

Report of the Head of Elections Licensing and Registration

Report to General Purposes Committee

Date: 7 March 2018

Subject: Joint Review of Polling Districts and Community Governance Review of Parish and Town Councils – Final Proposals Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Kippax & Methley		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. Reports relating to the Council's final proposals for the joint polling district and community governance review were considered by General Purposes Committee on 11 December 2017 and Full Council on 10 January 2018.
2. The review concluded on 12 January 2018 when the Council published its final proposals. These can be viewed at www.leeds.gov.uk/pollingdistrictreview.
3. General Purposes Committee and Full Council agreed to defer the decision on the proposals relating to the abolition of Ledston Parish Council until March 2018 to allow the Parish to address some outstanding matters, listed in 2.2 below.
4. This report provides an update as to the outstanding matters, and Electoral Working Group's recommendations to General Purposes Committee.

Recommendations

5. Members are asked to:
 - a) note the information from Ledston Parish Council in 3.1 below.

- b) consider the recommendation made by Electoral Working Group in 4.1 below.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To consider updated information in relation to the proposed abolition of Ledston Parish Council.
- 1.2 To make a recommendation to Full Council on the proposed abolition of the Parish.

2. Background information

- 2.1 At Full Council on 10 January 2018, Members agreed to defer the decision on the proposed abolition of Ledston Parish Council to allow the Parish to address some outstanding matters.
- 2.2 The Parish was given a deadline of Monday 12 February to sufficiently address the following:
 - a) obtain membership of the YLCA/NALC or other appropriate body;
 - b) arrange YLCA/NALC training for the Parish Clerk; and
 - c) provide required accounts information to the auditorsor;
 - d) resolve to merge with the neighbouring Parish of Ledsham as mentioned in the representation submitted by the Ledsham Parish Clerk on 14 November 2017.

3. Outcome of the deferral

- 3.1 The Parish Clerk has provided copies of emails confirming that the outstanding actions shown in 2.2 (a-b) above have now been completed.
- 3.2 Although email confirmation from the Clerk has been received in respect of provision of accounts to the auditors (2.2(c)) above, a copy of the original email has not been provided at the time of writing.
- 3.3 During the deferral period, an email from Rev. Andy Robinson, Vicar of Ledsham with Fairburn, was received in relation to the proposed abolition. Rev. Robinson stated he was aware of local residents in Ledston and Ledston Luck who would be very disappointed should the Parish Council be abolished.

4. Recommendation of Electoral Working Group

- 4.1 Electoral Working Group were satisfied with the progress made by Ledston Parish Council and recommended that the Parish should remain in place.

5. Corporate considerations

5.1 Consultation and engagement

- 5.1.1 The community governance review has been conducted in accordance with the Act. As required by Section 93(3) the process adopted has ensured that the Council has consulted with local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body which appears to have an interest in the review.

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.2.1 In accordance with Section 93(4) of the Act the review has had regard to the need to secure that community governance in the area reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area, and is effective and convenient.

5.3 Council policies and best council plan

- 5.3.1 The review supports the council's aims to be the best city for communities, and in particular the four year priority to increase a sense of belonging that builds cohesive and harmonious communities.

5.4 Resources and value for money

- 5.4.1 The cost of the review will be met from the budget and resource allocation to Electoral Services.

5.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 5.5.1 The review has been conducted in accordance with the Act, under relevant delegations to the Chief Executive in respect of community governance.
- 5.5.2 General Purposes Committee make these recommendations to Council in accordance with the terms of reference.
- 5.5.3 The final decision to give effect to the recommendations is reserved to Full Council.

5.6 Risk Management

- 5.6.1 There are no implications for this report.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The processes followed by officers meets the statutory requirements for a joint Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations and Community Governance Review of all Parish and Town Council Arrangements.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to:
- a) note the information from Ledston Parish Council at 3.1 above..
 - b) consider the recommendation made by Electoral Working Group in 4.1 above.