

# **COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

## **Electoral Review: Local Boundary Commission's Consultation on Draft Warding Patterns**

**4 November 2021**

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

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider whether or not to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)'s draft warding patterns for the City Council as part of the electoral review process, and, if so, to decide the nature of the response.

This report is public.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That Members note that the LGBCE is currently consulting on its draft proposals 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 agree its comments and observations at this meeting if possible.**

#### **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 throughout this latest review.
- 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. The LGBCE confirmed its decision not to change the size of the Council and the review is proceeding based on 60 Councillors.
- 1.3 The Commission then asked for suggestions for warding patterns to be submitted. The Committee decided not to submit a response on behalf of the whole Council and encouraged individual political groups and Councillors to submit their own submit proposals and senior officers in elections to make a response on electoral administration issues. The Head of Democratic Services did submit that technical response to the Commission to meet the deadline.

1.4 The next stage of the process is for the LGBCE to consult on its draft warding patterns, which were published on 14 September 2021. A summary of the proposals is appended with maps.

## 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, political groups/parties and members of the public.

2.2 If the Committee feels that it is appropriate to make submission to the Commission, then Members may wish to use this meeting to formulate the comments to be submitted. If that does not prove possible, then it is recommended that the Committee agree the comments after the meeting via email.

2.3 The Head of Democratic Services and the Elections Manager will be in attendance at the meeting to respond to any questions from Members and discuss the proposals. However, please note that, as these are not the final proposals, it has not been possible for Democratic Services to resource a detailed examination of the proposals (not to street level, for example). That will be done once the final proposals are agreed. As electoral administrators, it is the job of Democratic Services to implement whatever is finally decided upon and use those new boundaries for the 2023 elections.

## 3.0 Conclusion

3.1 The Committee is asked to decide what, if any, consultation response it wishes make to LGBCE on behalf of the City Council at this stage. The deadline for responding to this stage of the Consultation is 23 November 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> None identified.	
<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> LGBCE.org.uk	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Debbie Chambers <b>Telephone:</b> 01524 582057 <b>E-mail:</b> dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk