

16 December 2021**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND
EMPLOYEES****RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTORAL REVIEW –
CONSULTATION RESPONSE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report asks Committee Members to approve the Council's response to the consultation on the electoral arrangements for Rushcliffe Borough Council, which is being run by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Information

2. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) is currently undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for Rushcliffe Borough Council. The review comprises two parts, the first of which is the determination of council size (the number of Councillors in Rushcliffe), which has now been completed. The second stage of the review concentrates on the development of warding arrangements based on that council size.
3. The timetable for the second stage of the review is set out below.

Stage starts	Description
20 April 2021	Number of Councillors decided
11 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new Wards
19 July 2021	End of consultation; beginning of analysis of submissions and forming draft recommendations
5 October 2021	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
13 December 2021	End of consultation; beginning of analysis of submissions and forming of final recommendations
1 March 2022	Publication of final recommendations

4. Progress to date during this stage has seen the Commission invite warding proposals for the determined number of members (44). During this stage, interested parties, both organisations and individuals, were able to suggest arrangements for all or part of the Council area. Having taken account of these suggestions, the Commission has drafted its proposed warding arrangements for the borough and is now asking for feedback on those proposals.

5. In developing warding proposals, the Commission takes account of the electorate forecast for 2027 (five years from the scheduled publication of the Commission's recommendations in 2022), to produce a scheme that meets three statutory criteria:
 - a. Equality of representation
 - b. Reflecting community interests and identities
 - c. Providing for effective and convenient local government
6. While the deadline for submitting feedback on proposals is 13 December 2021 (before the Committee meets), the Commission has agreed that the Council could submit a draft response (**Appendix A**), with a final response being provided once the Committee has made its decision.
7. In drafting the response, comments have been invited from all those Councillors whose Divisions are within Rushcliffe Borough.
8. After the Commission has published its final recommendations, the changes it has proposed must be approved by Parliament. An order, the legal document that brings the recommendations into force, will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft order will provide for the new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Rushcliffe in 2023.
9. Any changes to the warding scheme of Rushcliffe Borough will not impact on Nottinghamshire County Council, however the revised warding scheme will be a consideration when the next review of Nottinghamshire's divisional boundaries is undertaken.

Other Options Considered

10. The Council could choose not to make any representation to the consultation.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. As divisional members, Nottinghamshire's County Councillors enjoy significant local knowledge and can provide informed commentary on whether the proposals reflect community interests and identities and provide for effective and convenient local government.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee approves Appendix A for submission as the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on its proposed Warding arrangements for Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Marjorie Toward

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Constitutional Comments (HD – 7/12/2021)

13. The decision may fall within the responsibility of Governance and Ethics Committee (due to its responsibility for Democratic Services functions) as well as Policy Committee (responsible for Local Democracy and Elections functions not reserved to Full Council). Where a report falls within the remit of more than one Committee, to avoid the report being discussed at more than one Committee the constitution provides for the report to be presented at the most appropriate Committee. Given the timescales within which a response is required to the consultation, Governance and Ethics Committee is the most appropriate Committee to determine the recommendations on this occasion.

Financial Comments (SES 24.11.2021)

14. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this 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.

- [Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Rushcliffe review page](#)
- [Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Rushcliffe draft recommendations report](#)
- [Electoral review technical guidance](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Bingham East – Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan
- Bingham West – Councillor Neil Clarke MBE
- Cotgrave – Councillor Richard Butler
- Keyworth – Councillor John Cottee
- Leake and Ruddington – Councillors Reg Adair and Matt Barney
- Radcliffe-on-Trent – Councillor Roger Upton
- West Bridgford North – Councillor Penny Gowland
- West Bridgford South – Councillor Jonathan Wheeler

- West Bridgford West – Councillor Gordon Wheeler