

COUNCIL	DATE 25.11.2020	ITEM NO 13
TITLE Ward Boundary Review – Ward Pattern submission	WARD (S) All	
CHIEF OFFICER Chief Executive	CABINET MEMBER Leader of the Council	
DECISION CLASSIFICATION Non-exempt report	IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING? Yes	

I. Decision required

This report makes the following recommendations to the decision-maker.

Council is requested to:

- 1.1. Consider whether to approve the Ward Pattern and supporting evidence as set out in Appendix A as the submission of the Royal Borough to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as part of their consultation on warding arrangements.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (The Commission or LGBCE) are reviewing the Local Government electoral boundaries (Wards) in the Royal Borough.
- 2.2. The Council considered the first stage of the review, the decision on the number of Members of the Council from 2022 in the report “Council Size from 2022” on 26 February 2020. The Council resolved that 55 should be the ‘minded to’ number to be submitted to the Commission. The Commission met and agreed with that submission that their minded to Council Size preference would be 55. However, submissions may be made with slightly more or less than 55 if they meet the legal tests the Commission work under and are appropriately supported by evidence.
- 2.3. The Commission have opened the second stage of the review to take submissions on Ward Patterns, that is how the Royal Borough should be divided into Wards and the number of Councillors in each of those new Wards.

- 2.4. The Commission have a published a review page on their website which gives information in the method of submission and guidance on the legal tests they will apply when deciding on their draft recommendations. Any person, body or organisation may submit their proposals to the Commission.
- 2.5. Attached in Appendix A - Minimum Change Rewarding Scheme for Greenwich is a Ward Pattern proposal with mapping and evidence which takes account of the legal criteria that the Commission will use as their test.
- 2.6. While coming to its position on the best option for new wards, which are shown in Appendix A, the proposal determines that the Ward Pattern should contain 56 Members and therefore that there should be a Council Size of 56 Members from 2022.

3. Available Options

- 3.1. Approve the Ward Pattern and supporting evidence set out in Appendix A as the submission of the Royal Borough of Greenwich to the Commission as part of their consultation on warding arrangements.
- 3.2. Approve a different Ward Pattern and supporting evidence as the submission of the Royal Borough of Greenwich to the Commission as part of their consultation on warding arrangements.
- 3.3. Do not submit any Ward Pattern and supporting evidence to the Commission. There is no legal requirement to do so.

4. Consultation Results

- 4.1. This submission will form part of the public consultation by the Commission.

5. Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	The Commission has functions under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. It may at any time conduct a review of the area of the Council, and recommend whether a change should be made to the electoral arrangements.	John Scarborough, Director of Legal Services, 16 November 2020

	<p>The Council must provide the Commission any information that it may reasonably require in connection with its functions.</p> <p>As part of the review, the Council and others may make submissions proposing electoral arrangements considered appropriate.</p> <p>Schedule 2 of the Act requires the Commission to have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the need to secure that the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of members of the Council is, as nearly as possible, the same in every electoral area of the Council, (b) the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and in particular— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable, and (ii) the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties, and (c) the need to secure effective and convenient local government. <p>For the purpose of sub-paragraph (a), the Commission must have regard to any change in the number or distribution of local government electors in the area of the Council which is likely to take place within the period of five years immediately following the making of the recommendations.</p> <p>The Commission must: (a) prepare and publish draft recommendations, (b) take</p>	
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	<p>such steps as its considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the recommendations are informed of them and of the period for making representations, and (c) take into consideration any representations made within that period.</p> <p>As soon as practicable after conducting a review, the Commission must: (a) publish a report stating its recommendations, and (b) take such steps as it considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the recommendations are informed of them.</p>	
<p>Finance and other resources including procurement implications</p>	<p>This report proposes that a council size of 56 Members should be recommended to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the Royal Borough of Greenwich from the next election in 2022.</p> <p>The above recommendation will increase the cost of Member's Allowances payable by £53,200 for additional Basic Allowances only.</p> <p>Funding will need to be identified through the Medium Term Financial Strategy to meet this increased cost.</p>	<p>Damon Cook, Director of Finance, 16 November 2020</p>
<p>Equalities</p>	<p>The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no apparent equality impact on end users.</p>	<p>James Pack, Head of Electoral Services and Registrars 16 November 2020</p>

6. Report Appendices

- 6.1. The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:

- Appendix A1: Minimum Change Rewarding Scheme for Greenwich – Evidence
- Appendix A2: Minimum Change Rewarding Scheme for Greenwich – Mapping

7. Background Papers

7.1. None.

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