



DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	19 OCTOBER 2020	12
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Legislation allows the council to review the pattern of community governance in its area. A review can recommend the establishment or abolition of parish councils, re-align boundaries between them and change the number of parish councillors.

Finance and Democracy Committee recently considered a report that discussed undertaking a community governance review of the structure of parish governance within Fylde. The committee recommended that a review be undertaken, and in doing so asked that particular attention be given to the unparished area and areas undergoing significant growth. The council is asked to consider the committee's recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Undertake a community governance review, with terms of reference comprising the whole of the council's district with a focus on the unparished areas of Lytham and Ansdell and areas of high development.
2. Adopt the indicative review timetable set out in paragraph 14 of the report to the Finance and Democracy Committee meeting held on 28 September this year, save that the dates for the stages from and including "November 2020 – May 2021 Review Conducted" be moved to one year later to accommodate the ongoing Boundary Commission review of Fylde's council size and warding.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Community Outlook Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 14 May 2009: received a report recommending a community governance review of the whole of the council's district. Recommended that a review be not carried out.

Council, 27 July 2009: Commissioned review of the whole of the council's district.

Council, 26 July 2010: Received the review; deferred consideration until further consultation had taken place.

Council, 27 September 2010: Accepted the recommendation of the review to increase the council size of St Annes on the Sea Town Council; declined to proceed with the remaining recommendations.

Finance & Democracy Committee, 28 September 2020: Recommended a community governance review be undertaken of the whole district with a focus on the unparished areas of Lytham and Ansdell and areas of high development.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	√
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

REPORT

1. Legislation allows the council to review the pattern of community governance in its area. A review can recommend the establishment or abolition of parish councils, re-align boundaries between them and change the number of parish councillors.
2. Finance and Democracy Committee recently considered a report that discussed undertaking a community governance review of the structure of parish governance within Fylde. The committee recommended that a review be undertaken, and in doing so asked that particular attention be given to the unparished area and areas undergoing significant growth.
3. Since Finance and Democracy Committee considered the report, it has become clear that recommended practice is that a community governance review should not run in tandem with a Boundary Commission review of the council size and warding of a principal council. As Fylde is presently undergoing such a review, it is recommended that the relevant parts of the indicative timetable for the community governance review be moved back by one year, so that the review starts on completion of the current Boundary Commission review. This can be accommodated, since the next scheduled parish council elections are in 2023.
4. Council is asked to consider and accept the recommendation of the committee.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Any review would need to be carried out internally using existing Council resources and not involve any additional expenditure.
Legal	The powers to carry out a review are contained in the Local Government and Involvement in Health Act 2007 as explained in the body of the committee report.
Community Safety	Empowered and confident parish councils will be able to play a significant role in improving community safety and combating the fear of crime.
Human Rights and Equalities	Any review would need to have regard to community cohesion.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The cohesiveness of communities and enhancement of community identity are key elements of sustainability and will be important considerations in any review.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Guidance on Community Governance Reviews	March 2010	www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance

