

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Member Strategy & Governance (Mark Robinson)

To: Council – 6 December 2018

Author: Sue Daniels, Electoral Services Team Leader

Subject: Community Governance Review Final Recommendations – Parish of Carbrooke; Parish of Great Ellingham & Parish of Thetford

Purpose: To approve the recommendations of the Community Governance Sub Committee for the Parishes of Carbrooke; Great Ellingham & Thetford.

Recommend to FULL COUNCIL:

- 1) That the number of parish councillors for Carbrooke Parish Council be increased from 7 to 9.
- 2) That the boundary of the parish of Great Ellingham be altered to extend the southern boundary of the parish of Great Ellingham to meet the natural boundary provided by the A11 which currently lies within the parish of Attleborough (Queens and Besthorpe Ward). (Appendix A)
- 3) That:
 - (a) The parish boundary for Thetford be extended to include all the land to the south of the A11 and west of the A1075 currently in the parish of Croxton, with the boundary between Croxton and Kilverstone remaining unchanged. (Appendix B)
 - (b) An additional two Councillors for Thetford for the new parish ward be approved.
 - (c) The new Parish is named the 'New Saxon' Ward

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In November 2017, Council agreed to the creation of a Cross Party Community Governance Sub-Committee to agree the Terms of Reference and conduct the Community Governance Reviews for the parishes of Carbrooke, Great Ellingham, and Thetford.
- 1.2 In January 2018, the Sub Committee approved and published the Terms of Reference for each of the reviews
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference were to consult and consider:
 - a) The request from Carbrooke Parish Council to increase the number of parish councillors from seven to nine members.
 - b) The request from Great Ellingham Parish Council for an extension to the southern boundary of the parish of Great Ellingham to meet the natural boundary provided by the A11; this currently lies within the parish of Attleborough (Queens and Besthorpe Parish

Ward). The request suggests that the properties within this area have no natural ties with the town of Attleborough as their properties are closer in proximity to Great Ellingham.

- c) The request from Thetford Town Council to extend its boundary to include the new Sustainable Urban Extension area (SUE) - this area currently lies within the parishes of Croxton and Brettenham & Kilverstone. The Town Council has also asked to increase its size from 16 to 20 councillors, to reflect the increased area, and requested additional councillors in the Thetford Town Council Wards of Boudica, Anne Bartholomew, and Castle Ward.

2.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

- 2.1 The Sub-Group agreed to consult local government electors for the areas under review, together with Ward & Parish Councillors, Parish Councils, and Norfolk County Council.
- 2.2 The first consultation ran for 10 weeks from 8th January to 16th March 2018. The numbers of responses received for Carbrooke were 5; Great Ellingham 3 and Thetford 525. The responses were considered by the Sub Committee at a meeting on 28th March. The recommendations agreed for the second consultation were:
 - a) To increase the number of parish councillors on Carbrooke Parish Council from seven to nine members.
 - b) To extend the Great Ellingham Parish Boundary to the natural boundary with the B1077
 - c) No change to the current Thetford boundaries.
- 2.3 The Council published its draft recommendations on the changes proposed and a second period of consultation ran for 10 weeks between 16th April 2018 and 22nd June 2018. The numbers of responses received for the second response were Carbrooke 2; Great Ellingham 4 and Thetford 3,962.
- 2.4 At its meeting on 8th August 2018, the sub-committee agreed to carry out a third consultation for the Thetford review only. The recommendations agreed for the third review were:
 - a) The Parish Boundary for Thetford is extended to include all the land to the South of the A11 and west of the A1075 currently in the parish of Croxton.
 - b) The parish boundary between Croxton and Kilverstone remain unchanged.
 - c) The number of Thetford Town Councillors is increased by 2 to 18 to cover the proposed new Parish Ward.
 - d) The name of the new Parish Ward to be determined by Breckland Council following consultation.
- 2.5 The Council published these draft recommendations, and a third public consultation ran from 20th August 2018 & 28th September 2018. The numbers of responses received to this consultation were 99. The sub-committee subsequently met on 19th October and agreed the recommendations proposed in this report.

3.0 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 In undertaking the review, the Council has been guided by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.2 The Council is also required to have regard to guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100 (4) of the Act by the Government department for Communities and Local Government . This Guidance was published in April 2008, and it was considered when agreeing the Terms of Reference.
- 3.3 Any changes to the current arrangements for either the Thetford or Gt Ellingham reviews would need to be referred to the Boundary Commission for England for approval as set out in the guidance on Community Governance Reviews Sections 172 – 176 issued in accordance with Section 88 (1) & (2)(b) of the Act by the Government department for Communities and Local Government.

4.0 OPTIONS

- 4.1 To agree the recommendations as outlined in this report and in the Maps attached as Appendices A and B
- 4.2 Approve the recommendations with amendments.
- 4.3 Do Nothing.

5.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 5.1 To complete the reviews set out in the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review Sub-committee which were approved by Council at its meeting of 2nd November 2017 (minute reference 160/17).

6.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

- 6.1 Improved community cohesion,
- 6.2 Effective and convenient local government

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

7.1.1 Constitution & Legal

7.1.1. The review was conducted in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Guidance on Community Governance Reviews as published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (March 2010).

7.2 Corporate Priorities

7.2.1 Providing the right services, at the right time and in the right way.

7.2.2 Enabling stronger, more Independent communities.

7.2 Risk Management

7.2.1 The risks associated with the decision Council is asked to make and the proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out below.

7.2.2 The Community Governance Review has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant legal requirements and applicable guidance; legal services will be instructed to draft the required Community Governance Order to bring the recommendations into effect subject to Local Government Boundary commission permission for the Great Ellingham and Thetford review recommendations.

7.3 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales

7.3.1 All residents and elected representatives of the areas under review,

8.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

8.1 All Saints Ward - Parish of Great Ellingham, Attleborough Queens & Besthorpe Ward
Forest Ward - , Parishes of Thetford, Croxton, Brettenham & Kilverstone; Saham Toney
Ward, Parish of Carbrooke,

9.0 ACRONYMS

9.1 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health (The Act) LGPIH

9.2 Community Governance Review (CGR)

Background papers:- None. The following published documents were referred to in preparing this report:-
'Guidance on Community Governance reviews' (Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary commission for England)

Community Governance Review Sub Committee Meetings on
12 December 2017, 28 March 2018, 8 August 2018, 19 October 2018
(<http://democracy.breckland.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>)

Community Governance Review Consultation Responses
(<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/CGR-review-2018>)

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post: Sue Daniels, Electoral Services Team Leader

Telephone Number: 01362 656870
Email: democraticservices@breckland.gov.uk

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Map of the proposed amendment to the boundary area for the Parish of Great Ellingham
Appendix B Map of the proposed amendment to the boundary area for the Parish of Thetford