

**REPORT TO THE ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**MEETING OF 29 MARCH 2017**

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**Status:** For Consideration  
**Title:** Electoral Review – LGBCE Draft Recommendations  
**Originator:** Richard Ellis, Corporate Services Manager

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1 Purpose of report:

1.1 To consider the draft recommendations for warding published by the Local Government Boundary Committee for England (LGBCE).

2 Recommendation

2.1 **That the Electoral Review Committee considers the LGBCE draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Harborough District Council published on 14 March 2017.**

2.2 **That the Electoral Review Committee determines if it wishes to make recommendations to Council on the 24 April 2017.**

3 Summary of Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has accepted the Council's submission on council size and set this at 34 councillors.

3.2 Following a period of public consultation the LGBCE has published its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Harborough District Council. The LGBCE report is attached at Appendix A.

3.3 The LGBCE draft recommendations are based on a combination of the District Council's proposals, Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council's proposals and the Commission's own proposals.

4 Key Facts

4.1 In determining a suitable pattern of wards the LGBCE pay close attention to three criteria:

**Delivering electoral equality for local voters** – this means ensuring that each local councillor represents roughly the same number of people so that

the value of each person's vote is the same regardless of where they live within the local authority area.

**Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities** – establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.

**Promoting effective and convenient local government** – ensuring that the wards proposed can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that arrangements allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively and reflects the electoral cycle of the council.

- 4.2 The warding pattern recommended to Council by the ERC and submitted the LGBCE would have delivered 24 wards – 16 single member wards, 2 three member wards and 6 two member wards.
- 4.3 It was recognised that this option involved creating a number of wards which would be just outside the LGBCE guidance of a 10% variation from the average for the first criteria (electoral equality) but it was considered that there was sufficient evidence relating to the other two criteria to justify this. The option put forward by the Council also retained single member wards in areas where single member wards already existed.
- 4.4 The LGBCE did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to justify proposing wards which exceeded their 10% threshold and has proposed wards which it considers better meet the criteria of electoral equality.
- 4.5 The LGBCE draft recommendations propose 19 wards – 7 single member wards, 3 three member wards and 9 two member wards.
- 4.6 The LGBCE draft recommendations include the creation of two member wards in Broughton Astley and Lutterworth and make changes to parish ward boundaries within these settlements. The proposed boundaries are shown in detail at Appendix B (Lutterworth) and Appendix C (Broughton Astley).
- 4.7 The revised ward boundaries for Market Harborough forming part of the Council's submission have been adopted as submitted with the exception of a minor alteration between the Little Bowden and Welland wards where Northampton Road remains the boundary rather than Welland Valley Way.

## 5 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 One the LGBCE proposals have been finalised they will come into effect from the next district and parish elections to be held in 2019.

## 6 Resource Issues

- 6.1 The review is being undertaken by the LGBCE. Input from the involves staff time in gathering and analysing evidence in order to assist the Electoral Review Committee and Council in preparing submissions on council size and

warding patterns. This is included in the Corporate Services Team Plan for 2016/17.

## 7 Background Papers

Previous reports to Council and ERC (see below)  
LGBCE Publication – Electoral Reviews Technical Guidance (April 2014)

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### **Previous report(s):**

Council 27/07/15, 25/07/16 and 12/12/16  
LGBCE briefing for councillors (prior to Council on 18 April 2016)  
Electoral Review Committee- 17/05/16, 14/06/16, 12/07/16, 08/11/16 and 22/11/16

Sensitive Issue Procedure – Local Member notified: N

### **Appendices:**

**Appendix A – LGBCE Draft Recommendations** (Harborough Draft Recommendations FINAL.pdf)

**Appendix B – Detailed Map of Lutterworth Warding Proposal** (Lutterworth.pdf)

**Appendix C- Detailed Map of Broughton Astley Warding** (Broughton Astley.pdf)

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