

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 4th June 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Parish Issues – Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Councils
WARDS: Ditton and Daresbury

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the following requests from Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Councils:

1. Halebank – to increase the number of Councillors on the Parish Council from five to eight and to move the date of the next election from 2010 to 2012.
2. Sandymoor – to increase the number of Councillors on the Parish Council from five to eight.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) that it be recommended to Council that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 53 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the date of the next election for Halebank Parish Council be 3rd May 2012; and**
- (2) That it be recommended to Council that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 (2) of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the number of Parish Councillors on Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Council be increased to eight with effect from 3rd May 2012**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Requests have been received from Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Councils to increase the number of Parish Councillors from five to eight.

The Local Government and Rating Act 1997 empowers District Councils to vary the number of members on Parish and Town Councils.

Halebank Parish Council have also requested that the Council consider moving the date for the next election to 2012, making it the normal four year-cycle for a Parish Council term rather than two.

The Parish Council has advised that when it was established in 2008 there was a natural expectation, amongst electors, that the Council was being elected to fulfil a four year mandate. The Parish Council believes another election in 2010 is likely to confuse voters and undermine the transparency of the democratic system. The Council believe that there is a strong argument as to why a newly established Council should, in principle, be able to fulfil a full four-year mandate. An election in 2010 will give the Council only one year which to set its own precept and begin to establish itself within the community. An election in 2012, would give the Council, and its elected members, time to find their feet, develop their roles and establish a record, which can be properly subject to the democratic verdict of local voters.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific policy implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton – There are no implications arising from this report.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton – There are no implications arising from this report.

6.3 A Healthy Halton – There are no implications arising from this report.

6.4 A Safer Halton – There are no implications arising from this report.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal - There are no implications arising from this report.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risk assessment implications.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity implications.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None