

Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration

Report to Full Council

Date: 12 September 2012

Subject: Recommendations from General Purposes Committee following the Community Governance Reviews for Scarcroft and Rawdon

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Harewood, Horsforth, Guiseley & Rawdon and Otley & Yeadon		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. At its meeting on 30 August 2012, General Purposes Committee considered items relating to: -
 - Community Governance Review recommendations on whether to increase the number of parish councillors for Scarcroft Parish Council; and
 - Community Governance Review recommendations on whether to create a new parish of Rawdon
2. This report provides information about those items, together with the recommendations made by the committee.

Recommendations

3. General Purposes Committee recommend that in relation to the Community Governance Review for Scarcroft: -
 - To increase the size of Scarcroft Parish Council from seven to nine Councillors;
 - That the electoral arrangements are as set out in Appendix A; and

- That the interim arrangements are that the existing parish councillors cover the duties of the two new parish councillors until those vacancies to the parish council are filled

4. General Purposes Committee recommend that in relation to the Community Governance Review of Rawdon: -

- That a new parish and parish council for Rawdon be constituted, excluding the polling district OYG (from the original proposal contained in the petition received on 18 May 2012);
- That the precept for the new parish council be set at £40,000;
- That the electoral arrangements are as set out in Appendix B; and
- That the interim arrangements for the new parish are that the existing Local Government Ward Councillors act as parish councillors until vacancies to the new parish council are filled

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report presents recommendations to full Council from General Purposes Committee regarding the Community Governance Reviews of Scarcroft and Rawdon.

2 Background information

- 2.1 General Purposes Committee is authorised to make recommendations for the final proposals for any Community Governance Review to Full Council.

- 2.2 At its meeting on 30 August 2012, General Purposes Committee (GPC) considered items relating to: -

- Community Governance Review recommendations on whether to increase the number of parish councillors for Scarcroft Parish Council; and
- Community Governance Review recommendations on whether to create a new parish of Rawdon

- 2.3 This report sets out the recommendations from General Purposes Committee relating to those items.

3 Main issues

3.1 Community Governance Review of Scarcroft

- 3.1.1 Appendix A is a copy of the full report that went to General Purposes Committee for their consideration. This report contains details of the process followed to conduct the Community Governance Review, all the required background information and representations received following the public consultation.

- 3.1.2 Members are asked to approve the recommendation to increase the number of parish councillors for Scarcroft from seven to nine.

3.2 Community Governance Review of Rawdon

- 3.2.3 Appendix B is a copy of the full report that went to General Purposes Committee for their consideration. This report contains details of the process followed to conduct the Community Governance Review and all the required background information. Details of representations received following the public consultation are included as a background document.

- 3.2.4 Members are asked to approve the recommendation to create a new parish and parish council for Rawdon.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.5 All local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review has been consulted on the proposal, and full Council is asked to take into account all representations received in connection with the review.
- 4.1.6 Full Council is also asked to have regard to the need to secure that the community governance arrangements for the area reflect the identities and interests of the community in the area and are effective and convenient.
- 4.1.7 Full Council is also asked to take into account any other arrangements (apart from those relating to parishes and their institutions), that have already been made, or that could be made, for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in respect of the area.
- 4.1.8 This information in respect of both reviews is contained in the appendices.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 An equality screening document has been completed for each review and has concluded that the consultation arrangements have helped ensure all people affected by the review were given an opportunity to comment which includes an opportunity to raise any equality, diversity, cohesion or integration issues.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 These reviews do not affect the council's budget and policy framework, although reviewing local electors' needs does support 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.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 No additional human resources were required to carry out the reviews.
- 4.4.2 There is no budget to carry out Community Governance Reviews so the cost of both reviews was met from within existing budget. The cost of carrying out each review was estimated at £1,000. This is mainly costs from printing and publishing Notices in local press.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 Under the Council's Constitution, General Purposes Committee alone has the delegated authority to make recommendations for the final proposals for any Community Governance Review to Full Council.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There is always a risk of challenge to the decision. There is no right to appeal as such, although if local electors disagreed with the final recommendations they could lobby the full Council not to give effect to them, or a decision by full Council could be challenged by way of judicial review on the usual principles.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 That General Purposes Committee has properly considered any representations received and the additional information contained in the appendices to this report to determine their recommendations regarding the Community Governance Reviews of Scarcroft and Rawdon.
- 5.2 If full Council agrees with General Purposes Committee's recommendations, the council's Legal Services will prepare the associated Reorganisation of Community Governance Orders.

6 Recommendations

- 6.3 General Purposes Committee recommend that in relation to the Community Governance Review for Scarcroft: -

- To increase the size of Scarcroft Parish Council from seven to nine Councillors;
- That the electoral arrangements are as set out in Appendix A; and
- That the interim arrangements are that the existing parish councillors cover the duties of the two new parish councillors until those vacancies to the parish council are filled

- 6.4 General Purposes Committee recommend that in relation to the Community Governance Review of Rawdon: -

- That a new parish and parish council for Rawdon be constituted, excluding the polling district OYG (from the original proposal contained in the petition received on 18 May 2012);
- That the precept for the new parish council be set at £40,000;
- That the electoral arrangements are as set out in Appendix B; and
- That the interim arrangements for the new parish are that the existing Local Government Ward Councillors act as parish councillors until vacancies to the new parish council are filled

7 Background documents¹

- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The Electoral Commission Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, April 2008
- Equality Screening for both reviews
- Reasons for Scarcroft Parish Council's request and guidance on number of parish councillors on parish or town councils
- Petition from electors in Horsforth, Guiseley & Rawdon and Otley & Yeadon wards received on Friday 18 May 2012
- Details of all representations received in response to the public consultation for proposals to establish a new parish and parish council in Rawdon

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.