

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Rory Ringer – Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Returning Officer

To: General Purposes Committee – 24 November 2022

Author: Sue Daniels, Electoral Services Team Leader

Subject: Community Governance Review

Purpose: To consider a request from Sparham Parish Council to carry out a Community Governance Review.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) To approve the request from Sparham Parish Council to carry out a Community Governance Review and to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to conduct and implement the review.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIH) devolved the power to take decisions relating to the creation or abolition of parishes, the boundaries of parishes and the electoral arrangements of parish councils from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal councils, through a process called a Community Governance Review.
- 1.2 When undertaking such reviews Councils must ensure that community governance in the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It is important that recommendations made through a CGR should bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy, and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.
- 1.3 We have received a request from Sparham Parish Council to conduct a Community Governance review on the following basis:
- 1.4 To increase the membership of Sparham Parish Council from 5 to 7 members, based on increasing resilience, aid succession planning, and providing support to the parish constituents. The current electorate is 246 and an increase in parish council members would be in line with similar parishes of this size within Breckland.
- 1.5 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, together with guidance produced by The Local Government Boundary Commission for England sets out the criteria under which such reviews may be undertaken.

2.0 OPTIONS

- 2.1. To approve the request to conduct Community Governance review for the Parish of Sparham
- 2.2. To refuse the request to conduct a Community Governance review for the Parish

of Sparham

2.3 To approve, the request and give delegated powers to the Deputy Chief Executive to conduct and implement the review.

2.4 To approve the request and reserve the final decision on the outcome of the review for General Purposes Committee

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 A community governance review enables the Council to review and put in place or make changes to community governance systems and structures – for example by creating, merging, abolishing, or changing parish or town councils in the review area.

4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 To deliver the benefits in line with the criteria set down in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 for improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

5.0 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.

5.1 **Constitution & Legal** The review to be conducted having regard to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

5.2 Corporate Priorities

5.2.1 Inspiring Communities

5.2.2 Thriving Places

5.3 Financial

5.3.1 The work will be undertaken by officers by way of normal business.

6.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

6.1 Parish of Sparham

7.0 ACRONYMS

7.1 Community Governance Review - CGR

Background papers:- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews 2010- published by The Local Government Boundary Commission/Department for Communities and Local Government

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

Appendices attached to this report: (list appendices below or delete)

Appendix A Map of Parish of Sparham

Appendix B Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Guidance on
Community Governance Reviews: [Community governance
reviews: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-governance-reviews-guidance)