
Subject: **DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGMENTS FOR DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Meeting and Date: **Electoral Matters Committee – 27 June 2018**
Council – 25 July 2018

Report of: **Chief Executive**

Classification: **UNRESTRICTED**

Purpose of the report: To consider the proposed draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Dover District Council currently being consulted upon by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Recommendation: Electoral Matters Committee:

(a) To consider the proposed response to the consultation on the draft electoral arrangements for Dover District Council and make recommendations to Council.

Council:

(a) To authorise the Chief Executive to make a submission on the draft electoral arrangements for Dover District Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on behalf of the Council.

1. **Summary**

This report sets out the Council's proposed response to the consultation being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on its draft recommendations.

2. **Introduction and Background**

2.1 The Council at its meeting held on 6 December 2017 authorised the Chief Executive to make a submission on a future council size of 32 councillors to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The LGBCE announced on 30 January 2018 that it was minded to make a recommendation of a future council size of 32 councillors.

2.2 Following a further period of consultation between 30 January 2018 and 5 June 2018 the LGBCE published its recommended pattern of wards for a council size of 32 councillors. It is now consulting on those proposals between 5 June 2018 and 13 August 2018.

New Electoral Arrangements for Dover District Council

2.3 The LGBCE received a number of full or part responses to its consultation on warding arrangements. The draft recommended pattern of wards is not consistent with a single proposed pattern submitted during the consultation but instead consists of elements of a number of different proposals.

2.4 It is noted that the LGBCE were disappointed with the level of evidence of community identity in the Council's final submission. However, the report to the Council's Electoral Matters Committee on 1 March 2018 and the subsequent report to the full Council on 28 March 2018 which was the basis for the proposed pattern of wards

submitted to the LGBCE by the Council, endeavoured to strike the best balance between electoral equality, community identity and effective and convenient local government and we note that the LGBCE also found itself having to strike a balance between the these considerations.

Statutory Criteria

2.5 The LGBCE in proposing new electoral arrangements must deliver the three statutory criteria. The criteria are as follows:

- **Electoral Equality:** each councillor represents the same number of voters.
- **Community Identity:** reflects the identity and interests of local communities. This includes transport links, community groups, facilities, interests and identifiable boundaries.
- **Effective and convenient local government:** helping the council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

2.6 As part of the LGBCE's proposed new electoral arrangements for the Dover District a number of questions were posed which this report seeks to address. In drafting a response officers have given consideration to the statutory criteria.

2.7 The proposed responses to the recommended new electoral arrangements have been grouped in accordance with those used by the LGBCE in its consultation document and can be found at Appendix 1.

3. Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1: To authorise the Chief Executive to make a response based on Appendix 1 of the report to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on behalf of the Council in respect of the consultation on the new electoral arrangements for Dover District Council. This is the recommended option.

3.2 Option 2: To authorise the Chief Executive to make a different response from that set out in Appendix 1 of the report to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in respect of the consultation on the new electoral arrangements for Dover District Council.

3.3 Option 3: To not make a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in respect of the consultation on the new electoral arrangements for Dover District Council.

4. Evaluation of Options

4.1 Options 1 and 2 would ensure that the Council made a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and had the opportunity to put its views forward for consideration as part of the current consultation process.

4.2 Option 3 is not recommended as it would deny the Council the opportunity to put forward its views on the proposed electoral arrangements for Dover District Council.

5. Resource Implications

5.1 There are no resource implications arising from this stage in the Electoral Review process.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

7. Background Papers

Draft Recommendations Report for Dover District Council
(<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/kent/dover>)

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