

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	<i>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</i>	
Contact Officer(s):	<i>Helen Edwards, Solicitor to the Council</i> <i>Sally Crawford, Community Governance Manager</i>	Tel. 452533 Tel. 452339

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF FLETTON WARD TO FLETTON & WOODSTON WARD

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Solicitor to the Council	Deadline date : 13 October 2010
1. Cabinet recommends to Council that it agrees to consult all appropriate persons on the proposed change of name for Fletton Ward to Fletton & Woodston Ward.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a request from Councillors Lee, Benton and Serluca, city councillors for Fletton Ward, who have been approached by residents to change the name of Fletton Ward to Fletton & Woodston Ward to reflect the fact that Fletton ward is made up of the Fletton and Woodston areas. There are no proposals to change any ward boundaries.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Cabinet recommends that Council agrees to go out to consultation on the proposed change of name for Fletton ward
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.2; To promote the Council's role as community leader, giving a 'voice' to the community in its external relations at local, regional and international level, and fostering good working relationships with the Council's partner organisations, Parish Councils and the relevant authorities for Police, Fire, Probation and Magistrates' Courts Services.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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- 3.1 To ensure that any agreed name change can be implemented prior to the 2011 election it is intended to carry out the required consultation between mid October 2010 and mid January 2011 so that a recommendation can be brought to Council via a specially convened meeting prior to the ordinary meeting on 23 February 2011.

4. CHANGE TO THE NAME OF FLETTON WARD

- 4.1 Under Section 59 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities may change the name of its electoral areas provided the name of the area is not protected. The Electoral Commission has confirmed that Fletton is not protected.
- 4.2 To change the name of a ward (electoral area) a resolution must be passed by Council, by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose.
- 4.3 The Council must not pass such a resolution unless it has taken 'reasonable steps to consult such persons it considers appropriate on the proposed name'.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation with appropriate persons will be carried out via the Website, Media and appropriate neighbourhood/community meetings.
- 5.2 It is also proposed to give residents the opportunity to express an interest in the creation of a parish council in the area which may result in a community governance review.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 The response to the consultation will be reported to Council at a specially convened meeting prior to the ordinary meeting on 23 February 2011.
- 6.2 Council will be recommended to make its decision based on the outcome of the consultation.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Council has a legal obligation to consult with appropriate persons about proposed changes to the names of electoral areas.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no alternative options in order to change the name of an electoral area.

9 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There may be minimal costs arising from the consultation and in officer time carrying out statutory procedures.

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)
Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.