

Report to Council

Subject: Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Review of Electoral Arrangements – Council Size submission

Date: 22 February 2012

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1. Purpose of the Report

- To secure agreement for the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) with regard to the future size of the Council.

2. Background

At its meeting held on 1 September 2011, Cabinet agreed to write to the LGBCE to request that an electoral review of Gedling Borough Council be carried out as soon as possible.

Confirmation was received from LGBCE on 13 October 2011 that the Council would be included in the LGBCE review programme, with a review start date of 13 March 2012.

Since then, briefings have been held by LGBCE for members and for parish councils on the review process and a range of preparatory tasks have been completed.

The Council's rationale for requesting a review was on the basis of reducing the Council size from 50 to 40 members. For a review involving a reduction on this scale, the first stage of the review relates to the future size of a council, on which the LGBCE will consult widely for a six week period (in Gedling's case this will be from mid March to early May). Before that consultation begins, the LGBCE will come to a view on an appropriate size for the Council in future (a decision which in turn impacts on the duration of the review).

The Council has therefore been invited to make a submission setting out its views on the future size of the Council, against Key Lines of Enquiry established by the LGBCE as part of the review process.

This report seeks Council approval for that submission.

3. Proposal

The proposed Council size submission document is attached for members' consideration at **Appendix A**.

The document addresses each of the LGBCE's Key Lines of Enquiry and draws on best practice examples from other councils who have requested such a review.

The document has been developed through the Steering Group of senior members established to manage the review process and members of that group have expressed their approval of the document.

4. Resource Implications

As previously reported to Cabinet, there are likely to be resource implications in supporting the review process, but it is likely that these can be accommodated from within existing staffing resources. In the longer term, should the review result in a smaller Council, it is possible that overall resource requirements may be reduced, though this is neither the key driver for the review nor a material consideration for the LGBCE.

5. Recommendation

Council is recommended to approve the Council size submission document, for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.