

Local Government Boundary Review - Update

Final Decision-Maker	Democracy and General Purposes Committee
Lead Head of Service	Angela Woodhouse, Head of Policy, Communication and Governance
Lead Officer and Report Author	Ryan O'Connell, Democracy and Electoral Services Manager
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

To provide a brief overview of the Local Government Boundary Review, including key dates.

Purpose of Report

Noting.

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

That the Committee note the update.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Democracy and General Purposes Committee	10 March 2021

Local Government Boundary Review - Update

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	The setup of the Council's boundaries and consequential election of Councillors impacts on all priorities indirectly, but this report has no direct impacts as it is for noting.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Cross Cutting Objectives	The setup of the Council's boundaries and consequential election of Councillors impacts on all objectives indirectly, but this report has no direct impacts as it is for noting.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Risk Management	There are no changes to risks arising from this report. Project risks for the review will be managed using standard methodology and in accordance with the Council's risk appetite.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Financial	There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any future implications will be managed through the project.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Staffing	There are no staffing implications arising from this report. Any future implications will be managed through the project.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Legal	There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation set out in this report. Any future legal implications will be managed through the project.	Team Leader Corporate Governance
Privacy and Data Protection	There are no privacy and data protection implications arising from this report.	Head of Policy, Communications, and Governance
Equalities	There are no equalities implications arising from this report. Any future implications will be managed through the project.	Head of Policy, Communications, and Governance
Public Health	There are no public health implications arising from this report.	Public Health Officer

Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Procurement	There are no procurement implications arising from this report. Any future implications will be managed through the project.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Biodiversity and Climate Change	There are no biodiversity and climate change implications arising from this report.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) have met with Group Leaders and Senior Officers to discuss the timetable and information requirements for the Local Government Boundary Review agreed by this Committee in November 2020.
- 2.2 Those conversations took into account the decisions taken by this committee in January 2021 to retain a committee system of governance and to stay with elections by thirds.
- 2.3 A briefing for all Members has been arranged for 22 March 2021 and all Members are encouraged to attend as the boundary review will necessarily have implications for all Wards and Members. Further information will be circulated to Members ahead of that briefing, but this report sets out the high level timetable for the review.
- 2.4 Up to November 2021 – Council size submission (the number of Members on the Council) to be made to the LGBCE by Maidstone Borough Council and others if they wish. All submissions will need to be evidenced and in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The Commission will be looking to adopt a draft recommendation on size in December 2021.
- 2.5 January 2022 – Autumn 2022 – Ward Boundaries to be determined taking into account the total number of Councillors, the requirement for three Members per ward, and the need to ensure an equality of electors per councillor across the Borough. This process will include periods of consultation with the public, Councillors, Parishes and others to feed in their views. All submissions will need to be evidenced and everyone will be asked to express their support for the proposals they like, as well as the elements they would want changed.
- 2.6 Winter/Spring 2022-2023 – Orders laid by LGBCE for change to Wards with a view for implementation at a Whole Council election ('all out') in May 2024. This allows for a Community Governance Review in 2023 to review Parish boundaries and other matters in light of the Borough Ward

boundary changes (where those matters are not dealt with under the Local Government Boundary Review).

- 2.7 The Democracy and General Purposes Committee normally meets once every 2 months, but Members will note that extra dates have been added into the calendar of meetings for 2021/22 in order to ensure Members are fully involved in the review, especially the development of Council size proposals, prior to submission to Council and then the LGBCE.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

That the report be noted.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be noted.

5. RISK

This report is presented for information only and has no risk management implications.

6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

The Committee have considered the Local Government Boundary Review and decisions arising at its meetings in November 2020, and January 2021.

7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

An all Member briefing will be held on 22 March 2021. All Members are encouraged to attend.

8. REPORT APPENDICES

None

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Technical Guidance (including the Council Size Proposal Template) - <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/how-reviews-work/technical-guidance>