

## **Item 7 (c) - Outcome of electoral review workshop**

The attached report was considered by the Governance Committee on 3 November 2016 relevant minute extract below:

### Governance Committee - 3 November 2016 (Minute 4)

The Chairman presented the report which asked Members to consider whether to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to undertake a review of the current electoral arrangements for the District. Members were advised that a review of the Council's electoral arrangements were not required at the moment, and the cost was not a material consideration for the LGBCE but rather electoral equality. If there was a call for review the council would have no control over the process but rather be a consultee. He informed Members that a Community Governance review could take place to regulate any projected anomalies by making adjustments to Parish Boundaries, of which the LGBCE would then be asked to ratify the changes.

Members discussed whether a review at this current time was needed. Some Members thought that a review should take place due to an increase in the voting population. As officers had been required to make cuts, Members should look at doing the same. It was thought that only a minority of residents contacted Councillors and most of this was carried out through the use of new technology. However some Members disagreed, and believed there were other ways of making savings rather than trying to reduce the number of Councillors and thought a review was not required as the LGBCE may not decide that fewer Councillors for the District were required. With fewer Councillors, caseloads could increase. Meeting patterns may have to change, with meetings possibly during the day, which could lead to would be councillor candidates in employment being excluded. There would be a reduction in the breadth of skills, knowledge and experience that Councillors could offer with impact on the quality of decision making. Fewer wards would mean that village identities could be less clear.

### Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Councillor London moved and it was seconded that it be recommended to Council that no action be taken at this stage, but the matter be reconsidered shortly after the 2019 local elections.

The motion was put to the vote and it was:

**Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that no action be taken at this stage, but the matter be reconsidered shortly after the 2019 local elections.**