

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor J Bowman
LEAD OFFICER: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: Tim Capper

Summary: Reports proposed changes to the terms of reference of the Parish Review Working Party

Recommendation:	That the terms of reference of the Parish Review Working Party be amended to include other electoral matters and that the Working Party is restyled the Electoral Review Working Party
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council is required under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to conduct a review of polling districts for Copeland Constituency wards within the Borough by the end of 2011. Consideration of polling districts at present within Allerdale wards of the Copeland Constituency will fall to Allerdale Borough Council to review.

2 DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 Community governance reviews of parish boundaries, parish warding arrangements and parish electoral matters are the responsibility of the Parish Review Working Party. Consideration of other electoral matters, including the imminent review of polling districts, at district, county and constituency level is not at present delegated to any Member body. Under existing arrangements a review of polling districts would therefore have to be conducted and determined by full Council. Electoral matters cannot be the responsibility of the Executive, under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.

2.2 As an alternative, it is recommended that the terms of reference of the Parish Review Working party could be amended to include other electoral matters in addition to community governance reviews, and that the Working Party is re-styled as the Electoral Review Working Party. The proposed revised terms of reference are attached as Appendix "A". Proposed additions to the existing terms of reference are shown in italics.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 These proposals will enable the required review of polling districts to be carried out expeditiously and in accordance with the statutory timescales.

List of Consultees: Corporate Leadership Team; Portfolio Holder; Senior Elections Officer

EIA Implications:

This piece of work will enable us to assess individual polling districts for accessibility and address any issues that arise in the Review

Background Papers:

Electoral Commission guidance on review of polling districts

Parish Electoral Review Working Party

To consider whether a recommendation should be made on the Parishing of Whitehaven and on arrangements for publicising any such recommendation. and to make any consequential recommendations to Council.

To consider issues referred to the Council relating to Parish boundaries outside Whitehaven, *and other electoral matters*, with delegated authority to respond to such issues on the Council's behalf.

To conduct and make recommendations to the Council on community governance reviews under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.