

# **COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

## **Electoral Review of the City Council Warding Pattern Consultation**

**25 March 2021**

### **Report of the Head of Democratic Services**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider whether or not to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission, (LGBCE)'s current consultation requesting submissions of warding patterns for the City Council as part of the electoral review process.

This report is public.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That Members note that the LGBCE is currently seeking suggestions for warding patterns for the City Council.**
- (2) That the Committee considers whether or not to make a response on behalf of the City Council, and, if the Committee decides that such a response should be submitted to LGBCE, to determine a method for drafting a response.**

#### **1.0 Background and Introduction**

- 1.1 Council has granted Council Business Committee delegated authority to consider and approve responses to LGBCE consultations on behalf of the Council.
- 1.2 Members may recall that, at the Committee meeting on 18 November, a response to the first stage of the LGBCE's review consultation on Council size was agreed, requesting that the size of Lancaster City Council remain unchanged at 60 members, providing a rationale for that view.
- 1.3 The LGBCE has now confirmed its decision not to change the size of the Council and the review will take place based on 60 Councillors.
- 1.4 The next stage of the process is for the LGBCE to develop a new set of warding patterns to consult on. Before the Commission does that, it has asked for suggestions for warding patterns to be submitted from any interested parties. Full details are on the Commission's website [here](#).

#### **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 The Committee first needs to decide whether it wishes to make a submission on behalf of the Council, or whether this is best left to individual Councillors and

political groups. Committee members may prefer not to put forward warding patterns at this point, but to respond to the next stage, when the LGBCE has put forward its own warding pattern. At that point, there will be a firm proposal to comment on. That consultation is scheduled to run from 3 August – 11 October 2021.

- 2.2 If the Committee feels that it is appropriate to submit warding proposals, then Members are asked to make a decision about how the content of the response will be determined, given that officer time for any assistance with this would be very limited in the run up to the May elections.

### 3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to decide what, if any, warding proposals it wishes to make to LGBCE on behalf of the City Council at this stage. The time frame for submissions to be made is 23 February – 3 May 2021.

<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing) None.	
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b> None identified.	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b> None identified.	
<b>OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources; Information Services; Property; Open Spaces:</b> It should be noted that the Head of Democratic Services and the Elections Manager are currently working on delivering the elections in May and would have extremely limited time available to assist Members in putting together warding patterns, should the Committee wish to make representations to LGBCE.	
<b>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b> The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.	
<b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b> The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.	
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b> <a href="#">Lancaster   LGBCE Site</a>	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Debbie Chambers <b>Telephone:</b> 01524 582057 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk">dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk</a>