

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

5 September 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Electoral Arrangements - Parish of Earswick

Summary

- 1 The Earswick Parish Council has requested that the number of parish councillors elected to the parish council be increased from five members to seven members.

Background

- 2 The Earswick Parish Council believe that five parish councillors is not enough to represent the parish fully in the democratic process. Despite a doubling of electorate in the last ten years, the number of parish councillors has not changed.
- 3 The Parish Council has written to the City Council and formally requested that steps are taken to increase the number of parish councillors on the parish council from five to seven.
- 4 Section 16 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that there must be a minimum of five councillors for a parish council and gives authority to a district council to fix from time to time the number of parish councillors within a parish.
- 5 Under the Local Government Act 1997 Section 17 (2)(3) a district council may conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for the council of a parish and may decide that changes may be made.

Consultation

- 6 If Members agree to conducting a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parish of Earswick consultation will be carried out with:
 - a) Ward Members for the Strensall Ward in which the parish lies; and
 - b) The Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Options

- 7 Option One – Members may agree to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parish of Earswick

Option two – Members may refuse to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parish of Earswick

Analysis

- 8 In accordance with the Local Government Act 1997 Section 17(2)(3) a district council may conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for the council of a parish and may decide that changes may be made.

If Members agree to Option One consultation will take place with relevant bodies to ensure the increase in the number of parish councillors would be beneficial to the democratic process

If members agree to Option Two this may well be detrimental to the future democratic process in the Parish of Earswick by deterring elections to be held to the office of parish councillor

Corporate Objectives

- 9 Corporate Objective 6: The increase in the number of parish councillors in this instance may well promote an effective parish council and assist this corporate objective.

10 Implications

- **Financial** – There are no financial implications
- **Human Resources (HR)** – There are no HR implications
- **Equalities** – There are no equalities implications
- **Legal** – There are no legal implications
- **Crime and Disorder** – There are no crime and disorder implications
- **Information Technology (IT)** – There are no IT implications

11 Risk Management

There are no known risks associated with the recommendation

Recommendation

- 12 Members are asked to consider Option One and In accordance with the Local Government Act 1997 Section 17(2) Members are requested to resolve that a review of the electoral arrangements be carried out for the Parish of Earswick Without by consulting with :

- i) Ward Members for the Strensall Ward in which the parish lies
- ii) The Yorkshire Local Councils Association

and that recommendations are reported to a future meeting of the committee.

Reason: Consultation to take place with relevant bodies to ensure the increase in the number of parish councillors would be beneficial to the democratic process

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Report Approved



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Wards Affected: Strensall

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972
Local Government and Rating Act 1997