

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO LGBCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ELECTORAL REVIEW OF EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Committee: Council

Date: 7th January 2016

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[Q157]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To agree the Council's submission to the Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) consultation on its draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for East Cambridgeshire District Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Council agrees the submission to the LGBCE attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 In April 2014 Full Council agreed to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to undertake a review of council size with a view to reducing the number of members from 39 to 27.

3.2 The LGBCE announced in June 2015 that it is minded to recommend that 27 district councillors should be elected to East Cambridgeshire District Council in the future. The announcement signalled the start of a consultation asking the Council, interested parties and members of the public to propose a pattern of electoral wards to accommodate those councillors.

3.3 The Council's response to the consultation was based on a council size of 28 as this met the LGBCE criteria more effectively and comprised 15 wards, 4 single member wards and 9 two-member wards and 2 three-member wards.

3.4 In November 2015 the LGBCE published its draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for the Council and the consultation period for comments on these proposals runs until 11th January 2016.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The draft recommendations are based on a council size of 28 members as proposed by East Cambridgeshire District Council and other respondents to the warding arrangement consultation. This would result in 11 fewer councillors being elected to the Council from 2019. The draft recommendations consists of 14 wards (a reduction of 5) of which 3 are

single-member wards, 8 are two-member wards and 3 are three-member wards.

- 4.2 Appendix 1 sets out the Council's response to the LGBCE draft recommendations. It states that whilst the Council accepts the minor boundary amendments made to the Ely and Soham wards proposed by ECDC, the Council does not agree with the draft recommendations for Bottisham, Woodditton, Sutton or Haddenham.
- 4.3 All Councillors have had the opportunity to input into the development of this consultation response and a Member Seminar was held to discuss a draft recommendations and the Council's response.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Draft East Cambridgeshire District Council response to the Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) consultation on its draft recommendations on the new Electoral Arrangements for East Cambridgeshire District Council.

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Special Full Council meeting minutes 15 th April 2014.	Room 12, The Grange, Ely	Sally Bonnett Infrastructure and Strategy Manager (01353) 616451 E-mail: sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk
Special Full Council meeting minutes 20 th August 2015.		

ECDC response to LGBCE consultation on warding arrangements.

The LGBCE website provides comprehensive details of the review to date -
<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/east-cambridgeshire>