

Annual Council 2022

23 May

Local Government Boundary Commission for England Boundary Review for Redditch – Warding Pattern Proposals

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Dormer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
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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

Council is asked to RESOLVE that:-

- 1) **Council endorse the Warding Pattern including any amendments made.**
- 2) **Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive following consultation with Group Leaders to produce and submit the formal submission document to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Redditch Council has not been reviewed since 2002, and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (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.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None at this stage other than officer time, the cost of the review is borne by the LGBCE.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The 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.
- 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 and the size of wards 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 The LGBCE will seek to deliver electoral equality for voters in local elections.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 The Commission will recommend a ward proposal that, in its judgement, enables the council to take its decisions effectively, to discharge the business and responsibilities of the council successfully, and to provide for effective community leadership and representation.

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- 6.5 The LGBCE is minded to recommend 27 councillors for the Council; this is in line with the council size submission approved by Council on 15 November 2021.
- 6.6 The draft Council Ward Pattern drawn up by officers and agreed at CMT is included at Appendix 1 and Council is invited to make any amendments it sees fit before recommending the Submission.
- 6.7 Proposals can be made by any interested party, elected member, political group or political party to the LGBCE by 31 May 2022.
- 6.8 The LGBCE will publish draft recommendations 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 Council could decide not to make a submission although this would severely restrict the Council's ability to influence the decision of LGBCE.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Draft Warding Pattern

Background papers:

LGBCE – Electoral Review of Redditch: [Redditch | LGBCE Site](#)