

COUNCIL

29 NOVEMBER 2016

REPORT OF MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT MANAGER

A.2 Electoral Review of Tendring

(Report prepared by Karen Neath)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Council with a timetable for the electoral review of Tendring and to seek a delegation to authorise the Chief Executive to make, with the agreement of the Electoral Review Working Group, a provisional submission on ward boundaries to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to meet the LGBCE deadline of 9th January 2017 subject to the final submission being formally considered and determined by full Council at the meeting on 24th January 2017.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 9 February 2016 the LGBCE formally wrote to the Council to advise that it had a place on the local government boundary review programme.
- In line with the first stage of this review, at the meeting on 6th September 2016, Council agreed a submission of a recommended council size of 48.
- On 25th October 2016 the LGBCE wrote to the Council to confirm the commencement of the consultation on ward boundaries. The LGBCE stated that it was “.....minded to recommend that 48 district councillors should be elected to Tendring District Council in future.....”
- The LGBCE is now seeking proposals from the Council, interested parties and members of the public on a pattern of electoral wards to accommodate 48 councillors.
- The deadline for responses is 9th January 2017.
- The timeline of the LGCBE does not allow for the Council proposals on ward boundaries to be considered at a full Council meeting before the deadline for responses. It is therefore proposed that Council authorises the Chief Executive to make, with the agreement of the Electoral Review Working Group, a provisional submission on ward boundaries to the LGBCE to meet the LGBCE deadline of 9th January 2017 with the final submission being formally considered and determined by full Council at the meeting on 24th January 2017. In considering this delegation the following factors are pertinent:-
 - All Members have been invited to submit their comments to the Working Group so that these can be taken account of in preparing the Council's proposals;
 - The proposals will be shared with all Members before submission;
 - The Working Group has cross party representation and four group leaders sitting on the Working Group;
 - The LGBCE will consult on its draft recommendations between March and

- May 2017 so there will be a further opportunity for all Members to comment before final recommendations are published;
- Unless full Council wishes to formally constitute the Electoral Review Working Group as a committee, to which the usual access to information rules would apply, the Council is only permitted in law to authorise the discharge of its functions to an Officer;
 - The Chief Executive will seek the approval of the Working Group before the submission, such approval to be obtained at a meeting before 9th January 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Executive be authorised to make, with the agreement of the Electoral Review Working Group, a provisional submission on ward boundaries to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to meet the LGBCE deadline of 9th January 2017 subject to the final submission being formally considered and determined by full Council at the meeting on 24th January 2017.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

It is important that the warding of the district allows for an appropriate level of electoral representation for residents across the District to ensure effective governance, decision making, and scrutiny.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

The total budget for member support costs for 2016/17 is £503,150.

Risk

The LGBCE look at electoral equality as part of their review. This should ensure that councillors have an appropriate size of electorate to represent. Emphasis is also placed on the importance of communities and the review will seek to ensure that communities are not dissected or compromised.

LEGAL

The LGBCE was established by and operates under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

The Council can make arrangements for the discharge of its functions in accordance with Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to a committee, sub-committee or an officer. The recommendation lawfully permits the Electoral Review Working Group to approve the proposal before it is submitted by the Chief Executive.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are none.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

There are no background papers.

APPENDICES

There are no appendices.