

 Regulatory Committee 27 June 2011		Agenda Item No. 6
Title	Community Governance Review – Boundary between Barford and Wasperton Parishes	
For further information about this report please contact	Gill Friar Electoral Services Manager 01926 456105	
Wards of the District directly affected	Budbrooke	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No (If No state why below)
This is a minor change to a parish boundary and will not have any equality or sustainability implications.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	2.5.11	Andy Jones
Legal	15.4.11	John Gregory
Finance	4.5.11	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holder		Michael Doody
Consultation & Community Engagement		
None at present. If the Committee decide to conduct a Community Governance Review a consultation exercise will be undertaken in accordance with the legislation.		
Final Decision?		No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		
If a Community Governance Review is agreed it will result in recommendations which will be reported back to the Committee		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of a request from the Barford Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council for a change to the boundary between Barford and Wasperton Parishes. A copy of the relevant minute of the Joint Council is attached at Appendix 1. The Joint Parish Council has subsequently agreed to the proposed change of boundary and terms of reference referred to below.
- 1.2 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the Council has the power to make Orders about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements including boundaries. Before making such an Order the Council has to undertake a community governance review.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Council agrees to undertake a community governance review of the boundary between Barford and Wasperton Parishes.
- 2.2 The following terms of reference be approved:

To review the Barford/Wasperton parish boundary between points A and B on the plan attached as Appendix 2 with a suggested amendment to show a revised boundary between points A and C on the plan.
- 2.3 The officers be authorised to carry out the review in accordance with the relevant legislation.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is accepted that there has been development over the existing boundary between Barford and Wasperton Parishes and an amendment to the boundary can therefore be justified.
- 3.2 The Council now has the power to make changes to parish boundaries without reference to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England or the Department of Communities and Local Government but must first undertake a review.
- 3.3 As this is a minor alteration which only affects a small number of properties it is felt that it would be appropriate to carry out the review on its own and not delay it until other possible changes to parishes are identified.
- 3.4 The Guidance issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Department of Communities and Local Government provides that:

‘Since new boundaries may be used to provide building blocks for district ward and/or county division boundaries in future electoral reviews of district and county councils it is important that principle councils seek to address parish boundary anomalies when they arise.’

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Policy Framework

There are no relevant Council policies involved

4.2 Fit for the Future

The recommendations do not contribute to 'Fit for the Future' other than to respond favourably to a request from a Joint Parish Council.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

5.1 Costs have been incurred in researching the options open to the Council and preparing this report and these have been met from within the electoral register general expenses budget.

5.2 Further costs will be incurred in carrying out the review and making an order if this is agreed. These are not expected to exceed £1000 and can be met from within the electoral register general expenses budget.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

6.1 To delay the review until other possible changes to parishes are identified.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 A request has been received from the Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council for a change to the boundary between Barford and Wasperton Parishes.

7.2. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolved decision making powers relating to parishes and their electoral arrangements to district councils.

7.3 Before implementing any changes to electoral arrangements including boundary changes the Council has to undertake a community governance review.

7.4 The Council must comply with the duties set out in Section 93 of the 2007 Act when carrying out a review. However, subject to those duties it is for the Council to decide how to undertake the review.

7.5 In carrying out the review, the Council must consult the following:

- (a) the local government electors for the area under review;
- (b) any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the principal council to have an interest in the review.

7.6 The Council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

- (a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- (b) is effective and convenient.

7.7 The Council must take into account any representations received in connection with the review.

- 7.8 As soon as practicable after making any recommendations, the Council must:
- a) publish the recommendations; and
 - b) take such steps as it considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the recommendations.
- 7.9 The Council must conclude the review within the period of 12 months starting with the day on which it begins the review.
- 7.10 After taking a decision on the extent to which the Council will give effect to the recommendations made in a community governance review, the Council must publish its decision and its reasons for taking that decision. It must also take sufficient steps to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the decision and the reasons for it.
- 7.12 If the Council decides to implement the recommendations made in its review, it does so by way of a Reorganisation Order. Further publicity must be given to the Order.