

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE**

19TH NOVEMBER 2007

**ABOLITION OF LICKEY END PARISH COUNCIL**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor R. D. Smith
Responsible Head of Service	Chief Executive

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To consider the request from Lickey End Parish Council to return it to its unparished state.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked
- (i) if it agrees that a parish review of Lickey End should be undertaken and, if so,
  - (ii) to authorise the Chief Executive to make the necessary arrangements.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In June 2001, Lickey End Parish Council submitted a formal request to Bromsgrove District Council for its own dissolution. The consultation process commenced in July 2002 and a draft proposal was forwarded by Bromsgrove District Council to the Minister in December 2002 to the effect that the Parish be abolished.

The Minister confirmed no decision would be made until after the elections in May 2003. At this time, 10 anti-parish candidates were elected. In September 2003, the Minister rejected the recommendation of the Bromsgrove District Council on the grounds:-

- (i) The ODPM believed there was no overwhelming support for the abolition. It believed the review showed that support was quite evenly balanced, notwithstanding the fact that anti-parish council candidates were elected in 2001 and 2003.
- 3.2 Further advice from the ODPM on the timescale to be adopted for another review was sent to Julie Kirkbride MP in September 2003. This stated that the only way abolition could be sought by the District Council was by undertaking a further review and making recommendations to the Secretary of State. The Government is prepared to accept reviews that recommend abolition only where it is satisfied that support for abolition has been maintained over a sufficient length of time, amongst other considerations. A period of at least two normal council terms (that is, 8 years) is considered sensible for this purpose. The advice stressed that 8 years was not a magic

number and that every case would be considered on its merits. Certainly they would wish to establish that any subsequent review showed there was overwhelming support for abolition and that the support was sufficiently informed.

3.3 In May 2007, 10 anti-parish candidates stood for the 10 vacancies so they were elected unopposed and a request has formally been received that the District Council reviews the Parish with a view to its abolition.

3.4 The parish review process is:

### **CONSULTATION**

1. Publicise that the review is taking place through press releases and posters.
2. Hold a public meeting in the Parish area, facilitated by District Council officers.
3. Deliver an information leaflet and response form, seeking the views of local people to all households in parish area.
4. Report the outcome of the above to this committee and make draft recommendations.

After the consultation process is completed, we will then need to:

5. Inform interested persons of the draft recommendations and the period within which representations can be made.
6. Keep copies of the draft recommendations available for inspection.
7. Take into consideration any representations that are made within the prescribed period.
8. That a report on any representations received be reported to this committee in order that the Committee can consider what, if any, recommendations it should make to the Secretary of State.

### 4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Should the Council decide to undertake a review the cost of producing and delivering a leaflet to all households would be £750. Posters and the facilitating of public meetings would be an additional £600. This would have to be found from existing budgets or from the Parish Council balances.

### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Local Government & Rating Act 1997 allows the District Council to undertake a review of part of its area and to make recommendations for changes including the abolition of a parish.

### 6. **COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

6.1 To give effect to the wishes of local people as expressed in any consultation.

7. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 There are no significant risks associated with the details included in this report.

8. **CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Any change to the status of the area would only be recommended after consultation with the residents.

9. **EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None.

10. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues	None
Personnel Implications	None
Governance/Performance Management	None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998	None
Policy	None
Environmental	None

11. **OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

12. **APPENDICES**

None.

13. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

13.1 Minutes of Lickey End Parish Council, dated 10th May 2007  
Letter from ODPM, dated 22nd September 2005  
Letter from Secretary of State to Julie Kirkbride MP, dated 12th September 2003  
Letter from ODPM, dated 3rd September 2003  
Letter from Lickey End Anti-Parish Group, dated 7th September 2003

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Name: Christine Cockell  
email: [c.cockell@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:c.cockell@bromsgrove.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01527 881462