



<b>Report To:</b>	Full Council
<b>Date:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Governance Review – Fosdyke Parish Council
<b>Purpose:</b>	To consider a request for a Community Governance Review (CGR) for the Parish of Fosdyke to increase the number of Councillors from five to seven.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Dale Broughton, Leader of the Council
<b>Report Of:</b>	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer
<b>Report Author:</b>	Rhonda Booth, Democratic Services Manager
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	Five Villages
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

### **Summary**

Under Sections 79 to 102 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIH) approval be given to carry out a community governance review for the Parish of Fosdyke following a request from Fosdyke Parish Council to increase its Council size from five to seven councillors.

### **Recommendations**

That Council:

1. Approves to undertake a Community Governance Review for the Parish of Fosdyke;
2. Approves the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review as attached at Appendix A; and
3. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer to carry out the review with the findings of the review reported to Council for final decision.

## Reasons for Recommendations

The objective of undertaking a community governance review is to ensure that local governance will continue to be effective and convenient and will reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

## Other Options Considered

To not approve the Community Governance Review for Fosdyke Parish.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIH) devolved the power to take decisions relating to the creation and abolition of parishes, the boundaries of parishes and the electoral arrangements of parish councils from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal councils.
- 1.2 A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a legal process whereby Councils can create parish councils, review and change parish boundaries and in extreme cases, abolish parishes. The Council must ensure that the community governance in the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It is important that recommendations made through a CGR should bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

## 2. Report

- 2.1 At its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Fosdyke Parish Council resolved to request that Boston Borough Council undertake a Community Governance Review, with a view to increasing its council size from five to seven members.
- 2.2 When considering the number of councillors to be elected for a parish the council must have regard to the number of local government electors for the parish and any change to that number that is likely to occur within five years. The number of registered electors for the parish of Fosdyke is currently 436 and is not expected to increase significantly over the next five years.
- 2.3 Joint guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGCBE) in 2010 provides further information on community governance reviews and the factors influencing size and membership of parish councils. On size, the guidance says:

*“153. Council size is the term used to describe the number of councillors to be elected to the whole council. The 1972 Act, as amended, specifies that each parish council must have at least five councillors; there is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of those councillors between parish wards but each*

parish ward, and each parish grouped under a common parish council, must have at least one parish councillor

154. In practice, there is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population. Research by the Aston Business School Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO, 1992), found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight councillors; those between 501 and 2,500 had six to 12 councillors; and those between 2,501 and 10,000 had nine to 16 councillors. Most parish councils with a population of between 10,001 and 20,000 had between 13 and 27 councillors, while almost all councils representing a population of over 20,000 had between 13 and 31 councillors.

155. The LGBCE has no reason to believe that this pattern of council size to population has altered significantly since the research was conducted. Although not an exact match, it broadly reflects the council size range set out in the National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126; the Circular suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25.

156. In considering the issue of council size, the LGBCE is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government.

157. Principal councils should also bear in mind that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors. In addition, historically many parish councils, particularly smaller ones, have found difficulty in attracting sufficient candidates to stand for election. This has led to uncontested elections and/or a need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies. However, a parish council's budget and planned or actual level of service provision may also be important factors in reaching conclusions on council size."

2.4 The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Circular 1126 also suggests council sizes be allocated dependent on the size of the electorate being represented (see table below).

<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
Up to 900	7	10400	17
1400	8	11900	18
2000	9	13500	19
2700	10	15200	20
3500	11	17000	21
4400	12	18900	22
5400	13	20900	23
6500	14	23000	24
7700	15	Over 23000	25
9000	16		

The above table suggests that a Parish Council consisting of up to 900 electors should have 7 Councillors.

- 2.5 The Fosdyke Parish Council election in 2023 was contested with 7 candidates standing for the five seats.
- 2.6 The Council is empowered but not obliged to undertake a review. It should decide whether it is reasonable. A request is considered unreasonable if it disrupts community cohesion or does not result in effective and convenient local government arrangements. Unless a request is unreasonable, the principal council should try to accommodate the request if possible. The request from Fosdyke Parish Council for a review is considered reasonable.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. Accordingly, the Council is recommended to approve a Community Governance Review for the Parish of Fosdyke.

### **Implications**

#### **South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

None

#### **Corporate Priorities**

None

#### **Staffing**

None

#### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

It is considered that the review can be managed through existing resources.

#### **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

The review will be conducted having regard to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, guidance and the Council's Constitution.

#### **Data Protection**

None

#### **Financial**

The review will have a minimal financial implication that has not been budgeted for in undertaking the consultation.

#### **Risk Management**

None

## **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

Consultation will take place with the Member of Parliament for Boston and Skegness, the County Councillor for Boston Rural Division, Borough Councillors for Five Villages Ward, Fosdyke Parish Councillors and local electors.

## **Reputation**

None

## **Contracts**

None

## **Crime and Disorder**

None

## **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding**

The review will be carried out with due consideration to equality and diversity needs of those involved.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

None

## **Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment**

Not undertaken

## **Acronyms**

CGR – Community Governance Review

LGBCE – Local Government Boundary Commission for England

LGPIH – Local Government & Public Involvement in Health 2007

NALC – National Association of Local Councils

## **Appendices**

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix A	Terms of Reference – Community Governance Review – Parish of Fosdyke – Review of Council Size
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## **Background Papers**

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

### **Document title**

CGR Guidance

### **Where the document can be viewed**

<https://gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance>

## **Chronological History of this Report**

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body

## **Report Approval**

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