

Proposed Change to Ward Name - Lingfield & Crowhurst - Approval to consult

Strategy & Resources Committee, Thursday, 26 September 2024

Report of: Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer

Purpose: For decision

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: Lingfield & Crowhurst

Executive summary:

This report seeks approval to consult on a request from Tandridge Parish Council for the Council to consider a change of ward name from 'Lingfield & Crowhurst' to 'Lingfield, Crowhurst & Tandridge'.

This report supports the Council's priority of: Putting residents at the heart of what we do.

Contact officer Alex Berry Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
aberry@tandridge.gov.uk, 01883 732968

Recommendation to Committee:

- A) That a consultation be undertaken as set out in paragraph 6 of the report on the proposal to replace the ward name 'Lingfield & Crowhurst' with 'Lingfield, Crowhurst & Tandridge'.
- B) That, subject to the overall response of the consultation being in favour, authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to seek consent for the change of name.

Reason for recommendation:

The process for change a ward name is set out in legislation. This includes undertaking a consultation with such persons as the Council consider appropriate. Consent must be sought from the LGBCE as the ward name is protected for 5 years following a boundary review. To ensure a final decision can be taken at Full Council in December, the recommendations delegate authority to the Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer to write to the LGBCE to seek consent in advance of the next Committee meeting if the overall response to the consultation is in favour of the change of name.

Introduction and background

- 1 The LGBCE completed a periodic review of the Council's electoral arrangements in December 2023.
- 2 The outcome of the review included moving Tandridge Parish from the Oxted North & Tandridge ward into the Lingfield & Crowhurst ward. The name of 'Lingfield & Crowhurst' remained unchanged.
- 3 Tandridge Parish Council have requested the Council consider changing the ward name to 'Lingfield, Crowhurst & Tandridge' to reflect the fact that the ward includes Tandridge Parish.
- 4 The process for changing a ward name is set out Section 59 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and includes:
 - a. The Council taking reasonable steps to consult such persons as are considered appropriate.
 - b. Following the consultation, the LGBCE must agree to the change of name. This is because the ward name is protected for 5 years following a boundary review.
 - c. The Council would then consider the change of name at a special meeting of Full Council. A resolution must be passed by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting on it for it to be passed.
- 5 This report seeks approval to consult on the change. Ward Members have been consulted as part of the preparation for this report and have either showed support for the change or raised no objections.
- 6 The consultation, which would run from 30 September to 4 November, would be proportionate to the issue and would involve:
 - a. An online survey seeking residents' views, with a paper option for those who cannot access the internet
 - b. Seeking the views of elected representatives including relevant District ward members, Parish Councils, County Councillor and the MP.

The consultation would be promoted through the Council's newsletters and on social media. The Parish Councils would also be invited to promote the consultation. The cost of the consultation would be minimal and would be funded from within existing budgets.

- 7 The outcome of the consultation would be reported back to the Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2024. Prior to that, if the overall consultation response is in favour of the change of name, the Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer would write to the LGBCE asking for consent to change the name. This would be done in advance of the Committee to try and ensure that the necessary steps have been taken in advance of December's Full Council. Subject to approval by the LGBCE, a Special Council meeting to consider the change of name would be held after the ordinary meeting of Full Council on 19 December 2024.
- 8 The change of name would come into effect when the next annual update of the electoral register is published in January 2025.

Key implications

Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

Alongside officer time, there are no additional expenditure requirements. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports the report.

Comments of the Head of Legal Services

The legal implications are set out in the report.

Equality

There are no equality implications associated with this report.

Climate change

There are no environmental / sustainability implications associated with this report.

Appendices

None.

Background papers

None.

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