



B O S T O N

B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO:	BOSTON TOWN AMENITY COMMITTEE
DATE:	13 FEBRUARY 2013
SUBJECT:	FORMATION OF A TOWN COUNCIL
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
REPORT AUTHOR:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

This report is for information only and briefly sets out the process for the formation of a Town Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee discuss and note the information within the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The report was requested by a member of the Committee.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Not to discuss the item.

REPORT

- 1.0 The current procedure for this is very complicated and long winded. The Department of Communities and Local Government are currently consulting on a simple system.
- 2.0 A Town Council would have a similar constitution and powers as a Parish Council. It would need its own offices and professional staff.
- 3.0 The process starts with either a local authority choosing to carry out a community governance review or the individuals within a community petitioning the local authority to create a Town Council. The petition should also cover the boundaries for the new authority.
- 4.0 The petition must have the following signatories:
 - 50 per cent of the electors for neighbourhood areas with fewer than 500 electors:
 - 250 electors for areas with between 500 and 2,500 electors: or
 - 10 per cent of the electors for areas with over 2,500 electors.
- 5.0 Once the petition is received the local authority must set up a Community Governance Review and set its terms of reference.
- 6.0 The review must be completed within 12 months of agreeing the Terms of Reference.
- 7.0 The local authority can choose to review governance arrangements for the area petitioned or a wider area as they see fit.
- 8.0 The local authority will consult the community on the proposed Town Council and the effects on the wider authority.
- 9.0 If the local authority decides to create a new Council it will be constituted at the next local election.
- 10.0 Once a decision is made to go ahead a Shadow Council can be formed to assist with the transition.

CONCLUSION

That the information contained within the report be discussed and noted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage, as this report is for information only; however, significant resources would be required to fund a Community Governance Review.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage.

ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATION

None.

APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Document title**Where the document can be viewed**

Making it easier to set up new town and parish councils

Department for Communities and Local Government website

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

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