

**ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE
2024**

29 February

**Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) –
Worcestershire County Divisions Review**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillors Dormer, Leader, and Court, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Report Author	Job Title: Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager Contact email: darren.whitney@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881650
Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RESOLUTIONS

- 1.1 **Members of the Committee are asked to note the contents of the report; and**
- 1.2 **decide if a submission to the LGBCE be made from the Authority regarding the proposed changes within this report.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report highlights the progress of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review for Worcestershire County Council Divisions.
- 2.2 It highlights where boundary changes to the proposed county divisions would fit better within the polling districts created as part of the 2023 polling districts and places reviews.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 No direct costs from this report.

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 This report deals with statutory functions but relates to the strategic purpose of an effective and sustainable council.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 It is preferable that choice of boundaries can help minimise unnecessary additional journeys by motorised vehicles.
- 5.3 Emissions and carbon footprint should be reduced as far as possible.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 None for this report.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 The LGBCE have published it's draft proposals for the new electoral county divisions in Worcestershire, consultation on these is open until 18 March 2024.
- 6.3 Details of the review can be found on the LGBCE website:.
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/worcestershire>
- 6.4 For the Redditch Borough area the LGBCE are recommending four divisions, all of which will have two members.

6.5 Individuals and political parties and the authority can make submissions to the consultation.

6.6 Officers have identified two proposed divisional boundaries where it would be useful to amend them to make them coterminous with the agreed polling districts from the recent reviews.

6.7 Redditch Central/Redditch East Proposed Divisions

This relates to the new North Ward of the Borough and would involve moving electors both from and to the Redditch Central and Redditch East proposed divisions.

In appendix 1 the blue line is the current county division boundary and the red is the LGBCE proposed boundary line.

Officers propose the yellow boundary line which would make the following changes:

The boundary is moved so that the whole of polling district NRC – Church Hill North is within the proposed Redditch East division. This is currently 1,271 electors.

The boundary is moved so that the whole of polling district NRB – Papermill is within the proposed Redditch Central division. This is currently 791 electors.

The combined effect means that Redditch East division increases by 480 electors and Redditch Central is reduced by the same amount. In percentage terms this means the electoral variance from the average will move from -4% to -6.5% for Redditch Central and from -8% to -5.5% for Redditch East.

If members decide not to recommend this change a review of both polling districts NRB and NRC will be required.

6.8 Redditch West/Redditch South Proposed Divisions

This relates to moving boundary between the Redditch West and Redditch South Divisions within the Webheath & Callow Hill Ward.

If the boundary is moved north to encompass Morton Stanley Park and Redditch Golf Course it then makes the boundary of polling district WCD – Callow Hill co-terminus with the division boundary. This is shown as the yellow line in appendix 2.

There are currently 27 electors in the area all on Lower Grinsty Lane and they would move from Redditch West Division to Redditch South Division.

If members decide not to recommend this change; rather than make this a separate polling district it would be better to adjoin this part of WCD to either polling district WCA or WCB.

- 6.9 The LGBCE will publish their final recommendations on 2 July 2024 and the new arrangements will be in place for the County Elections in May 2025.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 If proposals are not sent to the LGBCE polling districts will need to be reviewed again which could lead to new polling places being required.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Map of boundaries relating to polling districts NRB and NRC

Appendix 2 – Map of boundaries relating to WCD

LGBCE Website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/worcestershire>

Relevant Statutory provisions

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder		
Head of Service		
Financial Services		
Legal Services		