



Report of: Head of Law and Governance

To: Full Council

Date: 16th July 2012 **Item No:**

Title of Report: **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL – REDUCTION IN MEMBERS**

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To ask Council to approve the final recommendation for the community governance review into the number of councillors on Blackbird Leys Parish Council.

Key decision: No

Approved by:

Legal: Lindsay Cane
 Finance: Jackie Yates
 Lead Member: Councillor Bob Price

Policy Framework: Not applicable

Recommendation(s): Council is RECOMMENDED to agree that the number of councillors on Blackbird Leys Parish Council be reduced from 16 to 14 (7 in Blackbird Leys Parish Ward and 7 in Northfield Brook Parish Ward).

Background

1. Blackbird Leys Parish Council has requested that the City Council consider reducing the number of councillors on the Parish Council from 16 (8 in each parish ward) to 14 (7 in each ward). Its rationale is that for many years it has not been possible to fill all the available seats on the Council. The Parish Council would like to reach a position where there is competition for seats and elections to raise the awareness and interest amongst the parishioners and feels that a reduced number of councillors will help in this. It is also concerned, in terms of effective governance, that it has difficulty in reaching a quorum at meetings at times of holiday etc.

The Way Forward

2. Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 a principal council can hold a community governance review either of its own volition, from a request from a parish council or via a petition. At its meeting on the 20th February Council agreed to hold such a consultation and the timetable is set out below.

Stage	What happened	Timescales	Dates
Commencement	Term of Reference were published		20 th February (by Full Council)
Stage One	Initial submissions were invited	Six weeks	21 st February – 3 rd April
Stage Two	Consideration of submissions received, draft	Four weeks	4 th April – 1st May

	recommendations were prepared		
Stage Three	Draft Recommendations were published – consultations on them	Two weeks	2nd May – 15th May
Stage Four	Consideration of submissions received – final recommendations were drawn up	Two weeks	16 th May – 30 th May
Stage Five	Consideration by Full Council		16 th July
	If recommendations agreed, Full Council makes an Order		Takes effect - 1 st August

- 5 During the consultation periods one submission was received, from the Parish Council restating its earlier reasons for supporting a reduction of parish councillors from 16 to 14. No other comments were received.
- 6 The Council is therefore recommended to make an Order which would reduce the number of parish councillors on Blackbird Leys Parish Council from 16 to 14 (7 councillors in each of the two parish wards). If agreed the change would take effect on 1st August 2012.
- 7 There are no financial implications.

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List of background papers: None