

Eastleigh Borough Community Governance Review (CGR):

Background

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities have the power to stimulate debate in respect of parish boundaries. Community Governance Reviews can take place for the whole, or part of, the Borough to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the Council, and parish warding), and
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Is effective and convenient.

In doing so the community governance review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

At its meeting on 12 October 2020, the Administration Committee agreed to carry out a Community Governance Review of the unparished area of the Borough.

Residents and other stakeholders including surrounding and relevant parish, district, city and county councils were consulted on the issue of whether they wished one or more new parish councils to be created in the unparished area of Eastleigh borough.

The outcome was considered by the Council's Administration Committee on 15 February 2021 and then by the Full Council on 25 February who agreed that two new parishes with wards should be created.

Outcome:

Creation of two new parish councils within the unparished area of Eastleigh borough: Boyatt Wood Parish Council and Eastleigh Town Council. Rationale: This provides

equity of local governance across the borough, and new autonomous bodies to represent local views and have local control of certain services and assets, as is currently the case across the rest of Eastleigh borough. The resident consultation indicated that a significant majority of respondents were in favour of parishing in the unparished area. The two councils would reflect the identities and interests of their different areas. There were no proposals from existing councils to amend their boundaries. The Eastleigh/Romsey/Winchester railway lines form a natural boundary between the two new parishes. Boyatt Wood is a natural community on its own with a range of community facilities and infrastructure, and large enough for a parish council to be an efficient and convenient form of local governance.

Creation of warding arrangements in both new parish areas, based on polling districts. Rationale: The consultation showed that residents identify with very local areas of smaller population size within the larger settlement that they live in. Warding enables this more local identity and interest to be represented by parish ward councillors. Wards based on polling district create logical areas that relate well to polling station locations and provide an even distribution of councillors, with some allowance made for anticipated population growth.