



**Report To:** Civic Affairs Committee  
**Lead Officer:** Jean Hunter, Chief Executive

12 January 2016

## **First Phase Consultation Response to LGBCE South Cambridgeshire Electoral Review**

### **Purpose**

1. To make a recommendation to Council on a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's first phase of consultation on new warding patterns for South Cambridgeshire.
2. This is not a key decision

### **Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that Civic Affairs Committee **RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL** that the warding proposal at Appendix 1, developed by the Member Champion in consultation with all members, be submitted to the LGBCE as a Council response to the first phase of the review.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

4. The Member Champion has been tasked by the Civic Affairs Committee to draft a Council response, and this has been done in consultation with all members.

### **Background**

5. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has begun a review of the electoral arrangements of South Cambridgeshire District Council.
6. This review has been initiated because of an increasing imbalance in the number of people represented by each member across the district.
7. In advance of the review commencing formally, the Council resolved to move to all-out elections from 2018. This decision was made to ensure that the LGBCE could implement a warding pattern that saw a mix of one, two and three member wards.
8. The Council also made a submission to the LGBCE recommending a Council Size of 45 members going forward. The submission made it clear that the Council would not support a Council Size smaller than this number.
9. At its meeting in late November, the LGBCE supported the Council's proposals for a Council Size of 45 and approved the electorate forecasts which had been submitted. At this point, the LGBCE invited stakeholders and interested parties to submit proposals for the future warding of the district.
10. The first phase of consultation is scheduled to finish on 1 February 2016.

11. The Council's Member Champion for the review has, in consultation with all members, prepared a warding proposal which the Civic Affairs Committee can now recommend to Council is submitted as a Council response to the review.

### **Considerations**

12. The Civic Affairs Committee in November agreed to support two principles in the forming of new warding proposals. Where possible and practical, these were:
  - (i) to propose single member wards
  - (ii) to avoid smaller villages being placed in the same ward as a single larger village
13. Alongside these principles, the Member Champion has been working closely with the forecast electorates and the LGBCE key principles of electoral equality, community identity and effective and convenient local government to ensure any proposal made by the Council is robust.

### **Options**

14. The Civic Affairs Committee could either:
  - (a) **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that the warding proposal at Appendix 1 be submitted to the LGBCE as a Council response
  - (b) **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that an alternative proposal be submitted
  - (c) **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that no Council submission be made
15. It is recommended that option A be approved, as the Member Champion has extensively consulted all members (by email) on his proposals.
16. Any attempt to make alternative proposals should be handled very carefully so as to ensure that any submission made is able to reflect the key requirements of the LGBCE.

### **Implications**

17. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

There are no significant implications.

### **Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)**

18. The LGBCE consultation is open to all interested parties for comment and proposal. The Council does not need to consult on its own response but has publicised the review through the South Cambs Magazine and social media channels.

### **Background Papers**

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

LGBCE Guidance on warding proposals:  
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/policy-and-publications/guidance>

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