

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Council (Extraordinary)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 March 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Boundary Review
<b>Report of:</b>	Lin O'Brien, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Corporate Lead:</b>	Sara Freckleton, Borough Solicitor
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Councillor R J E Vines
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	One

## **Executive Summary:**

To agree a revised pattern of Borough Wards in response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on warding arrangements and delegate authority to the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to prepare the written submission to accompany the approved arrangements.

## **Recommendation:**

- 1. To APPROVE a revised pattern of Borough wards for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in response to its consultation on warding arrangements for Tewkesbury Borough Council.**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to prepare the written submission to accompany the approved warding arrangements.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

To respond to the consultation being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the warding arrangements for Tewkesbury Borough Council.

## **Resource Implications:**

None.

## **Legal Implications:**

Following publication of the Commission's final recommendations, an Order will be laid in Parliament to bring in the recommendations for the elections in May 2019.

## **Risk Management Implications:**

Should the Council be unable to agree a warding proposal, the Commission will proceed with revised warding arrangements without any input from the Council.

**Performance Management Follow-up:**

Following approval by the Council the agreed warding proposal will be submitted by the deadline of 20 March 2017.

**Environmental Implications:**

None.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** The Council was notified in 2013, by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, that an electoral review of Tewkesbury Borough would be undertaken in 2014/15. Based on electoral data from 2012, 10 (45.5%) of the Council's 22 wards had an electoral imbalance from the average for the authority in excess of 10%. Subsequently the review was deferred and commenced in 2016 with the 2016 electorate showing nine (40.9%) of the 22 wards having an electoral imbalance outside the +/-10% ranging from -17 to +26.
- 1.2** A local authority may be subject to review if:
- more than 10% of electoral areas have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average for that authority; or
  - a single elected area has an electoral imbalance of more than 30%.

**2.0 THE PROCESS**

- 2.1** There are two phases to the process; phase one is the Council size decision and phase two is the warding arrangements.
- 2.2** In December, the Council approved a submission on size which proposed that the number of Members remain at 38.
- 2.3** In January, the Commission announced that it was minded to recommend that Tewkesbury Borough Council should have 38 Councillors in the future.
- 2.4** On 10 January 2017, the Commission commenced a consultation for a pattern of wards for the Council. This consultation closes on 20 March 2017.

**3.0 WARDING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1** The Council currently has 22 wards; 9 x single Member wards, 10 x two Member wards and 3 x three Member wards.
- 3.2** The aim of the review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each Councillor represents approximately the same number of voters within a tolerance of +/-10%. The Commission's statutory criteria also includes the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and to secure effective and convenient local government.

**3.3** At its meeting on 21 February 2017, the Boundary Review Working Group considered a revised pattern of warding arrangements, which subsequently have been widely consulted upon, with all Members of the Council being invited to a number of drop-in sessions. The consultation has resulted in a number of options to be considered for Bishop's Cleeve, Churchdown, Tewkesbury and Twynning. Depending on the choices, the overall proposals will result in either 20 wards with 5 x single Member wards; 12 x two Member wards and 3 x three Member wards OR 21 wards with 7 x single Member wards, 11 x two Member wards and 3 x three Member wards.

**3.4** Appendix 1 details the proposals and options and the maps will be on display in the Council Chamber prior to the meeting.

#### **4.0 THE TIMETABLE**

**4.1** The remainder of the electoral review timetable is as set out below:

20 March 2017	Submission of warding proposals.
June 2017	Publication of the Commission's draft recommendations.
June-August 2017	Consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations.
October 2017	Publication of the Commission's final recommendations.
May 2019	Implementation of the Commission's final recommendations.

#### **5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**5.1** None.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

**6.1** Extensive consultation has been undertaken with Members of the Council.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

**7.1** None.

#### **8.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

**8.1** None.

#### **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

**9.1** None.

#### **10.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**

**10.1** None.

#### **11.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)**

**11.1** None.

## **12.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

**12.1** Executive Committee on 14 October 2015 – Set up the Boundary Review Working Group.

Council on 6 December 2016 – Approved the Council's size submission.

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**Background Papers:** None.

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**Appendices:** 1. Proposals for Submission of Revised Warding Arrangements.