
A REQUEST FROM WESTGATE TOWN COUNCIL FOR A CHANGE IN THE NAME OF THE PARISH TO WESTGATE-ON-SEA

To: **Council 15 October 2015**

By: **Monitoring Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Westgate on Sea**

Summary: To report the receipt of a request (under the provisions of Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972) from Westgate Town Council to change the name of the Town Council to The Westgate on Sea Town Council.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At an extraordinary meeting of the Westgate Parish Council held on the 20 July 2015, the Council resolved under section 245(6) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the parish should have the status of a town.
- 1.2 The then Westgate Town Council went on to make a request under Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Thanet District Council change the name of the parish from Westgate to Westgate-on-Sea with the consequent change in the name of the council from Westgate Town Council to the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council. This report asks for Council to agree that request.
- 1.3 Westgate Town Council has put forward a reasonable request for the change in name which I understand addresses a concern that they hold, that the name of their parish (and the Council) should properly reflect the name of the town. No other changes to the Town Council arrangements are proposed.

2.0 Options

- 2.1 Council could agree the request to change the name of the parish
- 2.2 Council could refuse the request to change the name of the parish, provided there were reasonable grounds for that refusal.

3.0 Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial and VAT

- 3.1.1 The making and publication of an order under Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 will be in employee time only. Local publication will be via the Thanet District Council website, posters in the town and in a local newsletter.

3.2 Legal

- 3.2.1 Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 says that at the request of the parish council, the council of the district in which the parish is situated may change the name of the parish.

Notice of any change of name shall be sent by the district council to the Secretary of State, to the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and to the Registrar General; and shall be published by the district council in the parish and elsewhere in such manner as they consider appropriate.

3.3 Corporate

- 3.3.1 There are no direct implications that relate to this request but the Council generally supports community development.

3.4 Equity and Equalities

- 3.4.1 Their request reflects the identities and interests of the community whilst making no changes to the governance arrangements for the area.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Council is recommended to:

1. Note the receipt of the request from Westgate Town Council to change the name of the parish;
2. Agree to the making and publication of a notice under Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 to change the name of the parish to Westgate-on-Sea and the consequent change in the name of the Westgate Town Council to the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council.

Contact Officer:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Resources
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer, Chief Executive

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
Minute 057 of the meeting of Westgate town Council on the 20 July 2015	The Clerk to Westgate Town Council

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Nicola Walker, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Resources