

## **PROPOSED INCREASE IN NUMBERS ON ELLINGHAM, HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Over the last few months, the Committee has been considering a request from Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council (EH&I PC) to increase the numbers on the Parish Council from 8 to 10. The requirements for undertaking the necessary Community Governance Review have been followed. After having initial reservations as to the need for the increase, the Committee on 14 November 2014 agreed to publish draft proposals to increase the numbers on the Parish Council from 8 to 10.
- 1.2 Residents were consulted on the draft proposals by way of an information sheet circulated to all dwellings in the Parish with the Parish Council's newsletter. Responses were requested by 19 December 2014.

### **2. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 Only two further responses have been received from residents. Both support the proposed increase. Thirteen responses were received to the initial consultation – 11 in favour and 2 against.
- 2.2 While the response to the latest consultation is disappointing, it is not unexpected because residents have probably not felt the need to comment on the required second stage of the consultation process.

### **3. ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER**

- 3.1 Members are reminded that the primary considerations for the District Council are whether increasing the numbers on the parish council will result in "effective and convenient local government" and reflect the identities and interests of the community. The Committee was satisfied at its last meeting that that was the case, and there is nothing arising from the responses to the current consultation to indicate that the Committee should change its latest view.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The resources involved in the review are mainly employee time. The Parish Council has met the cost of circulating the District Council's consultations.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are none.

**6. RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 That it be a recommendation to the Council that, as an increase in numbers on the Parish Council will result in effective and convenient local government -

(a) final proposals and recommendations to increase the number of members on Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council from 8 to 10 with effect from the quadrennial election of councillors in May 2015 be published, and that steps be taken to ensure that those who may have an interest are informed of them; and

(b) following the steps in (a) above, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make a Reorganisation Order to give effect to the changes set out above.

**Further information:**

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**Background Papers:**

Published documents