

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 26th April 2013
Report of: Head of Democratic Services and Governance
Subject/Title: Request from Styal Parish Council for change of Borough Ward Name

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Council is in receipt of a letter from Styal Parish Council dated 26th February 2013 requesting that the Borough Ward name of Wilmslow Lacey Green be amended to include Styal in the title.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Constitution Committee is recommended to note the request from Styal Parish Council, but to resolve that no action be taken.

3.0 Wards Affected

- 3.1 Wilmslow Lacey Green

4.0 Local Ward Members

- 4.1 As above.

5.0 Policy Implications

- 5.1 None.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There would be an administrative cost to carry out consultation with the electors in the ward and to arrange a specially convened Council meeting. This cost, for which there is no budget, could be multiplied if other Parish Councils seek similar changes.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under section 59 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Cheshire East Council can resolve to make a ward name change. The resolution must be passed at a specially convened Council meeting held for that purpose and must have been the subject of consultation. The resolution must be passed by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting on it. Additionally, the consent of the Boundary Commission for England must be

obtained, since the current ward name was put in place by Order by the Commission in the last five years (The Cheshire East Review was completed in 2010).

8.0 Risk Management

- 8.1 There is a possibility that further requests for ward name changes could be made by residents or organisations in other Borough Wards. A decision to change the ward name for Wilmslow Lacey Green could set a precedent which would then make other requests received difficult to decline. This would require additional workload and further use of Council Resources, given that Wilmslow Lacey Green is only one of fifty-two wards in Cheshire East.

9.0 Background

- 9.1 Styal Parish Council has stated that the reason for the request is that:

“The Lacey Green area is an urban area and does not reflect the village status of Styal. Also, that Styal village has large areas of farmland and is unique in that a number of residents live on the National Trust Quarry Bank Mill Estate. The centre of the village has only one shop and a few small cottage businesses and that there is a stark contrast between Styal and a large conurbation”.

- 9.2 There are currently 3555 electors in the Wilmslow Lacey Green Ward, of which 541 are electors in the parish of Styal.
- 9.3 The Local Authority must not pass a resolution to change a ward name unless it has taken reasonable steps to consult persons as it considers appropriate on the proposed name.
- 9.4 A Boundary Commission Review of all the Borough Wards was completed in 2010 and elections, based on the 52 new Wards, were held in May 2011.
- 9.5 The Committee may consider that little time has passed since 2011 to necessitate a further review and change of Ward name. In addition the Committee needs to consider the reasons cited for the request and determine whether this provides a strong enough justification for the request to be considered.

10.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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