



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

20 February 2020

Subject Heading:

**Boundary Commission Review, Part 2
(warding patterns)**

Report Author and contact details:

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Policy context:

Electoral review

Financial summary:

None arising from this report

SUMMARY

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review of the London Borough of Havering's local government electoral arrangements. The outcome of the review will be implemented in readiness for the 2022 Council elections.

The review forms two parts. The first part determines the Council size. In September 2019, Full Council recommended to the Commission that it retain its existing cohort size of 54. The Commission subsequently informed the Council that it was minded to agree to the proposal.

The second part is concerned with determining the warding arrangements in terms of the number of wards and the number of representatives of each ward which make up the Council, based on statutory criteria.

An officer working group has prepared a number of options for the Governance Committee to consider. The committee's preferred option will then be presented to Full Council which determines the Council's submission to the Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Governance Committee determine its preference from the list of options attached to this report and makes its recommendation to Full Council accordingly.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Periodically, the LGBCE undertakes reviews of local authority electoral arrangements. In doing so, it reviews the total number of councillors elected to the local authority; the number and boundaries of wards for the purposes of the election of councillors; the number of councillors for any ward of a local authority; and the name of any ward. Havering's last review was in 1999.
2. In September 2019, Full Council recommended to the Commission that council size remain at 54. The Commission subsequently informed the Council that it was minded to agree to the proposal.
3. The focus turns to the next part of the electoral review which determines the warding arrangements of the borough; that being the total number of wards and the number of representatives of each ward which make up the Council. The Commission commenced the public consultation phase for Part 2 on 17 December 2019, which will conclude on 2 March 2020.
4. The Commission follow statutory criteria when making its decision. These same criteria should be followed when the Council determines its submission to the Commission. The statutory criteria are:
 - Electoral equality (a consistent number of electors per Councillor)
 - Community Identity (strong ward boundaries that reflect communities); and
 - Effective and convenient local government (coherent wards)
5. To assist Members, Officers have prepared a number of warding arrangement options which are attached as appendices to this report. Each option details how the statutory criteria have been met and explains the design principles which underpin each approach. Contained within each option are proposed borough-wide and individual ward-level maps which include the names for each ward. In addition, there are projected electorate forecasts for up to 2025 and the variance levels based on the projected number of electors per Councillor.
6. The Governance Committee is tasked with identifying its preferred option which will be recommended for approval at an extraordinary meeting of Full Council. Groups will have the opportunity to submit amendments to that meeting in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules. It should be noted however that amendments must have regard to the statutory criteria referred to in paragraph 4 of this report. In addition, Group and individual submissions can be made direct to the Commission itself by 2 March 2020.
7. The Council's submission must be provided to the Committee by no later than 9 March 2020' an extraordinary Full Council meeting has therefore been set

for 4 March 2020. The Commission has granted a week's extension to its consultation deadline specifically for the Council to make its submission. The A condition of the extension is that the Council must provide its report to Full Council, along with any amendments by midnight on 2 March.

8. The Commission will consider the council's submission, along with all other submissions provided during the public consultation and will subsequently publish their initial findings in June 2020

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial impacts arising the report.

Legal implications and risks:

The LGBCE has functions under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. It may at any time conduct a review of the area of the council, and recommend whether a change should be made to the electoral arrangements.

The Council has an obligation to assist the LGBCE in determining Havering electoral arrangements. Indeed as part of the review, the Council may make submissions proposing electoral arrangements it considers to be appropriate.

Human Resources Implications and risks:

There are no HR implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

There are none arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None