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<b>PART B:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL</b>
<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>7 FEBRUARY 2019</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE:</b>	<b>COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER ANTHONY WINSHIP</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MALTON TOWN COUNCILLORS</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>MALTON</b>

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider the outcome of a Community Governance Review (CGR), following a request on 26 July 2018 from Malton Town Council to increase the number of elected town councillors for Malton Town Council.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is a matter for the Council to decide whether to approve a change in the number of councillors for Malton Town Council. The options for Members to decide are:

- (1) The number of town councillors for the Malton Town Council be increased from 10 to 12 members; or
- (2) The number of town councillors for the Malton Town Council be increased from 10 to 11 members; or
- (3) No change be made in the current number of councillors for Malton Town Council .
- (4) If approved in (1) or (2) above, that a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order be laid to reflect the increase in the number of councillors.
- (5) That if an increase is approved, the Council Solicitor be authorised to implement the Order attached at Appendix 1 with any necessary variations to bring the changes into effect for the elections being held on 2 May 2019.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 To ensure that community governance within the area under review is:
- reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
  - is effective and convenient.

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

- 4.1 No significant risks have been identified in preparing this report.

## **5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION**

5.1 The Council had a duty to respond to the petition.

## **REPORT**

### **6.0 REPORT DETAILS**

6.1 A community governance petition signed by 436 residents was received from Malton Town Council on Monday 10 September 2018. The petition requested that the number of Town Councillors be increased from 10 to 12. On 18 November 2018, Members agreed that a CGR be carried out and for public consultation to take place in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Public consultation was undertaken as follows:

- Publication of the terms of reference on the District Council's website and the town council's website respectively
- Publicity for the CGR to be displayed in any parish magazine and on parish notice boards and in community venues within the parishes
- Press releases
- Communication with local community groups

6.2 The period of consultation concluded on 18 January 2019, and during that time only 5 residents responded as follows:

1. "I support the increase of councillors"
2. "I am in full support of the application by Malton Town Council for an increase of Town Councillors from 10 to 12 and hope that RDC will agree this in time for the May 2019 local elections"
3. "Malton is expanding rapidly, and there is also a growing need for additional town councillors to undertake some of the roles and responsibilities which have hitherto been undertaken by Ryedale District Council"
4. Supports the increase in number of councillors.
5. "The population of Malton has grown exponentially. RDC is off loading more and more responsibilities to MTC. In order that the public are given a fair representation it is vital to encourage more people to join the TC and as they are voluntary and not paid there are no downsides to having extra councillors"

6.3 Despite the low number of responses, there is clearly some support for an increase given that 436 residents signed the petition. However, there is little or no evidence that the level of work falling on the town council warrants a need to increase the number of councillors from 10 to 12. The only reason given by the petitioners is the increase in housing arising from new housing developments.

6.4 In considering the optimum number of councillors needed by the town council to carry out their statutory functions effectively and efficiently, the Town Council has not identified any problems in functioning with the current level of councillors. Members should also be aware that at the ordinary election of parish/town councils in both 2011 and 2015, MTC had uncontested elections and it is likely that an increase in the number of councillors will continue to produce uncontested elections in the future.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

It is envisaged that the only cost to the Council will be in officer time in conducting the CGRs, which will be met from within existing budgets.

b) Legal

The Council has conducted a CGR in accordance with the requirements set out in Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 100(4) of the 2007 Act.

c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)

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