

# ***Report to the Council***

**Report of:** Community Governance Review Committee

**Date:** 14 December 2010

**Subject:** Community Governance Review – Moreton, Bobbingworth and The Lavers (MBL)

**Chairman:** Councillor John Philip

**Item:** 16

---

## **Recommendations:**

- (1) That the name of the Committee be changed to “Electoral and Community Governance Review Committee”;**
  - (2) That the terms of reference of the Committee be extended to allow the Committee to respond directly to any proposed Parliamentary Constituency Review Consultation if there is insufficient time to submit recommendations to the Council, all such responses to be subject to ratification at the next available Council meeting; and**
  - (3) That the current position on the review of MBL Parish Council be noted.**
- 

1. As the Council will recall, we were appointed at its meeting on 30 June 2010 (Minute 32) to undertake a Community Governance Review. Our terms of reference required us to examine the issue of re-warding of High Laver, Little Laver, and Magdalen Laver into one new ward known as “The Lavers”, and to deal with the upcoming Parliamentary Constituency Review. Under the relevant legislation, this Community Governance Review must be completed by June 2011.
2. Our first stage of consultation has now been completed, showing a majority in favour of this change to the Laver wards. The consultation also demonstrated public interest in re-drawing the boundary between Matching and MBL Parishes in the village of Matching Green.
3. We have examined this boundary, which divides Matching Parish along the Green, and believe it to be anomalous and detrimental to community governance. We are now undertaking a second stage of consultation to make a firm proposal regarding the re-warding of the three Laver wards, and to consult residents in MBL and Matching on this newly proposed boundary change.
4. This second stage of consultation will also ask for feedback on proposed changes to the number of Parish Councillors, to reflect the new distribution of electors from the boundary change at Matching. This consultation will suggest a reduction of up to two Parish Councillors in MBL, with an increase of up to two Parish Councillors in Matching. The consultation will also demonstrate any consequential effects on District Wards and County Electoral Divisions which, along with Parliamentary Constituency Boundary, share the Matching/MBL boundary.

5. We will discuss the outcome of this second stage at our next meeting on 1 March 2011.

### **Parliamentary Constituency Review**

6. As included in our terms of reference, we also considered a report on the forthcoming review being undertaken by the Boundary Committee for Parliamentary Constituencies. This review is to be reported to the Government by October 2013, in time to implement the new constituencies in the General Election in May 2015.
7. We are concerned about the extent to which the Commission will consult Councils about these changes. Following the example set by previous electoral reviews, it is possible that the Commission's response deadline will not fit in with the programme of Council meetings.
8. Our second recommendation seeks to address the need to respond to these deadlines promptly. It is designed to deal with situations where there may not be time to make recommendations to the Council.
9. If the timescale does permit, we would still report to Council with recommendations. Our recommendation also requires a report for confirmation of the comments made if the delegated authority has been used.
10. We have also recommended that our title should be amended to reflect the wider range of electoral reviews for which we will be responsible.