

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	26 July 2017
Subject:	Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Review of the Borough Ward Boundaries
Report of:	Boundary Review Working Group
Corporate Lead:	Sara Freckleton, Borough Solicitor
Lead Member:	Councillor R J E Vines – Chair of Boundary Review Working Group
Number of Appendices:	Three

Executive Summary:

To agree the Council's response to the Local Boundary Commission for England following its review of the warding arrangements for Tewkesbury Borough.

Recommendation:

That the Council's response to the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a revised pattern of warding for Tewkesbury Borough as set out in Paragraph 2.3 of the report.

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:

None.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Following approval by the Council, the agreed response will be submitted by the deadline of 4 September 2017.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its draft recommendations for a revised pattern of warding for Tewkesbury Borough on 4 July 2017. The draft recommendations are now out for public consultation until 4 September 2017 and the Commission is seeking to hear as much evidence as possible to develop its final recommendations for the Borough.

1.2 A copy of the summary report of the LGBCE is attached to this report at Appendix 1. The detailed draft recommendations report was emailed to all Members on 4 July and all the documents, together with an interactive map, are available on the Commission's website.

2.0 THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 With the exception of four minor variations, the Commission's draft recommendations reflect the warding submission approved by the Council at its meeting on 13 March 2017.

2.2 The Boundary Review Working Group met on Wednesday 12 July to consider the draft recommendations, and specifically the proposed variations to the Council's scheme, and commented as follows:

- 1) The Council submitted the name of 'Severn Vale South' or 'De Winton' for the new Ward which would include the Parishes of Uckington, Norton, Sandhurst, Boddington and Down Hatherley. The Commission's recommendation is for the Ward to be named 'Severn Vale South' as it was considered to be more appropriate particularly with the new Ward of Severn Vale North. The Boundary Review Working Group propose support for the Commission's recommendation.
- 2) In respect of the proposed Tewkesbury North and South Wards, the Council's scheme proposed to use Oldbury Road as a boundary to separate the two Wards. Using this road, Tewkesbury North would have a variance of 8% and Tewkesbury South a variance of 10%. The Commission visited the area and considered an alternative boundary that followed the existing polling district boundary adjacent to the High Street behind the houses and roads along Oldbury Road (see map at Appendix 2 – a large version will be displayed at the meeting). The Commission considered this to be a more effective boundary with a variance of 9% in each Ward. The Boundary Review Working Group propose support for the Commission's recommendation.
- 3) The Council's scheme proposed including the Parish of Twyning in a Ward with part of Tewkesbury to be named 'Tewkesbury North'. The Commission received six other submissions which opposed combining the rural area of Twyning with urban Tewkesbury and proposed that Twyning remain a separate Ward with its own Councillor. It is the Commission's view that this would lead to "bad electoral equality" and therefore it recommended a Tewkesbury North Ward including Twyning in its draft recommendations subject to a variation in the boundary between the proposed North and South Wards as detailed in point 2) above.

However, in considering the submissions received in respect of Twyning, the Commission was of the view that, in order to better reflect the clear community identity in the area, Tewkesbury North should be named 'Tewkesbury North and Twyning'. The Boundary Review Working Group propose support for the Commission's recommendation on the naming of this Ward.

- 4) The Commission only received a proposal from the Council in respect of the proposed Cleeve St Michael's and Cleeve West Wards of Bishop's Cleeve. However, in visiting the area, the Commission considered an alternative boundary in the area of Bishop's Cleeve Primary Academy which would result in Huntsmans Close being included in Cleeve St Michael's Ward to allow for better access (see map at Appendix 3 – a large version will be displayed at the meeting). The Commission felt that this boundary better reflected its statutory criteria and have included it as part of its draft recommendations. The Boundary Review Working Group was in support of the revised boundary but felt it created an anomaly by leaving six properties in Pecked Lane in the Cleeve West Ward whilst the remaining 65 properties were in the Cleeve St Michael's Ward already or within the area that the LGBCE was proposing to move into Cleeve St Michael's.

2.3 Accordingly, the boundary Review Working Group propose that the Council respond to the LGBCE's consultation on revised Borough Wards supporting the draft recommendations but proposing that, in respect of the Cleeve St Michael's and Cleeve West Wards, the proposed boundary be further amended to include all of the properties in Pecked Lane in the Cleeve St Michael's Ward.

3.0 THE TIMETABLE

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

4 September 2017	Closure of the 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.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The draft recommendations of the LGBCE will be subject to extensive consultation.

6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

8.1 None.

9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/

Environment)

9.1 None.

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

10.1 None.

11.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

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

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

Council (Extraordinary) on 13 March 2017 – Approved the Council's submission for its Warding arrangements.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices:

1. LGBCE's Summary Report.
2. Map – Tewkesbury North and South.
3. Map – Cleeve St Michaels and Cleeve West.