

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Director of Commissioning and Governance

To: General Purposes - 4 February 2015
Council - 26 February 2015

(Author: Sue Daniels, Electoral Services Manager)

Subject: Community Governance Review – Swanton Morley – Final Recommendations

Purpose: To approve the increase in Parish Council size from 7 to 9 seats

Recommendations:

- 1) That Committee approve the increase in size of Swanton Morley Parish Council from 7 to 9 seats.
- 2) That an 'Order' be made to effect the change from the date of the next parish council elections.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Breckland Council has responsibility for undertaking Community Governance Reviews under the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The purpose of a Community Governance Review is to provide a mechanism whereby the boundaries of areas served by Parish Councils and their related electoral arrangement (including provision of any parish council wards, and allocated numbers of parish councillors) can be amended where appropriate.

1.2 The Council's General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 12 November 2014 gave approval for the Executive Director of Commissioning and Governance to carry out a Community Governance Review for the parish of Swanton Morley under the terms of the 2007 Act:

To carry out a Community Governance Review with a view to increasing the number of councillors from Seven to Nine.

1.3 The law requires the Council to complete each Review within 12 months of commencement. Any changes arising from the Review will come into effect at the next full parish elections in May 2015.

Criteria and Aim of the review

1.4 In conducting this review, Section 93 of the 2007 Act requires Breckland Council to seek to ensure that community governance within the area will be reflective of **the identities and interests of the community** in that area; and is **effective and convenient**.

When considering this, Breckland Council has taken into account a number of influential factors, including:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and

- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

Consultation

- 1.5 The period of initial public consultation sought the views on the submission of detailed proposals for consideration. The Council undertook the consultation with electors and interested stakeholders in the area by way of Notice of the Review on the Swanton Morley Parish Council Notice Board and Breckland Council website. The initial consultation period was held from 17 November 2014 to 15 December 2014. No responses were received to the initial consultation.
- 1.6 The Council published a notice on 5 January 2015 announcing the draft recommendations in relation to the Community Governance Review. No responses were received to the draft recommendations.
- 1.7 In preparation of the final recommendations under this review, Breckland Council seek to provide community governance that will be reflective of the identities and interest of the community in the area concerned and is effective and convenient.

Summary of proposals

- 1.8 Breckland Council seeks to make a reorganisation 'Order' to the effect increasing the size of the Parish Council from seven to nine. The 'Order' to coming into force on 30 March 2015.

2.0 OPTIONS

- 2.1 Do nothing
- 2.2 Approve the increase in Parish Council size from 7 to 9 seats
- 2.3 Make an 'Order' to effect the change

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This recommendation is made on the basis of the representation received from the parish council, and it should be noted that no responses to the community governance review were received from the community. Swanton Morley is a vibrant village with an active Parish Council. The parish council took over responsibility for the management of the village hall in 2009, and this has meant an increase in work for each of the parish councillors. Swanton Morley is an area that is expecting development in housing and increase in the population of the area in the region of 20%. It has already experienced growth as there have been a number of local developments. The new local plan for the area also gives scope for future growth. It is important that the parish council has the capacity to support the local people and increasing the size of the parish council will help to ensure the future success of the village.

4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

- 4.1 Increased resources for the parish council will help ensure support for and future success of, the village of Swanton Morley.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

5.1.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

5.2.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.3 **Contracts**

5.3.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

5.4.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.7 **Financial**

5.7.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.9 **Risk Management**

5.9.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.10 **Staffing**

5.10.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.11 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.11.1 [Consultation on this matter took place as required and in line with legislation.](#)

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 [Ward of Swanton Morley, Parish of Swanton Morley.](#)

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 [None](#)

Background papers:- None

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Mandatory Service