



PAPER D

Purpose: For Decision

Committee report

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	19 SEPTEMBER 2018
Title	PARISH OF NEWPORT – CHANGE OF NAME
Report of	DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On 6 June 2018 the Isle of Wight Council received a formal request from Newport Parish Council to change its name to “Newport and Carisbrooke” Parish Council
2. The name of the parish council can be changed by a resolution of the Full Council to change the name of the civil parish area which the parish council serves.
3. This report recommends that members approve the request for the change of the civil parish name to “Newport and Carisbrooke”.

BACKGROUND

4. The civil parish of Newport and the associated parish council were created in 2008 following the receipt of a petition from local government electors in the Newport area, dated 18 August 2006, which sought to create a parish council for all of the eight electoral divisions which, at the time, were contained within the Newport area.
5. A petition seeking to establish a separate parish council solely for the Carisbrooke area had been received a few weeks earlier, on 19 April 2006, however, the Isle of Wight Council resolved on 18 October 2006 to support the emparishment of the whole area of Newport (including Carisbrooke) under a single parish council. As a result, the civil parish of Newport and Newport Parish Council were created.

6. It should be noted that the change of name will not affect any of the external or internal boundaries of Newport Parish Council, which already includes Carisbrooke as part of the wider Newport area. The change of name is proposed solely to improve inclusivity for residents of Carisbrooke.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

7. There is no direct link with the Corporate Plan, but the implementation of this change to the parish name may enable the parish council to continue to deliver more effective and convenient local government.

CONSULTATION

8. While not a statutory requirement, a period of consultation was carried out between Monday 23 July and Monday 6 August 2018.
9. The consultation was carried out by way of a page on the Isle of Wight Council's Electoral Services section pages, by inclusion on the "Consultation" tab on iwight.com, via social media and a press release. Details of the consultation were also carried on the websites of local media. Comments could be made either via iwight.com or in writing, addressed to Electoral Services at County Hall. All parish and town council clerks were made aware of the consultation via an e-mail, as were members of the Isle of Wight Council for the Newport area.
10. The overall number of responses to the consultation was low. Out of a total of seven responses, six were supportive of the name change, whilst one was against.
11. Those in favour of the name change generally commented that the change was sensible, and would be seen to be more inclusive. That against the change cited the cost of the change as being an unnecessary burden.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no budgetary implications for the Isle of Wight Council arising directly from this report. Any costs associated with the change of name will be borne by the parish council.
13. If the Isle of Wight Council chose not to implement the change of name then Newport Parish Council would have the option of attempting to force a formal community governance review by way of a petition, which would involve a cost to the Isle of Wight Council of officers' time in carrying out the review.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The Isle of Wight Council is empowered to effect this change by way of section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 which states:

(1) *At the request of the parish council or, where there is no parish council, at the request of the parish meeting, the council of the district in which the parish is situated may change the name of the parish.*

(2) *Notice of any change of name made under this section -*

(a) *shall be sent by the district council concerned to the Secretary of State, to the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and to the Registrar General; and*

(b) *shall be published by the district council in the parish and elsewhere in such manner as they consider appropriate.*

15. There is no effect upon the operation of the parish council and no change to any of the electoral arrangements of the parish council as a result of the change of parish name.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

16. The council, as a public body, is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

17. It is not considered that any of the protected characteristics will be either positively or negatively impacted by this change of name.

OPTIONS

18. Option 1: To endorse and confirm the proposal for the change of civil parish and parish council name from “Newport” to “Newport and Carisbrooke”.

19. Option 2: Not to endorse the proposal for the change of name for Newport Parish Council.

RISK MANAGEMENT

20. There is very minimal risk associated with this decision. Option 1 carries no risk whatsoever for the Isle of Wight Council as the process is purely procedural.

21. Option 2 carries a residual risk, which is the possibility of Newport Parish Council attempting to force a formal community governance review by way of a petition were the change of name not to be endorsed, which would involve a cost to the Isle of Wight Council in carrying out the review.

22. A formal community governance review is triggered by way of a petition, which needs to be checked against the current Register of Electors to ensure that it meets the required numerical threshold. Once triggered, the review

involves a period of formal consultation, statutory notices and potentially a public meeting in order to gauge the response of the local community to the change. The majority of the costs would be those of officers' time.

EVALUATION

23. The number of responses received from the consultation exercise was minimal, and while lack of responses cannot be interpreted as acceptance of the proposal, it is also evident that there is no substantial objection to the proposal either.
24. Newport Parish Council clearly feels that by changing the name of the civil parish to "Newport and Carisbrooke" that it will better reflect the identity of the community which it serves, and given that this proposal will in no way impact the Isle of Wight Council, then Option 1 is recommended as the preferred option.

RECOMMENDATION

25. Option 1: To endorse and confirm the proposal for the change of civil parish and parish council name from "Newport" to "Newport and Carisbrooke".

APPENDICES ATTACHED

26. [Appendix A: Draft Notice of Change of Name for Newport Parish Council \(Isle of Wight\).](#)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

27. Minutes of the meeting of the Isle of Wight Council held on 18 October 2006: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Meetings/committees/mod-Council/18-10-06/Minutes.htm>

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