

COUNCIL  
18 MARCH 2021

Report of the Director of Corporate and Customer Services

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND WARD BOUNDARIES IN THE DERBYSHIRE DALES**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To submit for information the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) in respect of proposed electoral arrangements for Derbyshire Dales District Council.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in respect proposed electoral arrangements for Derbyshire Dales District Council be noted.

### **WARDS AFFECTED**

District-wide

### **STRATEGIC LINK**

Not applicable

## **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On 18 August 2020, the LGBCE published its decision that Derbyshire Dales District Council would consist of 34 councillors from May 2023 and began consultation one week later, on 25 August 2020, to seek views in respect of the ward arrangements for the district. The consultation period ended on 2 November 2020. Whilst the Council did not agree a submission to the LGBCE, all of the political groups of the Council, either individually or as part of a collective, made submissions to the Commission.
- 1.2 On 2 February 2021, the LGBCE commenced the consultation on its draft recommendations for electoral arrangements in the Derbyshire Dales. The consultation is due to cease on 12 April 2021, after which the LGBCE will analyse submissions and begin to form its final recommendations, which will then be published formally on 29 June 2021.

## **2 REPORT**

- 2.1 The LGBCE has reported that it received 51 submissions in response to the consultation on ward boundaries. In making its recommendations, the LGBCE has

stated that it had taken into account local evidence received, as well as individual and collective submissions from political groups and parties.

- 2.2 The draft recommendations are for four three-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards and 12 one-councillor wards, and the Commission considers that its recommendations will provide for good electoral equality whilst reflecting community identities and interests based on the evidence received during the consultation.
- 2.3 Attached at Appendix 1 is the LGBCE's draft recommendations summary report.
- 2.4 Officers have reviewed the draft recommendations and have not identified any implications which would impact negatively upon service delivery.
- 2.5 It is understood that the political groups of the Council have different views in respect of the draft recommendations and it is therefore unlikely that agreement will be possible in developing a single response on behalf of the authority. Political groups, parties and individual councillors may consider submitting their own responses to the LGBCE consultation which concludes on 12 April 2021.

### **3 RISK ASSESSMENT**

#### Legal

- 3.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report. The Electoral Review is a statutory process governed by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The LGBCE's final recommendations for Derbyshire Dales will be laid in Parliament after 29 June 2021.

#### Finance

- 3.2 There are no specific financial implications associated with this report. However a reduction from 39 Members to 34 Members will result in a saving in the budget for basic allowances, which would presently save £23,140 per annum.

### **4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.
- 4.2 The outcome of the review will deliver a different warding pattern and potentially a different number of councillors. The representational role of councillors and their relationship with the communities they serve is fundamental to LGBCE considerations in undertaking the review.
- 4.3 There are no environmental concerns as a result of the LGBCE's review of ward boundaries, however, a reduction to 34 councillors in 2023 from the present number of 39 councillors should lead to a reduction in the carbon footprint associated with committee meetings.

## **5 CONTACT INFORMATION**

- 5.1 James McLaughlin - Director of Corporate & Customer Services & Monitoring Officer  
Tel: 01629 761281  
Email: [james.mclaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:james.mclaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Derbyshire Dales - <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/derbyshire-dales>

## **7 ATTACHMENTS**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – LGBCE Draft recommendations for Derbyshire Dales – 2 February 2020