

Governance Committee

25 June 2018

Change to County Local Committee Boundaries

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Executive Summary

In 2016 a County Local Committee (CLC) review made proposals to reduce the number of CLCs in Mid Sussex from three to two.

The original proposal was for the Lindfield & High Weald division to be in the North Mid Sussex CLC. However, a number of parishes and county councillors suggested Lindfield, Lindfield Rural and Horsted Keynes should be part of the Central and South proposed CLC.

It was therefore agreed by full Council in October 2016 for the Lindfield & High Weald division to be split across the two new CLCs.

Since this decision was taken a new county councillor, Mr Lea, has been elected to the Lindfield & High Weald division. He has now attended a number of meetings of both the CLCs and is of the view that his division should be in one CLC rather than two.

Recommendation

That the Committee determines whether Lindfield & High Weald division be entirely in the North Mid Sussex CLC, and, if so, that this be recommended to the County Council for approval.

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 In 2016 it was agreed to reduce the number of County Local Committees (CLCs) in Arun, Mid Sussex and Crawley, reducing the overall numbers of CLCs from 14 to 11, creating greater parity to other areas in West Sussex with urban areas such as Worthing and Crawley having one CLC per District/Borough and larger mixed urban and rural districts such as Chichester and Horsham having two CLCs per District.
- 1.2 The proposal in Mid Sussex was to reduce from three to two Committees. The original proposal was for the Lindfield and High Weald division to be in the North Mid Sussex CLC.
- 1.3 Internal consultation took place with all county councillors. This was followed by a consultation with local partners, such as town and parish councils, affected by the proposed changes. In Mid Sussex a number of parishes and county councillors suggested that Lindfield, Lindfield Rural and Horsted

Keynes should be part of the southern proposed CLC. It was stated that these parishes have a geographical and historical alignment with Haywards Heath in the south rather than with East Grinstead in the north.

- 1.4 As a result of this feedback an alternative option was put forward that resulted in the Lindfield and High Weald division being split across the two new proposed CLCs. Horsted Keynes and Lindfield urban/rural would be in the Central and Southern CLC and West Hoathly in the North CLC. This option was agreed by full Council in October 2016.

2. Proposal for consideration

- 2.1 In May 2017 the County Council elections resulted in a new county councillor, Mr Lea, being elected to the Lindfield & High Weald division. That local member has since attended the majority of the meetings of both the North and the Central and South CLCs.

- 2.2 The local member has reviewed the previous consultation material and, whilst he understands the reasons why his division was split across the two CLCs, he requests that his division now be entirely in the North Mid Sussex CLC. His reasons for this request are:

- The South and Central Mid Sussex CLC is bigger than the North, so they are somewhat out of balance.
- The aggregated geographical area of the two CLCs in which the County Council division currently sits is very large.
- Because Community Initiative Funding items often come to both committees, the County Council may already have taken a position on an application prior to it being presented to the other CLC.

- 2.3 Should this proposal be agreed the North Mid Sussex CLC will have still have five County Councillors but the number of town and parish councils within the CLC will increase from eight to 11. The Central and South Mid Sussex CLC would reduce from having eight to seven county councillors and would reduce from 16 to 13 Town and Parish Councils within the CLC.

3. Resources

- 3.1 This proposal would not have an impact on the overall grant funding budget for the Community Initiative Fund (CIF). Currently where a County Council division is split across two CLCs, the local member decides how much CIF to allocate to each committee. Agreement to the proposal would result in the whole allocation going to North Mid Sussex CLC.

Factors taken into account

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Mid Sussex District Council, Haywards Heath Town Council, Lindfield Parish Council and Horsted Keynes Parish Council have all been informed of the proposal and asked to comment. We are awaiting their comments and have set a deadline of 11 June.

- 4.2 All the County Council members within the Mid Sussex District have been consulted on these proposals and their comments are recorded in Appendix 1. In summary we have currently received seven responses. Four local members responded in favour of the recommendation from Mr Lea, two responded against the proposal and one did not provide a clear preference. It should also be noted a number of members commented on the need to change the format of the committees and revert back to three CLCs to cover the Mid Sussex area.

5. Risk Management Implications

- 5.1 The parishes and towns affected have previously stated that they have a geographical and historical alignment with Haywards Heath in the south rather than with East Grinstead in the north. If this proposal is agreed the County Council will ensure close communication with the affected parishes and towns on issues relating to the CLCs.

6. Other Options Considered

- 6.1 The other option to the proposal would be to keep the CLC boundary in Mid Sussex as it is now.

7. Equality Duty

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Report is not required for this report because it does not directly impact upon customers and relates to internal governance arrangements only.

8. Social Value

- 8.1 There are no social value implications because it is a report dealing with internal or procedural matters only

9. Crime and Disorder Act Implications

- 9.1 None

10. Human Rights Implications

- 10.1 None

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Contact: Nick Burrell 033022 23881

Background Papers

None