

CGR G

Parishes Affected

South Hinksey

Matter to be considered

To increase the number of councilors – currently five.

To review the warding arrangements.

Proposal agreed by the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 14 August 2017 for consultation

To consult on a draft proposal to increase the size of South Hinksey Parish Council from five to six parish councillors and to ward the parish along the A34 with the wards of Village and Hinksey Hill each electing three councillors.

Summary of parish council responses

South Hinksey Parish Council requested the review of both the size of the parish council and warding arrangements.

The parish council also submitted the following during the consultation:

Our Council has discussed the Committee's specific recommendation to use the A34 as the boundary between the two wards into which our parish would be divided, as our Council requested and as the Committee is minded to agree.

Our Council is aware of no alternative boundary being suggested by any residents and believes there is general acceptance of the rationale for our proposal from our residents and from the Committee, and also of the boundary between the two wards that the Committee is recommending.

Our Council very much looks forward to our parish being able to elect a Council at the next election on the basis our Council has asked: two wards, each with three councillors, providing an increase in the size of our Council from five councillors to six.

Our Council thanks the Committee for its sympathetic consideration of our proposals.

Summary of other responses

No further responses were received at this stage of the process. A summary of the responses received to the earlier consultation were submitted to the committee at its meeting in August and showed five respondents provided a view on the proposed parish warding arrangements and number of parish

councillors in South Hinksey. Three agreed and one disagreed with the proposal. Of the three comments submitted one person objected to the proposed warding arrangement.

Recommendation

To increase the number of parish councillors to six.

To ward the parish along the A34 with the wards of Village and Hinksey Hill each electing three parish councillors.

Justification

The electorate of South Hinksey is not expected to increase significantly over the next five years from the current level of 327. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidance is that a council size of up to seven is appropriate for a council with an electorate of up to 900. Although the parish council did not have a contested election in 2011 or 2015 an increase in the size of the parish council to address workloads identified by the parish council is not unreasonable and complies with NALC guidance.

The Local Government Boundary Commission guidance on community governance reviews states that the warding of parishes in largely rural areas may be appropriate where the parish encompasses a number of villages with separate identities, a village with a large rural hinterland or where, on the edge of towns, there has been some urban overspill into the parish.

South Hinksey Village and Hinksey Hill are different communities and have different issues/problems. The warding of the parish could ensure the interests and identities of the two communities are better reflected and represented. The parish of South Hinksey is bisected by the A34 and provides a well-defined boundary.