

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL –
COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present recommendations in respect of a Council size submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) arising from the electoral review of the County Council.

Information and Advice

2. The electoral review of the County Council commenced in March of this year (triggered by the fact that a third of the Council's current divisions have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average) when the Council was invited to put forward a case for Council size, the first part of the process. A cross party Steering Group of 7 Councillors was established to develop this work and Officers from the LGBCE provided briefings to the Steering Group, all Councillors and Council Officers in May of this year.
3. Submissions on Council size have to address, and support with evidence, the 3 broad areas contained in the LGBCE's technical guidance on governance arrangements, scrutiny functions and the representational role of Councillors in the community. Under the guidance of the Steering Group, Officers produced a submission having regard to these 3 areas and on the basis of retention of the current Council size, which was shared with the Commission for a provisional view. The Commission was of the view the proposed submission was "very good", subject to some clarification and more detail on the conclusions of the case. These issues were addressed and, at its meeting earlier this month, the Steering Group agreed to the submission of the case set out in the appendix to the report by the Commission deadline of 8th September 2014, conditional on approval by the Council. (The detailed annexes to the submission are listed as background papers to this report).
4. As will be seen in the appendix, Council is recommended to approve the retention of the current Council size of 67. The reasons and evidence for this submission are set out in full in the appendix.
5. The LGBCE will now consider the Council's case and determine the Council size on which it is minded to recommend and then invite warding patterns and proposals based on that Council size. Consultation on new divisional boundaries will begin on 28th October and last until January 2015.

Other Options Considered

6. The reasons for not recommending a smaller or larger Council size are set out in full in the appendix detailing the recommended Council size submission.

Reasons for Recommendation

7. To comply with the LGBCE timetable a submission had to be made by 8th September 2014. This submission sets out the evidence which it is felt justifies the retention of the current Council size.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

That the submission to the LGBCE for the retention of a Council size of 67 Councillors be approved as set out in the appendix to the report.

Jayne Francis-Ward

Corporate Director Policy Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Keith Ford, Team Manager, Democratic Services 0115 9772590 / keith.ford@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM – 09/09/14)

9. The recommendations in the report are reserved to Full Council.

Financial Comments (SEM 05/09/14)

10. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Annexes to appendix 1 – the detailed Council submission on Council size.
 - Annex A – Committee Structure
 - Annex B – List of Outside Bodies
 - Annex C – Terms of Reference of Committees
 - Annex D – Councillors' Divisional Fund – Application Form and Policy & Guidance

Annex E – Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes

- Report to Policy Committee – 18 September 2013 – Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Further Electoral Review of Nottinghamshire and minutes of that meeting (published).

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All