

Report to Cabinet

Subject: Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Review of Electoral Arrangements – Final Recommendations

Date: 6 June 2013

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Wards Affected

Borough-wide.

Purpose

- To inform members of the final recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on future electoral arrangements for the Gedling Borough Council.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Background

- 1 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.
 - 2 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.
 - 3 The review began with an invitation from the LGBCE for views on the future size of the Council. The Council submitted a view that the Council of the future should consist of 40 members, as agreed at Council on 22 February 2012. The LGBCE agreed in June that this would be an appropriate size for the Council going forward and began a consultation on warding arrangements, based on a Council of 40 members.
 - 4 The Council developed a response to that consultation and submitted a proposal based on a future Council of 41 members, within the variance of +/- 1 from the 40 member council model acceptable by the Commission. This proposal was considered and agreed by Council on 12 September 2012
 - 5 The LGBCE considered the Council's and other responses and published its draft recommendations on 13 November 2012. The draft recommendations substantially reflected the warding pattern suggested by the Council, and consisted of a future
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Council of 41 members representing 19 wards. Council agreed a response to consultation on these draft recommendations at its meeting held on 19 December 2012.

- 6 The LGBCE published its final recommendations on 25 March 2013. A copy of the summary proposals is attached at **Appendix A**. Copies of the full report have been made available to all members – they can also be accessed on the LGBCE website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/nottinghamshire/gedling-fer> . Maps of the proposed warding pattern can also be found here.

Summary of Proposals

- 7 The LGBCE's final recommendations make minor changes compared with the draft recommendations but continue to propose a 41 member council consisting of 19 wards.
- 8 Some of those minor changes reflect issues raised in the Council's response to consultation on the draft recommendations – for example, with regard to the boundaries between Plains and Gedling wards; between Redhill and Calverton wards and a minor change between Cavendish and Gedling wards. Other changes suggested by the Council in this final consultation have not been accepted – for example, between Carlton and Netherfield wards, and between Phoenix and Gedling wards. There are also minor changes reflecting responses from other consultees.
- 9 The final recommendations made by the LGBCE must be approved by Parliament. A draft order - the legal document which brings into force its recommendations - will be laid before Parliament where it will sit for 40 days. This will provide for new electoral arrangements for the Council to be implemented at the local elections in 2015.
- 10 Further significant work will need to be carried out at the Council as the new wards come into effect. The most obvious preparatory work is that relating to elections – this includes a full polling place review, likely to start in Autumn 2013. Other work includes reviewing all data currently stored and sorted on a ward basis to reflect new ward boundaries.

Alternative Options

- 11 The LGBCE considered various alternative options for council size and new warding patterns as part of their review. The Council contributed fully to consultation on these options.

Financial Implications

- 12 There will be resource implications in reviewing current electoral arrangements and these will need to be delivered at the same time as further pressures are placed on the Elections and Members Services team as they begin implementation of Individual

Electoral Registration. It is however hoped that this work can be contained within existing budgets, supplemented by IER grant received from the government.

Appendices

A – LGBCE Summary - Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Gedling Borough Council – March 2013

Background Papers

- LGBCE Final Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Gedling Borough Council – March 2013
- Gedling Borough Council – Response to consultation on LGBCE draft recommendations – Letter to Simon Keal: Review Manager - 20 December 2012
- LGBCE Draft recommendations on new electoral arrangements for Gedling Borough Council – November 2012
- Gedling Borough Council warding pattern proposal – August 2012

Recommendations

- (a) To note the LGBCE's final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Gedling Borough Council