- 1.3 The Council considered and approved terms of reference for the Community Governance Review on 21 February 2017. The terms of reference proposed three options (including the Petition proposal) and set out a timetable for direct consultation with all residents and relevant stakeholders in both parishes, and resolved that draft recommendations be presented to Council on the outcome of the consultation at its meeting on 23 May 2017.
- 1.4 At that meeting the Council considered the consultation responses, which indicated a clear margin of support (62% of respondents) for the continuation of the existing arrangements, and resolved to consult on its draft proposals, namely the continuation of the existing community governance and electoral arrangements for the existing parishes of Bedale and Aiskew.

2.0 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW CRITERIA:

- 2.1 Members are reminded that a Community Governance Review provides an opportunity to consider whether, amongst other things, community governance arrangements properly reflect the identities and interests of the community, and are effective and convenient. A Community Governance Review must also take into account a number of influential factors including how local arrangements impact on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.
- 2.2 A Community Governance Review can consider one or more of the following:
 - (a) to create, merge, alter or abolish parishes;
 - (b) the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
 - (c) the electoral arrangements for parishes (including the ordinary year of election, council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding); and

(d) grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

2.3 The criteria set out above were included in the consultation.

3.0 CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS/STAKEHOLDERS:

3.1 As it was required to do the Council consulted on its draft proposals. The consultation included all residents in the two parishes and relevant stakeholders, and took place from 24 May to 23 June 2017 inclusive. Each property was sent a letter containing the draft proposals together with information on how to respond to the further consultation.

4.0 CONSULTATION RESULTS:

4.1 The Council received 10 responses to its further consultation. All respondents agreed with the draft proposals, namely to continue with the existing arrangements. This is consistent with the majority of the responses received in the previous consultation.

4.2 Following the conclusion of this further consultation the Council is now required to make its final recommendations on the Community Governance Review.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION:

5.1 It is recommended that Council approves the continuation of the existing community governance and electoral arrangements for the existing parishes of Bedale and Aiskew, as it is satisfied that the existing arrangements properly reflect the identities and interests of the community, and are effective and convenient.

JUSTIN IVES

Background papers: None

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