



Northumberland

County Council

COUNCIL
26 JUNE 2019

Request to Local Government Boundary Commission for Related Alteration Order - Newsham and Seghill & Seaton Delaval Electoral Divisions

Report of the Chief Executive

Executive Member: Councillor Nick Oliver

Purpose of Report

To consider requesting the Local Government Boundary Commission to make a Related Alteration Order to align the boundary between Blyth and Seaton Valley Parishes with the Newsham and Seghill & Seaton Delaval Divisions.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council

agrees to a request being made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for a Related Alteration Order to align the boundary between Blyth and Seaton Valley Parishes with the Newsham and Seghill & Seaton Delaval Divisions.

Key Issues

1. In November 2017, the results of a community governance review requested by Blyth Town Council were reported to and agreed by Council. The terms of reference of the review were 'to consider the electoral arrangements of Blyth Town Council with a view to reviewing its administrative boundary with Seaton Valley Parish Council'.
2. The effect of the boundary change was to transfer
 - an area of land (A), shown hatched red on the attached map (**Appendix 1**) from Blyth Town into Seaton Valley Parish
 - a small triangular area of land (B), shown hatched green on the attached map, from Seaton Valley Parish into Blyth Town.
3. The recommendation for approval was agreed by Council and an official Order was subsequently drawn up and sealed on 7 March 2018.

4. It has recently been noted that the new parish boundary is not coterminous with the County Electoral Divisions and it should also have been amended as part of the community governance review. The relevant County Divisions are Newsham and Seghill & Seaton Delaval.
5. It is preferred that parish and county division boundaries do align and this also aids convenient and effective local government. The issue has now been exacerbated by the fact that a new housing development has been built on the land adjacent to and including Area B resulting in 13 properties in Lily Gardens and Daffodil Wynd being in a different electoral division to the remainder of the estate.
6. After consultation with the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), advice has been given that this small anomaly can be rectified by way of a 'Related Alteration Order'.

This can be requested by supplying the LGBC with

- details of the original community governance review
- details of the proposed new boundary
- a copy of the Council's approval to request the Related Alteration Order

It is expected that this request would be dealt with by the LGBC within three to four months.

Background

1. Councils now have extensive powers delegated to them in relation to the creation of parishes, modification of boundaries and names changes by virtue of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act. At the request of parish councils, the public or even on their own initiative they may conduct Community Governance Reviews. The aim of a review is to improve the local governance in an area. The process is managed by principal councils with outcomes incorporated into formal orders.
2. Delegated powers have been granted to the Democratic Services Manager to conduct reviews subject to full council reserving the power to agree any formal orders arising out of reviews.

Implications

Policy	
Finance and value for money	None. There were no additional costs incurred in the community governance review other than officer time.
Legal	

Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	All the work can be carried out by existing employees who possess the necessary skill and expertise.
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	The items raised pose a minimal risk to the organisation.
Crime & Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications
Customer Consideration	The proposals should improve the governance of the local community.
Carbon reduction	N/A
Divisions	Newsham Seghill & Seaton Delaval

Background papers:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/how-reviews-work/other-types-of-review/requests-for-related-alterations-following-community-governance-reviews>

Report sign off.

Chief Executive	DL
Finance Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer/Legal	LH
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	NO

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