

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council

**DATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Catherine Meek, Head of Democratic Services

**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875011

**WARD(S):** All

### **PART 1** **FOR DECISION**

#### **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL** **(REORGANISATION OF COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE NO 1) ORDER 2014**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

To advise the Council of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) consent to the Council's proposals for the Britwell Parish Council boundary and electoral arrangements arising from the recent Community Governance Review (CGR).

The report seeks the Council's consent to make a Reorganisation Order altering the electoral arrangements in Britwell parish as provided for in Section 86 of the Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

##### **2. Recommendations**

The Council is requested to note the report and Resolve

- (a) that the Slough Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance No 1) Order 2014 as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (b) that the the Head of Democratic Services following consultation, as appropriate, with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewal be authorised to take all necessary steps to give effect to the Reorganisation Order including the publication and notification requirements as required by law.

##### **3. Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities - Cross-Cutting themes**

**Civic responsibility** - Effective governance arrangements are central to a successful modernised and transformational council and the Community Governance Review is an essential part of those arrangements.

## Other Implications

### (a) Financial

The costs associated with undertaking the Community Governance Review have been accommodated within existing budgets.

### (b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The conduct of the CGR is governed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the Act"),

### (c) Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Legal  Risk of legal challenge to decisions	Seek legal advice at all stages of the Review	Proposals must bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services
Property	N/A	N/A
Human Rights	None at this stage	
Health and Safety	N/A	
Employment Issues	None at this stage	
Equalities Issues	EIA prepared	
Community Support	Ensure consultation is appropriate and engages all interested parties so that community support for the way forward is effectively sought	Community engagement improved as a result of the recommendations of the review
Communications	Consultation is appropriate and engages all interested parties	Residents given the opportunity to influence how their local area is governed
Financial  Review costs have been absorbed within existing budget provision.	Ensure statutory Guidance on Reviews is followed and recommendations are evidence based.	
Reputation	Ensure statutory Guidance on Reviews is followed and recommendations are evidence based	

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed at the start of the Community Governance Review.

**4. Supporting Information**

4.1 At its meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013 the Council considered the outcome of the CGR that had been undertaken during 2013. The Council made a number of recommendations with regard to the existing Parish Councils in the Borough.

4.2 In respect of Britwell Parish Council the Council resolved:

**Support for abolition/retention**

- (a) That the results of the advisory postal poll and the representations made by Britwell Parish Council in their meeting with the Review Group on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013 be noted and the written responses received during the consultation both in support of the Parish Council and making representations on its future boundaries also be noted.
- (b) That the Council notes that the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of abolition of the Parish Council and that public opinion be tested again in a further four years' time.

**Proposed Changes**

Alteration of Parish Area

- (c) That the boundary of Britwell Parish Council be altered as shown on maps attached at Appendix A to the Council Report [Attached to draft Order].

Electoral Arrangements

- (d) That the number of Parish Councillors be reduced to seven.

Elections

- (e) That the term of office of the existing thirteen Parish Councillors be reduced by one year from 2015 to 2014 in order to bring these changes into effect from May 2014 and that the newly elected seven Parish Councillors serve a five year term of office initially and then revert to the traditional four year term.
- (f) That subject to the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to the proposed changes to the boundaries and electoral arrangements for Britwell Parish a Reorganisation Order will be laid before Council for approval giving effect to the Council's final recommendations of the Community Governance Review.

## **Local Government Boundary Commission Consent**

- 4.3 The Council was advised that if it decided to proceed with changes to the parish boundary, it would be required to submit an application to the LGBCE for consent to the changes to the parish as part of the LGBCE review process. If consent was granted, the Council would then need to make an Order implementing the changes.
- 4.4 The LGBCE formally notified its consent to the proposed changes to protected electoral arrangements for Britwell Parish Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014. This allows the Council to make an order altering the electoral arrangements in the Parish as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

## **Reorganisation Order**

- 4.5 Copies of the Order, once made, need to be deposited at the Council's main offices along with a detailed map showing the effects of the Order which should be available for inspection by the public at all reasonable times (i.e. during normal working hours).
- 4.6 In addition to depositing a copy of the reorganisation order at its main office, the Council must inform the following organisations that the Order has been made:
- The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
  - The LGBCE
  - The Office of National Statistics
  - The Director General of the Ordnance Survey
  - Any other principal council whose area the order relates to
- 4.7 The Council is also required to inform the Audit Commission to ensure that it is kept abreast of changes emerging from Community Governance Reviews.
- 4.8 The Council must also send two copies of the order to the Secretary of State and two copies of the order to the Electoral Commission

## **5 Appendices**

Appendix 1 - The Slough Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance No1) Order 2014

## **6 Background Papers**

Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 from the LGBCE