

# Electoral Matters Committee    18 October 2021

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## Local Government Boundary Commission for England preliminary stage Boundary Review for Redditch – Council Size Submission

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Dormer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Report Author	Job Title: Darren Whitney Contact email: darren.whitney@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel:
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Not Applicable
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	All
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

### 1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Electoral Matters Committee **RECOMMEND** that:-

- 1) **Council put forward the Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England including any amendments made.**

### 2. **BACKGROUND**

### 3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None at this stage other than officer time, the cost of the review is borne by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Any future changes in council size will have a direct impact on the member allowance budget in 2024. The current basic allowance is £4,437.

### 4. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is a statutory body accountable to Parliament that conducts reviews of local authority electoral arrangements in England. Its statutory obligations are set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

# **Electoral Matters Committee    18 October 2021**

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- 4.2 One of the objectives of the LGBCE is to provide electoral arrangements for English principal local authorities that are fair and deliver electoral equality for voters.

## **5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**

### **Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 As the review will affect the number of Councillors in the future it will have a bearing on all Strategic Purposes. The results of the review will not be implemented until 2024.

## **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 No direct impact at this stage.

### **Operational Implications**

- 6.2 Redditch Council has not been reviewed since 2002, and the LGBCE has a policy to review all authorities from time to time. The LGBCE added Redditch to its current review programme after concluding that at 19 years since the last review it was time to revisit the borough. This will also allow the boroughs and districts in Worcestershire to all have a recent review before the next county council review.

- 6.3 The LGBCE will seek to deliver electoral equality for voters in local elections.

- 6.4 The electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the whole local authority. These are:

- The total number of councillors to be elected to the council: council size.
- The names, number and boundaries of wards.
- The number of councillors to be elected from each ward.

This report only relates to the first bullet point of Council size.

- 6.5 The LGBCE will come to a conclusion on council size after hearing the council's views during the preliminary phase.

## **Electoral Matters Committee    18 October 2021**

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- 6.6 The draft Council Size Submission is included at Appendix 1 and Committee Members are invited to make any amendments they see fit before recommending the Submission to Council.
- 6.7 In February 2022 the LGBCE will decide on the Council size and will then start a consultation regarding warding patterns.
- 6.8 The LGBCE will publish draft recommendations regarding warding patterns in July 2022. A consultation on the draft recommendations will run from August to October and final recommendations will be made in December 2022.
- 6.9 The legal order will be made in 2023 and be implemented at the 2024 elections.

### **7.    RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 The LGBCE makes the decision on council size and any delay in agreeing the Council size document may result in the LGBCE not taking the Council's submission into account.

### **8.    APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1: Draft Council Size Submission

Background papers:

LGBCE – Electoral Review of Redditch

**Electoral Matters Committee    18 October  
2021**

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**9.    REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder		
Lead Director / Head of Service		
Financial Services	James Howse Executive Director of Resources	5 October 2021
Legal Services		