

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting: 5th July 2010
Report of: Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Wilmslow Community Governance Review: Supplementary Briefing Paper on Numbers of Parish Councillors and Warding Arrangements

Briefing Paper Summary

It has been recommended by the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee that three parish councils be created for Handforth ; Wilmslow (including polling district 8EE1) and Styal and:

- That in Handforth the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole;
- That in Styal the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole; and
- That given the substantial size of the proposed Wilmslow parish, and in order to reflect longstanding community identities, the parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of election to the Parish Council.

Members now need to consider the number of councillors to serve on each of the parish councils, and the warding arrangements for Wilmslow.

Section A below provides comparator information on the size of parish councils to assist in determining the appropriate number of parish councillors for each of the three parishes.

Section B then sets out options for the warding of the proposed Wilmslow parish, taking into account the imminent report by the Boundary Commission.

A. COMPARATOR INFORMATION RE: SIZE OF PARISH COUNCILS

The current electorate for the three parish areas is as follows:

Proposed Parish Council	Electorate April 2010
Handforth	5,313
Styal	592
Wilmslow	19,098

An analysis of other Town and Parish Councils in Cheshire East is provided below for comparison purposes:

Town / Parish Council	Electorate	No of Wards	No of Councillors	Electorate ratio per Councillor
Alsager	9,676	3	14	691
Congleton	21,694	6	20	1,084
Middlewich	10,743	2	12	895
Sandbach	14,833	3	18	824
Bollington	6,213	3	12	517
Knutsford	10,541	4	15	702
Mottram St Andrew	517	2	7	73
Poynton with Worth	11,994	3	17	705
Prestbury	2,880	3	12	240
Sutton	2,715	4	12	226
Nantwich	11,375	4	12	947

The following (non-grouped) Parish Councils have the minimum number of 5 Parish Councillors (All other parish Councils have at least 7 parish Councillors).

Town / Parish Council	Electorate	No of Wards	No of Councillors	Electorate ratio per Councillor
Swettenham	249	0	5	50
Lyme Handley	129	0	5	25
Millington	179	0	5	36
Snelson	126	0	5	25
Hankelow	216	0	5	43

Summary

The electorate for the proposed Wilmslow Parish Council is comparable with that of Congleton Town Council, with an elector ratio of approximately 1,000 electors per Councillor. This would seem a reasonable comparator for determining the number of Councillors for Wilmslow.

As the proposed Styal Parish Council is larger than those parish Councils with 5 councillors, and all other small parish councils have at least 7 parish Councillors, then it would be reasonable for Styal to have 7 Parish councillors, giving an elector ratio of 85 electors per Councillor. This would also be comparable to Mottram St Andrew Parish Council.

It would seem that Handforth cannot be compared directly to the list above, but if, say, 8 parish Councillors were elected, this would provide an elector ratio of 664 electors per Councillor.

B. PROPOSED WARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR WILMSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

It has been recommended by the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee that: "Given the substantial size of the proposed Wilmslow Parish and in order to reflect longstanding community identities, the parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of election to the Parish Council".

The proposed options for warding are set out below:

Option 1

Members have expressed a desire for the Wilmslow Parish to be warded in accordance with the former boundaries of the Macclesfield Borough Council wards.

Map 1 attached shows this option.

Wards would be created for Morley, Lacey Green, Dean Row, Hough and Fulshaw. Polling District 8EE1 is to be included in the Dean Row Ward.

The wards would comprise the following polling districts and electorate figures (as at 28.4.2010). A further column is included to show the 5 year electorate forecast, which should be taken into account when considering electoral equality.

None of the polling districts need to be split to create this warding arrangement. This warding would work well on the basis of the current Cheshire East ward boundaries. The Fulshaw parish ward forms part of Alderley Borough Ward, but this does not create any electoral difficulties. The Dean Row and Handforth parish wards are co-terminus with the Wilmslow North Borough ward; and Hough, Morley, Styal and Lacey Green are co-terminus with the Wilmslow South Borough ward.

Using a ratio of approximately 1,000 electors to one Councillor; the proposed number of councillors for each ward can be determined; and is indicated in the end column of the table below. This would give a total number of 18 or 19 parish councillors.

Morley			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FH1	1,867	1,820	
8FJ1	137	140	
8FG1	1,261	1,260	
Total	3,265	3,220	3

Lacey Green			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8EK1	2,139	2,090	
Total	2,139	2,090	2

Dean Row			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8EA1	847	810	
8EB1	2,148	2,180	
8EC1	478	470	
8ED1	793	810	
8EE1	1,378	1,280	
Total	5,644	5,550	5/6

Hough			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FC1	1,342	1,330	
8FD1	905	920	
8FE1	621	630	
8FF1	1,191	1,190	
Total	4,059	4,070	4

Fulshaw			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FA1	2,469	2,410	
8FB1	1,522	1,510	
Total	3,991	3,920	4

Option 2

The Wilmslow Community Governance Review is complicated by the fact there is an ongoing Boundary Review. The final recommendations of the Boundary Commission are expected to be announced on 13th July. An electoral changes Order will then need to be laid in draft in both Houses of Parliament. The timescales for the laying of the order are not yet clear.

If the Boundary Commission proposals for Wilmslow are implemented, as anticipated, then it is suggested that adjustments would need to be made to the proposed wards outlined in option 1 above, so that the new Borough Ward Boundaries aligned with the parish ward boundaries. In particular, there are 4 existing polling districts (8EA1, 8FD1, 8FA1 and 8FB1) which would be

divided by the Boundary Commission proposals. It is only possible at this stage to give indicative electorate figures for splitting these polling districts, as further detailed work will need to be done to provide greater accuracy. However, indicative figures are considered to be sufficient for the purpose of the Stage 2 consultation. Further work will be done upon publication of the Boundary Commission proposals.

Map 2 attached reflects the anticipated Boundary Commission recommendations.

The old Macclesfield Borough Fulshaw Ward would be divided on a North East / South West axis, in effect dividing polling districts 8FA1 and 8FB1.

Members may therefore feel it appropriate to create parish wards for “Morley and Fulshaw”; “Lacey Green”; Dean Row”; and “Hough” as shown on **map 2 attached**.

To accord with the revised boundaries, the wards would comprise the following polling districts and electorate figures (as at 28.4.2010). A further column is included to show the 5 year electorate forecast, which should be taken into account when considering electoral equality. As explained above – some of these figures can only be estimated at the current time.

Using a ratio of approximately 1,000 electors to one Councillor, the proposed number of councillors for each ward can be determined, and is indicated in the end column of the table below. This would give a total number of 18 parish councillors.

Morley and Fulshaw			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FH1	1,867	1,820	
8FJ1	137	140	
8FG1	1,261	1,260	
8FC1	1,342	1,330	
8FA1 (40 %)	988 E	964 E	
8FB1 (40 %)	609 E	604 E	
8FD1 (22%)	199 E	202 E	
Total	6,403 E	6,320 E	6

Lacey Green			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8EK1	2,139	2,090	
8EA1 (33%)	280 E	267 E	
8FD1 (63 %)	570 E	580 E	
Total	2,989	2,937	3

Dean Row			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8EA1 (67%)	567 E	543 E	
8EB1	2,148	2,180	
8EC1	478	470	
8ED1	793	810	
8EE1	1,378	1,280	
Total	5,364	5,283	5

Hough			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FD1 (15%)	136 E	138 E	
8FA1 (60%)	1,481 E	1446 E	
8FB1 (60%)	913 E	906 E	
8FE1	621	630	
8FF1	1,191	1190	
Total	4,342	4310	4

Map 3 attached includes polling district references for further information.

Contact Officer : Lindsey Parton
Elections and Registration Team Manager