

## **WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE**

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**Date of meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
**Report of:** Elections and Registration Team Manager  
**Title:** Briefing Paper – Wilmslow Community Governance Review Progress Report

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### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Following two previous meetings of the Sub-Committee, this paper provides an update on progress.

### **2 Terminology used in Literature about the Review**

- 2.1 The Sub-Committee at the last meeting decided that to avoid confusion to the public it would prefer to refer to the term “town council” in all documentation published about the review. The intention was to try to avoid reference to several different terms, such as “parish council”, “community council” and “town council”.
- 2.2 It is appropriate to remind Members of the actual wording of the three petitions received as follows:

#### Handforth

- (1) That a new parish be constituted under Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- (2) That the new parish should have a parish council to be known as Handforth Community Council.
- (3) That members of the Council will not be affiliated to any political party.
- (4) That the area to which the review is to relate be defined as being the electoral ward of Handforth as known in 2007.
- (5) That the Council will not precept the area, only use moneys granted, delegated, awarded or given for the benefit of the area.

#### Wilmslow and Handforth

- (1) That a new parish be constituted under Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- (2) That the new parish should have a parish council to be known as Wilmslow and Handforth Town Council.

- (3) That the area to which the review is to relate comprises the Electoral Wards of Dean Row, Fulshaw, Handforth, Hough, Lacey Green and Morley & Styal.

### Styal

- (1) That a new parish be constituted under Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- (2) That the new parish should have a parish council to be known as Styal Parish Council
- (3) That the area to which the review is to relate to be defined as shown on the attached map, being a part of the Electoral Wards of Morley and Styal.

2.3 The legislation relating to Community Governance reviews (Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007) specifies that the principal council: must make recommendations as to what new parish, or parishes (if any) should be constituted; must make recommendations as to the name of the new parish; must make recommendations as to whether or not the new parish should have a parish council; and whether or not the new parish should have one of the alternative styles (which is explained below).

2.4 Prior to the 2007 Act, a parish could be given the status of a town under section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972. "Town" status continues to be available to a parish. In addition the 2007 Act inserts two new sections 12A and 12B to offer a further choice of alternative styles for a parish – e.g. community, neighbourhood and village. However, for as long as a parish has an alternative style, it will not also be able to have the status of a town and visa versa. References in legislation to a "parish" should be taken to include a parish which has an alternative style. Where a community governance review relates to a new parish, it is for the principal council in the first instance to make recommendations as to the name of the parish – and as to whether or not it should have one of the alternative styles. The Council should take account of the views and preferences of people living in the area in relation to the style of council recommended.

2.5 Given the background set out above, the Sub-Committee may wish to review its decision in respect of using the term "Town Council" across the board in all the documentation relating to the review. The term 'Parish Council' may be more appropriate; or as was proposed by officers at the last meeting – the term 'local Council' – with an appropriate explanation would be an all-encompassing term to describe all the possible styles of council which may emerge from the review. To use the term Town council only at this early stage may be confusing to those people who have signed the Handforth and Styal petitions, which do not refer to a Town Council.

## **3 Public Meetings**

Members are asked to note that unfortunately it was not possible to confirm Honford Hall as the venue for the public meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Arrangements have now therefore been made for this meeting to be held

at Handforth Youth and Community Centre, Old Road, Wilmslow. These details are now being published via the public / press notice and press release agreed at the last meeting. The wording has been amended slightly, so as not to refer to all of the petitions received requesting the creation of a Town Council. A copy of the amended public notice and press release is attached for information, and this will appear in the press during the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> April to allow two weeks' notice of the public meetings being held.

#### **4. List of consultees**

The list of consultees has been updated and extended following discussions at the last meeting and is attached for information.

#### **5. Explanatory Leaflet**

Further to the last meeting, the text for the leaflet has been updated and a map added. Members are asked to agree the final format of the leaflet for printing, and to agree whether a black and white or coloured map is preferred. Members may wish to make further changes to the draft leaflet based on the comments made in paragraph 2 above.

#### **6. Draft Ballot paper to Electors**

The Sub-Committee has agreed that as part of the Stage 1 consultation, a voting paper with an explanatory leaflet will be sent to all electors.

Members are asked to consider and agree the format and wording of the ballot paper. Two options are submitted for consideration (copies attached). These have been drafted based upon discussions at the last two meetings of the Sub – Committee. However, Members may wish to make further changes to the draft leaflet based on the comments made in paragraph 2 above.

It is suggested that the same style of voting paper is used for the whole of the review area. However, as there are three distinct areas of the review, it is suggested that if the voting paper for option 1 is chosen, that the ballot paper is coded, so that replies can be analysed by area. For example, a simple way of achieving this would be to code the ballot papers A, B and C – to represent the separate areas of Styal, Handforth and the remaining area of Wilmslow. This coding of the ballot paper wouldn't be necessary if voting paper option 2 was chosen. Either style of ballot paper can be accommodated by the printers. Appropriate security measures will also be put in place for the printing of the voting papers.

#### **7. Publicity for the start of the Review**

The attached notice and press release which will be issued at the end of April have been updated following the last meeting. Members may wish to review the wording in light of the comments made in paragraph 2 above.

## **8. Next Stages**

In summary, following this meeting, arrangements will be made for the printing of the voting papers and explanatory leaflets to electors, which it is proposed are dispatched to electors on 7 May. The stage 1 consultation period will then take place from 10 May to 4 June. Copies of the leaflet will also be printed and made available for the three public meetings on 26, 28 and 29 April. At the beginning of May, all consultees identified will be contacted and a copy of the explanatory leaflet sent to them inviting their views.

### **Appendices:**

1. Amended public notice and press release (giving notice of the three public meetings)
2. List of Consultees
3. Explanatory Leaflet (and optional colour map)
4. Draft Voting Paper Options
5. public notice / press release (giving notice of the start of the stage 1 consultation)