

**Item 5(d) – Community Governance Review**  
**The Electoral Arrangements Committee’s Recommendations to Council**

At its meeting on 27 October 2011 the Electoral Arrangements Committee considered the matter as follows:

“The Electoral Services Manager advised the Committee that Government and Electoral Commission guidance recommended that District Councils should carry out a review of the boundary and electoral arrangements of the parishes within their areas every 10-15 years. With effect from February 2008 District Councils had taken on responsibility for carrying out these community governance reviews (formerly known as parish reviews). The last such review had been carried out in Sevenoaks in 1999 and it was proposed that a review should be carried out now both to meet the recommended timeframe and to take advantage of a small window of opportunity ahead of scheduled elections. The review would have to be completed within 12 months of the review commencing and it was proposed that the review should commence on 30 November and be completed by August 2012 with the publication of the Council’s decisions in respect of parish boundaries and electoral arrangements. Any changes would take effect from the date of the next full parish council elections in May 2015. The timetable outlined in the report provided for widespread consultation to allow interested persons or groups the opportunity to input to the review including District and County Councillors, local parishes, known community groups and local MP’s. Proposals could relate to the creation, merging, grouping, altering or abolition of parishes, or relate to the name of a parish or to the number of councillors or warding arrangements for parishes. It was noted that any changes to parish boundaries would have knock-on effects for neighbouring parishes and would require negotiation to gain the fullest backing of the local community and the parishes affected. The potential impact of the West Kent Cold Store development was discussed and it was noted that a development of this size could ultimately warrant the creation of a new parish”.

**Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that**

- (1) a community governance review be undertaken;**
- (2) the terms of reference for the review set out in the Appendix to the report be adopted; and**
- (3) the timetable for the review contained in paragraph 5 of the report be adopted”.**

**Note: Text in bold type represents a recommendation to the Council.**

