

Community Governance Review – Trunch Parish Council – Reduction in seats

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

<i>Appendix 1:- Consultation response summary including comments</i>	
Cabinet Member(s) Tim Adams	Ward(s) affected Trunch
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Further to the decision of Full Council at the meeting held on 5th October 2022 for the authority to commence consultation on a Community Governance Review proposing a reduction in the number of councillors to serve on Trunch Parish Council the Elections Team have undertaken a period of consultation to establish whether there was support for a reduction in the number of seats on the Parish Council to nine from eleven.

2. Results of the consultation process

- 2.1 Letters were issued to all electors along with a response sheet and a reply envelope to make it easy for them to respond and all other consultees were sent the letter as an email attachment.
- 2.2 At the close of consultation on 4th November 2022 there had been a total of 181 responses, with 177 being in support of and four being against the proposals. This includes support from both District and County Council members for the Parish.
- 2.3 There has been no written response from Trunch Parish Council, however verbally the Clerk of the council has advised that the proposal of a reduction to nine rather than the originally requested seven seats has been accepted.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 provides these figures and includes each of the comments which were made with the responses.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The responses from 175 electors within the parish represents just over 20% of those who were sent letters and of those responding it shows a high volume of support of proposals to reduce the number of seats on the parish council.
- 3.2 Having fully considered the request ahead of the period of consultation and recommending a reduction to nine seats on Trunch Parish Council rather than to seven seats as originally suggested, by the Parish Council, the representations received do not require any change from our initial proposal that the Trunch Parish Council has nine parish councilors moving forward.

3.3 As such our final recommendation to Full Council is that the number of seats on Trunch Parish Council be reduced to nine seats effective from 1st December 2022.

4. Implications and Risks

4.1 Implications are that Trunch Parish Council will require fewer Councilors to serve its community and there will be a higher elector per councilor ratio than some other parishes.

5. Financial Implications and Risks

There are no financial implications or risks relating to this report

6. Sustainability

There are no sustainability implications relating to this report.

7. Equality and Diversity

There are no considerations in relation to this.

8. Section 17 Crime and Disorder considerations

There are no considerations required in relation to this.

9. Recommendation:-

That Full Council agrees that from 1st December 2022 Trunch Parish Council be made up of nine parish councillors