



# REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

## PORTFOLIO AREA: LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Date of Meeting: 19th February 2007

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Public

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Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

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Inside Policy Framework

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Title: REVIEW OF PARISHES - SOLPORT AND STAPLETON

Report of: Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Report reference: LDS 18/07

### Summary:

A request has been received from Solport and Stapleton parishes that they be grouped under a common parish council. This Report explains the process involved and recommends grouping of the parishes.

### Recommendations:

That the Council make an order under Section 11 of the Local Government Act 1972 to group the parishes of Solport and Stapleton under a common parish council named 'Solport and Stapleton Parish Council' with a view to the first elections to the new council being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.

Contact Officer: David Mitchell

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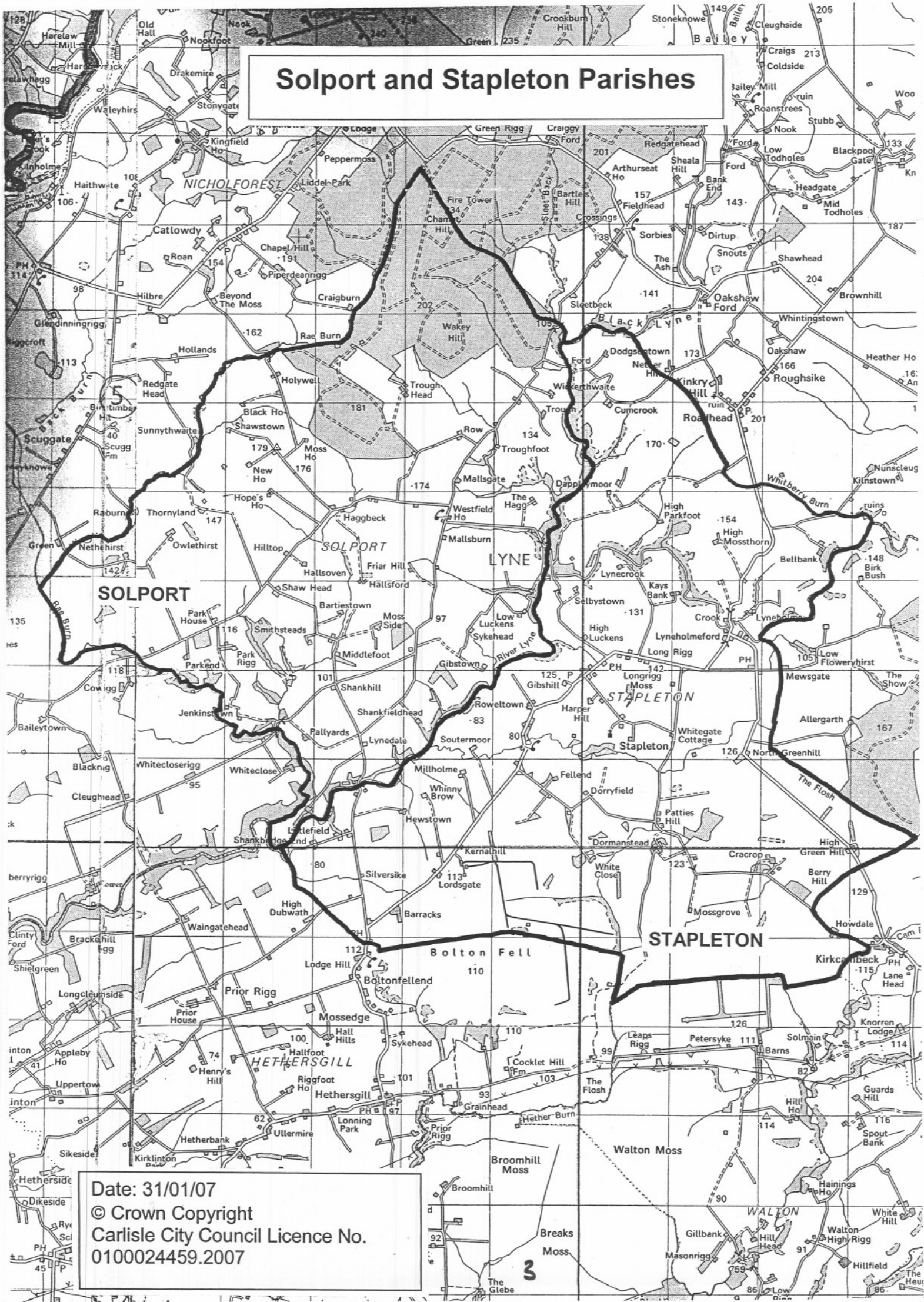
Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

- 1 The Local Government Act 1972 provides for the grouping of neighbouring parishes so that a single parish council can be formed to represent the area of both parishes. Grouping can be used where small parishes no longer require a separate parish council but wish to retain their existing boundaries because they still reflect local community identity. While abolition and creation of parishes requires the approval of the Secretary of State, the City Council has power under Section 11 of the Act to make grouping orders. Parishes, however, cannot be grouped without the consent of the parish meeting of each of the parishes concerned.
- 2 A request has been received from Solport and Stapleton parishes that they should be grouped under a common parish council. The proposal has been agreed by meetings of both parishes. Solport and Stapleton are adjoining parishes in the Lyne ward of the City, north east of Carlisle (see attached map). They have scattered electorates of 142 and 195 respectively; the only centre of population in either parish is the small settlement of Stapleton.
- 3 Grouping would allow the parishes to pull their resources for the benefit of their local communities and operate more efficiently with a single Council and one Clerk. Consultation and communication with other authorities and agencies would also be improved. When undertaking parish reviews, district Councils must have regard to the need 'to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and to secure effective and convenient local government'. These wider aims would be met through the grouping of Solport and Stapleton.
- 4 When grouping parishes, consideration also needs to be given to the number of members to serve on the joint parish council. Parish councils must have at least 5 members and there is no maximum number. In the City Council's area, the sizes of parish council vary widely between 5 and 15 members (see Appendix). A joint meeting of Solport and Stapleton parish councils expressed the view that the number of representatives from each parish on the new council should remain as at present, i.e. 5 from Solport and 7 from Stapleton. This would retain the current balance of representation between the two parishes, reflecting their relative sizes, but the arrangements could be reviewed at a future date if necessary.
- 5 It is suggested that the common parish council be named 'Solport and Stapleton Parish Council'.
- 6 The regular four-yearly elections to both parish councils are due to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007. If a grouping order were made before formal notice of those elections was given on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, elections to the new parish council could take place in May.

**Recommendation:-**

That the Council make an order under Section 11 of the Local Government Act 1972 to group the parishes of Solport and Stapleton under a common parish council named 'Solport and Stapleton Parish Council' with a view to the first elections to the new council being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.

# Solport and Stapleton Parishes



Date: 31/01/07

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## APPENDIX

### Parish Electorates and Number of Councillors

December 2006

<u>Parish Council</u>	<u>Electorate</u>	<u>Number of Councillors</u>	<u>Number of Electors per Councillor</u>
Arthuret	2016	15	134
Beaumont	380	9	42
Bewcastle	329	9	37
Brampton	3478	15	231
Burgh-by-Sands	999	10	100
Burtholme	145	7	21
Carlatton and Cumrew	97	6	16
Castle Carrock	267	7	38
Cummersdale	391	9	43
Cumwhitton	279	8	35
Dalston	2090	15	139
Denton Nether	260	7	37
Denton Upper	78	6	13
Farlam	524	11	47
Hayton	1802	12	150
Hethersgill	312	9	35
Irthington	642	10	64
Kingmoor	458	8	57
Kingwater	115	7	16
Kirkandrews	408	12	34
Kirklington Middle	309	8	38
Midgeholme	51	5	10
Nicholforest	323	8	40
Orton	342	8	43
Rockcliffe	658	9	73
Scaleby	278	8	35
Solport	142	5	28
Stanwix Rural	2525	15	168
Stapleton	195	7	28
St. Cuthbert Without	2808	15	187
Walton	233	8	29
Waterhead	120	7	17
Westlinton	310	8	39
Wetheral	4526	15	302
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27970</b>	<b>318</b>	

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