

Council
14 October 2021

Report of the Director of Corporate and Customer Services

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

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To submit for information the new 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 From 2 February until 12 April 2021, the LGBCE undertook consultation on draft recommendations for electoral arrangements in the Derbyshire Dales and published final recommendations on 29 June 2021. Following publication of the final recommendations, the LGBCE were made aware of errors in their final recommendations and subsequently determined to publish new draft recommendations. This report is presented to notify the Council of the publication of the new draft recommendations and the timetable for the remainder of the review.

2 REPORT

- 2.1 Following publication of the LGBCE's previous set of final recommendations on 29 June 2021, attention was drawn to a miscalculation in the electorate for the proposed wards of Brailsford, Wirksworth & Carsington Water, Ashbourne North, and Hulland. The electoral variances in the last two of these wards were such that the LGBCE considered it necessary to revisit their recommendations.
- 2.2 The new draft recommendations are for four three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards, and ten single-councillor wards across the district 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, which commenced on 31 August and will conclude on 26 October 2021.
- 2.3 Attached at Appendix 1 is the LGBCE's new draft recommendations summary report.
- 2.4 Following feedback from various Members, it is understood that the political groups of the Council continue to have different views in respect of the new 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 26 October 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 14 December 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

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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 New Draft Recommendations for Derbyshire Dales – 31 August 2021