

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**COUNTY BOUNDARY REVIEW – COMMISSION DRAFT
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise Council of the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England ("the Commission") on new electoral arrangements for the County Council.

Information and Advice

2. Council will be aware that the County Council is currently undergoing an electoral review. Previous stages of this review have seen Council (in September 2014) agree a Council size submission of 67 which the Commission indicated that it was minded to accept and Policy Committee (in February 2015) approve a new pattern of electoral Divisions based on the retention of a Council size of 67.
3. Between 9th February and 9th June 2015 the Commission considered all submissions received on a new pattern of electoral Divisions. In total some 62 submissions were received from a variety of Councils (mainly Parishes), other organisations and individuals. The Commission considered these and issued its draft recommendations on new electoral arrangements on 9th June 2015. It is worth noting that the Commission's report states that "Having carefully considered the proposals received, we are broadly basing our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals, but subject to amendments in all districts."
4. A consultation period on these draft recommendations will now take place ending on 10th August 2015. The Commission proposes that the Council should have 66 Councillors representing 48 single member divisions and 9 two member Divisions.
5. Appendices 1 and 2 to this report include the summary overview of Commission recommendations and the full draft recommendations document which sets out in detail the reasons for the recommendations. The main issues to draw to Members' attention are:-
 - Although initially minded to accept the Council's proposals for a Council size of 67 Councillors, the Commission now proposes that a Council size of 66 Councillors will best ensure that the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively in the future and provides for a Division pattern that meets the Commission's statutory criteria;
 - The Council's proposals for 67 Councillors involved 10 Councillors for the Districts of Ashfield, Gedling, Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe and 9 for Bassetlaw, Broxtowe

and Mansfield. The Commission proposes a further reduction of 1 Councillor in Gedling which would mean Gedling having 9 Councillors in its District;

- The maps attached at appendix 3 show the Council's initial proposals by the colour key. The recommended boundaries proposed by the Commission are outlined in red and the recommended Division names are shown on the maps themselves. The black lines illustrate where the differences lie.
6. At this stage the Commission is particularly interested in the views of local communities and Members may therefore wish to discuss these matters at forthcoming parish and community meetings and to encourage community groups to put forward views and comments as part of the consultation process. Any views must meet the statutory criteria in relation to electoral equality, community identity and effective and convenient local government. The Commission will then consider any representations received before it publishes its final recommendations.
7. In light of the situation as reported above, it is recommended that Council notes the Commission's proposals and further indicates that, whilst no formal objection is made to the Commission's proposals, the case set out in the Council's initial pattern for new boundaries is preferred.
9. The remaining stages of the review are:-
- 10th August 2015 – public consultation on draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements closes;
 - 10th November 2015 – publication of final recommendations by the Commission;
 - May 2017 – (subject to Parliamentary approval) implementation of new arrangements at County elections.

Other Options Considered

10. The options available at this stage of the review are set out in the preceding paragraphs.

Reasons for Recommendation

11. It is necessary to note the proposals from the Commission.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. 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 services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, 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.

Financial Implications

13. If implemented the Commission's proposals will result in modest savings in the Members' Allowances and the Councillors' Divisional Fund budgets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Commission's proposals on new electoral arrangements for the County be noted.
- 2) That the Council makes no formal objections to the Commission's draft recommendations, but indicates its preference for the Council's own scheme for a new pattern of Divisional boundaries in the County.

Anthony May
Chief Executive

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 30.6.15)

13. Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 25.6.15)

14. The financial implications are set out in 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.

- Report to Full Council – 18 September 2014 (previously published)
[Boundary Review - Report to Full Council - 18 September 2014](#)
- Report to Policy Committee – 11 February 2015 (previously published)
[Boundary Review - Report to Policy Committee - 11 February 2015](#)
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England – draft proposals
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/nottinghamshire/nottinghamshire-county-council>

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All