

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Notice of a Community Governance Review

Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007 Local Government (Parish and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008

The Council has commenced a Community Governance Review in response to a request from Middleton Parish Council to increase the number of councillors from five to seven. The purpose of the review is to enable the Council to consider what changes are needed to the parish arrangements.

At the Full Council meeting on 12 December 2012, the Council considered the evidence available and the representations received and approved the following recommendation:

'That having considered the representations received, no increase be made to the number of Parish Councillors for the Parish of Middleton and the Chief Executive be authorised to give notice of the decision accordingly.'

The reasons for the decision can be summarised as follows

- future electorate forecasts - there is no proposed increase in electorate numbers to support the proposal for an increase in the number of Councillors
- the perceived level of support for the proposal evidenced by the number of responses to the consultation
- that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of Councillors
- historically the Parish Council has found difficulty in attracting sufficient candidates to stand for election leading to uncontested elections and/or co-option - recent elections have been uncontested and the Parish recognises that most Councils do not have a raft of people willing to stand.

Members carefully considered the points both for and against an increase in numbers and "on-balance" recommended the number of Councillors remains at 5.

The Council is now conducting the second stage of the review process and is inviting views on the above recommendation.

The Council has published its Terms of Reference document for the review and a copy can be obtained by contacting the Democratic Services team as shown below or viewed at the Council offices. It can also be viewed on the Borough Council's website www.northwarks.gov.uk or the parish website www.middletonpc.co.uk

Should you wish to submit a written representation regarding this review please address it to:

Democratic Services
North Warwickshire Borough Council
The Council House
South Street
Atherstone
CV9 1DE

Alternatively your submission may be emailed to: democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk. The deadline for submissions is Friday 25 January 2013.