

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 15(a)
4 MARCH 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	N/A	
Contact Officer(s):	Mark Emson – Electoral Manager	Tel. 01733 452282

GROUPING OF ST MARTIN’S WITHOUT PARISH MEETING WITH WOTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: <i>Monitoring Officer</i>	Deadline date: <i>March 2020</i>
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Agrees to the grouping of St Martin’s Without Parish Meeting with Wothorpe Parish Council under the name of Wothorpe and St Martin’s Without Parish Council;</i> 2. Authorises the Monitoring Officer to draw up an Order to group the parish meeting with the parish council to include the following electoral arrangements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The number of parish councillors should be six, five representing Wothorpe ward and one representing St Martin’s Without ward; (b) The new grouping arrangements are to come into force for the next scheduled Parish Council elections on Thursday, 07 May 2020. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The report seeks Council’s approval to group the parishes of Wothorpe and St Martin’s Without and allow a common parish council under the name of Wothorpe and St Martin’s Without Parish Council to be formed and request the Council to make an Order to bring the parish council into force.

2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Parish Councils may apply to the principle council for an Order grouping the parish with neighbouring parishes in the same district under a common parish council under s11 of the LGA 1972.

2.2 Under the 1972 Act Parishes cannot be grouped without the consent of the meeting of each of the parishes.

2.3 A request has been received from St Martin’s Without Parish Meeting and Wothorpe Parish council to group for the following reasons:

- St Martin’s Without Parish Meeting had not convened for a period of around 35 years and as such the electors located within the Parish were not benefiting from any democratic representation at Parish level.
- The electorate for St Martin’s Without is 45 which is too small to have its own parish council.

- Wothorpe Parish Council and St Martin's Without Parish Meeting are both in favour of the grouping.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 All electors residing within St Martin's Without were written to inviting them to attend a special meeting in September 2018 to discuss the future of the Parish going forward. A further meeting took place in May 2019 where it was unanimously agreed to apply to the Principal Council (Peterborough City Council) for an Order to group with Wothorpe Parish Council.
- 3.2 Wothorpe Parish Council agreed to the proposed grouping at its meeting in September 2019 where it was unanimously agreed to apply to the Principal Council (Peterborough City Council) for an Order to group with St Martin's Without Parish Meeting.
- 3.3 The ward councillor, Cllr Over, has been consulted and is in favour of the proposal.

4. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 4.1 Neither Wothorpe Parish Council nor St Martin's Without Parish Meeting currently set a precept, there will therefore be no financial implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.2 Parish Councils may apply to the principal council for an Order grouping the parish with neighbouring parishes in the same district under a common parish council under s11 of the LGA 1972. The Order will set out the name of the parish and the electoral arrangements that are to apply.
- 4.2.1 On agreeing to the request of St Martin's Without Parish Meeting and Wothorpe Parish Council, the Council is committed to make an Order to group the parish meeting and parish council. The Council has to be satisfied therefore that the grouping of the parish meeting and parish council is the appropriate form of governance for the area.

Equalities Implications

- 4.3 N/A

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 4.5 The group of the two parishes would have a neutral carbon impact.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 5.1 Local Government Act 1972

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 None.