

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – EGREMONT, BECKERMET, HAILE,  
LOWSIDE QUARTER, PONSONBY**

**PORTFOLIO** Cllr Norman Williams  
**HOLDER:**  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Martin Jepson  
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<b>Summary :</b>	Reports the recommendations of the Parish Review Working Party on the community governance review of parts of Beckermets, Egremont, Haile, Lowside Quarter and Ponsonby.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	The Working Party recommends that Council approve the draft Re-organisation Order for the creation of a Beckermets Parish with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2011 and the establishment of Beckermets Parish Council with effect from the next ordinary elections following that date.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced powers for a principal council to undertake community governance reviews of all or part of their area, and to make local reorganisation orders on completion of reviews. Community governance reviews (CGR's) can comprise creating, merging or abolishing parishes, naming or re-naming parishes, amending parish boundaries, and altering electoral arrangements in parishes. Electoral arrangements include the number councillors to be elected to a parish council, their terms of office, and warding arrangements within parishes. Powers to undertake CGR's replace the powers under earlier legislation for the Secretary of State to make parish review orders on the recommendations of principal councils.

## **2 PROPOSALS**

2.1 The Parish Review Working Party has considered a number of reports on proposals for creation of a new Parish of Beckermets, and associated changes to boundaries of adjoining parishes.

2.2 The proposals would result in the abolition of the existing parishes of St Bridget's Beckermets and St John's Beckermets and creation of a new parish to be known as the parish of Beckermets. The new parish would comprise 14 Councillors, meaning a councillor to elector ratio of 1:95.

- 2.3 The new powers in the 2007 Act require principal authorities undertaking CGR's to consult with electors in areas under review. Previous reports to the Working Party have set out proposed consultation arrangements, and have summarised the objections and representations received, which the Working Party has considered.
- 2.4 The remainder of this report explains the matters which the Re-organisation Order, shown at Appendix A", addresses.

### **3 BUDGET AND PRECEPTS**

- 3.1 Regulation 3 of the Local Government Finance (New Parishes) (England) Regulations 2008 requires principal authorities undertaking CGR's which involve creation of new parishes to set the budget for the new Council in its first year.
- 3.2 Appendix B shows the proposed budget for the new parish of Beckermest which have been drawn up in consultation with the existing parishes of St John's Beckermest and St Bridget's Beckermest, and the Copeland branch of CALC.

### **4 TRANSFER OF PROPERTY, RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES**

- 4.1 Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 provides that where a Re-organisation Order is made as a result of a CGR which creates new parishes in an area and abolishes others, all property, rights and liabilities of a transferor authority (abolished authority) will transfer to and vest in the transferee authority (new authority). It is therefore not necessary for the Order itself to address these matters.

### **5 ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL**

- 5.1 As the new parish council will not have had the opportunity of appointing a clerk, the draft Order provides for the 2011 Annual Meeting of the parish council to be convened by the Chief Executive of the Borough Council and serviced by a member of staff from Democratic Services; and for the Annual Meeting to be held within 14 days of the 2011 parish council elections.

### **6. COMMENCEMENT AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

- 6.1 The Order will take effect on 1 April 2011 and elections for parish councillors will be held on 5 May 2011. It is not considered necessary to make transitional provisions for administration of the parish's affairs in the interim period.

### **7. CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 Approval of the draft Order by Council will complete the formal procedural stages of the first Community Governance Review conducted by the Council.

**List of Background Documents      Guidance on CGR's**