

Electoral Division name change proposals – proposed change to the name of the Wellington Electoral Division

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1. Summary

- 1.1** At the 6th July 2018 meeting of the Committee, members considered the outcomes of the public consultation process on proposed changes to the names of 4 electoral divisions. The public consultation process on the proposed changes had previously been agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 9th February 2018. Based on the outcomes of the public consultation process, the Committee did not feel able to support 3 of the 4 proposals. The only proposal which the Committee considered should be considered was the change of name from ‘Wellington’ to ‘Wellington and Rockwell Green’. This followed receipt of a single response from the Wellington area but it was from a key local organisation – Wellington Town Council. The Council expressed strong support for the proposal.
- 1.2** Although the Committee indicated at the July meeting that it was prepared to consider supporting the Wellington and Rockwell Green proposal based on this single response, officers were asked to undertake a further round of public consultation on the proposal to see if any other local support could be established for the proposal. This report sets out the outcome of that process.
- 1.3** This report doesn't cover the other 3 electoral division name changes that were originally proposed as the Committee at its last meeting agreed not to recommend any changes to Council for consideration on the back of the consultation exercise. The Committee's conclusions on these proposals will be reported to Full Council for information.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** **The Committee is asked to consider the outcome of the further round of consultation and decide whether to recommend the Council to approve the change in the name of the Wellington Electoral Division to Wellington and Rockwell Green Electoral Division.**

3. Background

- 3.1.** Previous reports have outlined the process for the Council to consider making changes to the names of electoral divisions where the Council considers that the name doesn't adequately identify with the area covered. Under the legislation the Council has the power to amend electoral division names, subject to meeting the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

- 3.2.** The Act requires the Council to consult on a proposed change and then confirm the change at a special Full Council meeting 'specially convened for the purpose'. A change must be supported by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting.
- 3.3.** Once a decision is taken the Council must notify the change to various agencies and the change of name only take effects when the Electoral Commission has given notice of the change.

4. Consultation outcomes

4.1 The further consultation process was undertaken by the local member Cllr Andrew Govier amongst local agencies and organisations. In terms of responses:

- Wellington Town Council has reaffirmed its strong support for the proposed change through a further email
- The Team Rector of the Wellington & District Team Ministry has written in support of the proposal. He represents a group of 13 Church of England parishes in Wellington and the surrounding area so including both Wellington and Rockwell Green. His view is that the new title is appropriate as it expresses accurately how local people view the community they live in, Rockwell Green being a distinct community within the wider town of Wellington.
- The Leader of Rockwell Green Christian Fellowship has also written in support of the change.
- One Team Co-ordinator for Wellington has written to confirm full support of the change to better reflect the current make-up of the electoral division.
- The Acting Headteacher of Rockwell Green Primary School has written in support of the change to properly recognise the community of Rockwell Green. The community is very proud of its village status.

4.2 Conclusion. Although the response rate is still low several key local organisations and/or representatives of such organisations have now written in support and these responses back up the strong support given by the Town Council. It would suggest that the change makes sense from the point of view of these key groups within the local community and would reflect the Rockwell Green's significant population and distinctiveness. The Committee may therefore feel that this is sufficient to confirm its earlier view in support of the proposal and make a recommendation to the Council to approve the change of name.

5. Consultations undertaken

5.1 As detailed in the report.

6. Implications

6.1 Legal: The legal implications are detailed in the report.

- 6.2 Financial: As detailed in the report
- 6.3 Business risk: Not applicable.
- 6.4 Impact Assessment: There are no direct impacts on any of the protected characteristics falling under the definition of the equalities legislation or the local additional protected characteristics adopted by the Council. There are also no direct impacts in other impact assessment categories of community safety, sustainability or privacy.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.