

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 13 May 2010

SUBJECT: Governance Review – Proposed revisions to the Constitution to reflect changes to geography of Crosby and Linacre and Derby Area Committees

WARDS AFFECTED: Church

REPORT OF: Alan Lunt, Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Steph Prewett, Assistant Director
Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes

EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To set out proposed changes to the Constitution to reflect the changing geographies of Crosby and Linacre and Derby Area Committees

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To allow the new structures to be implemented from the new Municipal year dovetailing with the timescales for the development of Area Management and progressing area based governance structures.

RECOMMENDATION (S):

That Council is requested to approve the proposed changes to Page 7 and Article 10 of the Constitution as set out in Section 2 of this report to take effect at the start of the 2010/11 Municipal Year (May 2010 to April 2011)

KEY DECISION: Yes

FORWARD PLAN: Relates to forward plan for decision made at Cabinet and Council 4th March

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following expiry of the call in of the minutes of this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

To retain Church ward within the Crosby Area Committee boundary, however, this disregards the obvious similarities between the characteristics and demographics of Church ward and Linacre ward potentially impacting upon progress of Area Management and how it supports Church

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: .

Financial: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: The composition of Area Committees is set out in the Constitution

Risk Assessment: None.

Asset Management: None

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS:

Legal and Democratic Services
 Governance Review Working Group
 Church Ward Members
 Church Ward Forum
 Area Committee Chairs Crosby and Linacre and Derby

All have been in favour the change in the arrangements.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People	√		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Cabinet and Council Report 4 March 2010 - Governance Review – Workstreams on the Sefton Borough Partnership and Area Management
 Sefton State of the Borough Core Evidence Report

1. Background

- 1.1 The commitment to move towards Area Based Governance Structures was agreed by Cabinet and Council on 4 March 2010
- 1.2 A review of Area Committees and their relationship with Council and Sefton Borough Partnership considered geographical boundaries and representation
- 1.3 The Sefton State of the Borough Core Evidence report drew out some of the key issues affecting different areas of the Borough, this highlighted some of the similarities and disparities between wards.

2. Proposed changes to the Constitution in relation to Area Committees

- 2.1 Page 7 sets out the titles of each Area Committee and Article 10 of the Constitution details the composition of Area Committees.
- 2.2 Within the current constitution Church ward is part of the Crosby Area Committee; the proposed changes to Article 10 suggest moving Church ward from Crosby into Linacre and Derby Area Committee.
- 2.3 This would result in the following amendments being made for Article 10 and Page 7:
- The composition of Crosby Area Committee would be Councillors for Blundellsands, Manor and Victoria Wards plus non-voting Parish Council representative for Hightown, Sefton and Thornton
 - A revised Linacre and Derby Area Committee to be renamed Linacre, Church and Derby composed of Councillors for Derby and Linacre and Church Wards
- 2.4 Both Area Committees would retain 6 spaces for Advisory Group representatives

3. Reasons for proposed amendments

- 3.1 Consideration has been given to pros and cons for the proposed amendment, the following table outlines these points:

Reasons for	Reasons against
Church Ward has a number of similarities to other wards in south Sefton and so would benefit from being aligned to an area committee with similar agendas	Church has historically been part of Crosby Area Committee
Seaforth currently suffers from an artificial boundary split – aligning with Linacre and Derby would enable Seaforth to be seen as a whole	Does not align with Police boundaries
Would minimise the risk of local issues affecting Church ward being lost in the very different context of other areas of Crosby	May present a split in terms of geography for Waterloo?
Would put greater weight behind seeking resolution to issues that have natural similarities with wards in the south of the Borough	Implications for advisory group representatives – would have to revise current membership in Linacre and Derby
Aligns with Children, Schools and Families area boundaries	

Would benefit more strongly from joined up approaches	
Greater potential to attract resources	
Better alignment with HMR boundaries	
Resident involvement – majority of residents would associate more closely with south Sefton	

3.2 The above demonstrates a persuasive argument for moving Church ward across from Crosby Area Committee and incorporating it into Linacre and Derby Area Committee

4.0 Recommendation

That Council is requested to approve the proposed changes to Page 7 and Article 10 of the Constitution as set out in Section 2 of this report to take effect at the start of the 2010/11 Municipal Year (May 2010 to April 2011)