

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- **Council**
Date of Meeting:- 8th March, 2005

Agenda Item No:-

180v

Public	Operational	Delegated: No
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Accompanying Comments and Statements	Required	Included
Environmental Impact Statement:	No	
Corporate Management Team Comments:	No	
Financial Comments:	No	
Legal Comments:	No	
Personnel Comments:	No	
Impact on Customers:	No	

Title:- **REVIEW OF PARISH ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS -
UPPER DENTON PARISH**

Report of:- **Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Report reference:- **LDS 11/05**

Summary:-

Upper Denton Parish Council has requested that the City Council exercise its statutory power to increase the membership of the Parish Council from five Councillors to six. This Report explains the reasons for the Parish Council's request and outlines the statutory guidance.

Recommendation:-

It is recommended that

- the City Council exercise its power under Section 17 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 to make an Order to increase the number of Councillors on Upper Denton Parish Council from five to six with effect from 9th May, 2005.
- the Returning Officer make all necessary arrangements to hold an election on 5th May, 2005 to fill the additional seat on the Parish Council.

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23 February 2005

Introduction

- 1 The City Council has power under Section 17 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 to review the electoral arrangements of existing parishes and implement changes, except in cases where arrangements were put in place by order of the Secretary of State within the previous five years. (In these circumstances, the consent of the Secretary of State would be required.) Electoral arrangements means the total number of Parish Councillors and/or the division of parishes into wards. The Constitution requires that statutory powers in relation to parish councils be exercised by the full City Council.

Upper Denton Parish

- 2 A request has been received from Upper Denton Parish Council to increase the number of Councillors on the Parish Council. When the City Council undertook a full review of parishes in 2001/02 and submitted recommendations to the Secretary of State, no changes were made to Upper Denton parish and the Council is therefore free to make an Order to alter the parish electoral arrangements if it wishes. The Parish Council currently has five members, being the legal minimum number, and would like to have an additional Councillor.
- 3 The Parish Council considers that having an extra member would widen the opportunity for local residents to participate in parish affairs. On the last occasion when a vacancy arose on the Parish Council, two people were interested in being co-opted and the Parish Council would have liked to co-opt them both but was unable to do so because there was only one vacancy. The Parish Council also feels that an additional member would help the conduct of Council business by ensuring that its meetings were more likely to be quorate, particularly at busy times in the farming year.
- 4 Upper Denton Parish is a relatively small one, having 76 electors (December 2004) and an elector to Councillor ratio of 15 to 1. This is high when compared with many other parishes in the City Council's area (although similar to the 16:1 ratio in the neighbouring parish of Waterhead and other small parishes) and it could therefore be argued that Upper Denton is over-represented even without an additional member. (A full list of parishes and their elector/Councillor ratios are set out in the Appendix.)

Statutory Guidance

- 5 When reviewing parish arrangements, the Council must observe the requirement of the 1997 Act (Section 22) to have

"regard to the need

- (a) to reflect the identities and interests of local communities, and*
- (b) to secure effective and convenient local government."*

The Council should also take account of the size of the parish and any change in that size which is likely to occur over the following five years (Section 18) Upper Denton's electorate has been static for a number of years and is unlikely to change significantly in the near future.

- 6 Central government guidance on parish reviews advises that, for the purposes of community representation and local administration, it is desirable that a parish should reflect a small, distinctive community of interest with its own sense of identity. The feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are the primary considerations.

Conclusion

- 7 Having regard to the wishes of the Parish Council and in the interests of effective local government, it is considered that the Parish Council's request should be approved. It is also proposed that the change in the composition of the Parish Council be implemented with effect from 9th May, 2005 so that the election to fill the additional seat on the Parish Council could take place on the same day as the forthcoming County Council elections on 5th May. The initial term of office of the new member would be two years until the next scheduled parish election in May 2007 and thereafter the normal four years for all Councillors.

Recommendations

It is recommended that

- (a) the City Council exercise its power under Section 17 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 to make an Order to increase the number of Councillors on Upper Denton Parish Council from five to six with effect from 9th May, 2005.
- (b) the Returning Officer make all necessary arrangements to hold an election on 5th May, 2005 to fill the additional seat on the Parish Council.

Parish	Electorate	Number of Councillors	Elector to Councillor Ratio
Arthuret	1941	15	129:1
Beaumont	371	9	41:1
Bewcastle	339	9	38:1
Brampton	3563	15	238:1
Burgh-by-Sands	977	10	98:1
Burtholme	154	7	22:1
Carlatton and Cumrew	87	6	15:1
Castle Carrock	259	7	37:1
Cummersdale	394	9	44:1
Cumwhitton	266	8	33:1
Dalston	2076	15	138:1
Farlam	527	11	48:1
Hayton	1774	12	148:1
Hethersgill	315	9	35:1
Irthington	645	10	65:1
Kingmoor	332	8	42:1
Kingwater	120	7	17:1
Kirkandrews	396	12	33:1
Kirklington Middle	298	8	37:1
Midgeholme	50	5	10:1
Nether Denton	254	7	36:1
Nicholforest	316	8	40:1
Orton	317	8	40:1
Rockcliffe	670	9	74:1
Scaleby	271	8	34:1
Solport	141	5	28:1
St. Cuthbert Without	2493	15	166:1
Stanwix Rural	2542	15	169:1
Stapleton	195	7	28:1
Upper Denton	76	5	15:1
Walton	234	8	29:1
Waterhead	111	7	16:1
Westlinton	305	8	38:1
Wetheral	4441	15	296:1

Parishes and City Wards



Parish boundary - - - - -

City Ward boundary —————

Key to Wards

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Brampton | 6 | Irthing |
| 2 | Burgh | 7 | Longtown and Rockcliffe |
| 3 | Dalston | 8 | Lyne |
| 4 | Great Corby and Geltsdale | 9 | Stanwix Rural |
| 5 | Hayton | 10 | Wetheral |