

Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 5 December 2018

Community Governance Review - Workington Town Council

The Reason for the Decision:	To consider the recommendations of the Workington Community Governance Review Working Group following a Review of the Workington parish area
Summary of options considered:	To approve a draft Reorganisation Order amending the parish ward boundaries and the electoral arrangements of the parish.
Recommendations:	That Council approves the Reorganisation Order for Workington Town Council, to take effect at the normal parish council elections in May 2019, and which will have the effect of: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Amending the ward boundaries of the parish as detailed on the maps contained within the Order2. Amending the electoral arrangements of the parish to reduce the council size from 30 to 25
Financial / Resource Implications	None
Legal / Governance Implications	Implications for electoral administration of the parish
Community Safety Implications	None
Health and Safety and Risk Management Implications	None
Equality Duty considered / Impact Assessment completed	N/A
Wards Affected:	All six Allerdale Borough Council Workington wards
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Joan Ellis

Lead Officer

Lindsay Tomlinson
Electoral Services Manager

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Report Implications

Community Safety	N	Financial	N
Legal	Y	Partnership	N
Social Inclusion	N	Asset Management	N
Equality Duty	N	Health and Safety	N
Employment (internal)	N	Employment (external to the Council)	N

Background Papers

- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- LGBCE Guidance on Community Governance Reviews
- LGBCE Final recommendations for new local government electoral arrangements for Allerdale Borough Council
- Workington CGR Working Group reports and minutes

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 100 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The Act) sets out the process by which Principal Authorities such as Allerdale Borough Council can carry out a Community Governance Review (CGR) of parish arrangements within its area.
- 1.2 Allerdale Borough Council at its meeting on 15 November 2017 agreed to a request by Workington Town Council to carry out a Community Governance Review of the parish. Council established a Working Group comprising all 15 Allerdale Borough Councillors who represented the Workington wards, and agreed the Terms of Reference that stated that the review would look at the parish ward boundaries and electoral arrangements in respect of council size.
- 1.3 In May 2018 Councillor Stoddart submitted to Council a petition calling for a review into the setting up of a separate parish council for the Moorclose ward area. Council agreed at its meeting on 25 July 2018 to amend the terms of reference for the Workington parish review to enable the Working Group to include the Moorclose option during the second stage of the consultation process.

2.0 Statutory Consultation Process

- 2.1 The Workington CGR Working Group met monthly from February to October 2018 and members of Workington Town Council were invited to attend all meetings.
- 2.2 The Working Group ran a two-stage consultation process on the Review; the first stage took the form of an online and paper questionnaire and asked local residents, statutory consultees and other stakeholders for their reviews on the current arrangements for the town council.
- 2.3 Based on the responses received at Stage 1, the Working Group proposed changes to the ward boundaries and to the council size. These proposals were consulted on at Stage 2 via an online and paper questionnaire, which also asked whether a separate parish council should be established for the Moorclose ward.
- 2.4 As part of the Stage 2 consultation process three consultation events were held across Workington on Saturday mornings during October 2018. Members of the Working Group and officers attended the events to answer questions and encourage residents to complete the Stage 2 questionnaire.

3.0 Outcome of the Consultation Process and Statutory Process

- 3.1 Workington Town Council currently comprises 30 members across 11 parish wards. The proposals will reduce the number of wards to 8 and the number of councillors to 25. Maps of the proposed new wards are included with the Draft Reorganisation Order at Appendix A. The allocation of councillors to wards and the ratio of electors to councillors is shown at Appendix B.
- 3.2 There is no set formula for determining the optimum number of councillors representing the electorate in their area, however the Electoral Commission makes it clear that in order to ensure everyone's vote is equal, elector to councillor ratios should be "as equal as they can be" across the electoral area.
- 3.3 In respect of the Moorclose petition, more than 70% of the respondents to the Stage 2 consultation process said that they did not support the establishment of a separate parish council for Moorclose. The Working Group therefore resolved to note the petition and have not put forward any specific recommendation to Council.
- 3.4 The review of Allerdale Borough Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) will take effect at the ordinary elections in May 2019; some of the changes to the Allerdale wards would have had the effect of losing co-terminosity with the Workington parish wards. The proposed new parish boundaries will resolve this issue.
- 3.5 Any Reorganisation Order agreed by Council must be implemented at the next ordinary parish council elections in May 2019.

3.6 The Local Government Boundary Commissioners have advised that any parishes that were subject to revised electoral arrangements during the recent LGBCE review of Allerdale are protected for 5 years. The Allerdale review proposed a reallocation of councillors within the Workington Town Council wards. Therefore any proposals arising from this Community Governance Review will need the formal consent of the Commissioners. The draft Reorganisation Order has been sent to the Commissioners and their response is awaited.

4.0 Polling Districts and Polling Scheme

4.1 A review of the authority's polling districts and polling scheme is currently being undertaken and this will be presented to Council in January 2019. The outcome of these proposals will be taken into consideration during the review.

5.0 Finance/Resource Implications

5.1 There are no significant costs arising from the implementation of the amendments to the parish wards and electoral arrangements.

6.0 Legal Implications and Risks

6.1 The procedure for conducting a Community Governance Review is set out in legislation and all statutory requirements have been complied with.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 That Council approves the Reorganisation Order for Workington Town Council, to take effect at the normal parish council elections in May 2019, and which will have the effect of:

1. Amending the ward boundaries of the parish as detailed on the maps contained within the Order
2. Amending the electoral arrangements of the parish to reduce the council size from 30 to 25

Appendices:

Appendix A Draft Reorganisation Order – Workington Town Council
Appendix B Distribution of Councillors to wards and electors

Lindsay Tomlinson
Electoral Services Manager