

Lancaster City Council – Electoral Review 16th November 2011

Report of the Head of Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable members to be briefed in advance of the electoral review which is due to commence in early 2012

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That Council note the briefing to be provided by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Some Members will recall that following a Motion on Notice, Council at its meeting on the 2nd March 2011, resolved as follows:

“(1) This Council notes that the electoral imbalance is currently greater than 45% in one ward of the city and therefore resolves that officers make representations to the Boundary Commission to establish whether the Commission would be willing to undertake an electoral review of the district for implementation prior to the 2015 city council elections.

(2) That officers be requested to suggest to the Boundary Commission that this could be addressed by redrawing the boundary line in Ellel ward, without the necessity to review the whole district.”

- 1.2 In the light of this resolution, officers contacted the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, and in August 2011 the Commission indicated that it would commence an electoral review of the Council in early 2012. This will be of the whole district, and not just Ellel.
- 1.3 As part of the preliminary process, the Review Manager met with officers in October, and a meeting between representatives of the Commission and Group Leaders has been arranged for the 7th November 2011.
- 1.4 The Commission also requested the opportunity to address members at this meeting of Council in order to provide a briefing about the forthcoming review and what it will involve.
- 1.5 It is understood that the Lead Commissioner for the review, Dr Peter Knight, Review Manager, Richard Buck, and Review Officer, Simon Keal, will be attending.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the Commission’s briefing as part of the presentation of this report, and there will then be the opportunity for Members

to ask questions of the representatives of the Commission.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 There will be full consultation as part of the electoral review process. This report and the briefing simply give members the opportunity to understand what the review will involve.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

4.1 The report and briefing are simply for noting at this stage. The process for the electoral review will be led by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None directly arising from this preliminary report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications at this stage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this stage. Officers from the Governance will liaise with the Commission throughout the review, and the cost of their time will be met from existing budgets.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her capacity as Head of Governance.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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