

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Council	24 November 2015

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF LANCASHIRE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has issued draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Lancashire County Council. Consultation commenced on 17 November 2015 and is open until 11 January 2016 and Members are asked to submit any views on the draft recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Members are asked to consider the draft recommendations put forward for Lancashire with a view to responding to the LGBCE consultation by either:
 - agreeing the proposals; or
 - challenging the proposals and providing feedback.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

BACKGROUND

- On 21 July 2015, the full Council meeting considered early stage consultation from LGBCE on a review of the 82 County Council divisions across Lancashire. The review was triggered by 29 of those divisions having an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average electorate for an LCC division.
- The Council at that meeting, agreed to put forward a submission evidencing the need for 8 County Electoral divisions for Chorley based on the population growth forecast for Chorley and the number of divisions which were already currently outside the 10% variance in electorate. Two potential proposals for the revised configuration of the 8 divisions were submitted, both of which had the support of all political parties on the Council.

NEXT STAGE CONSULTATION: PROPOSALS FOR CHORLEY

6. On 17 November the LGBCE published its draft recommendations (attached as Appendix 1 to this report) which had been formulated, having considered representations made by the County Council and a number of district councils; parish and town councils; MPs; individual elected members; political groups, local organisations and residents. The proposals are coming to this Council meeting for consideration as there isn't another one before the close of consultation on 11 January.
7. The proposals retain the 84 County Council seats across Lancashire and include 8 rather than 7 Electoral Divisions for the area of Chorley Borough.

The detailed proposals for the 8 new Divisions largely follow those suggested by Chorley Council, in one of the proposals but with one significant change. The proposals are contained in paragraph 23 of the attached report, and in a schedule set out in pages 11 and 12 of the document.

IMPLICATIONS FOR CHORLEY BOROUGH

8. There are a number of electoral administration implications for the proposals which Members need to be aware of in relation to the new Chorley South and Chorley Central County Divisions under the draft recommendations.
9. From the original proposals, the Commission has suggested that 596 electors are moved from the Chorley South Division into Chorley Central. The LGBCE has arrived at this by redrawing the boundary, using Tootell Street as a division boundary. This is to "provide for a stronger and more recognisable boundary between these divisions, and would improve electoral equality". Co-terminosity with borough ward boundaries would change from 100% to 95% under these proposals.
10. The effect of this is to split the current polling district of 09D along this line. The 596 electors within the moved area would find themselves in a different County Division than the rest of the polling district. A complication arising from this, is that at present all electors within the polling district of 09D currently use the same polling station and will continue to do so for Chorley Borough Elections, however for the County Council elections the polling district would be split with the 596 moved electors voting in a different division. This would therefore leave the Council with the following options for voting arrangements:
 - For LCC elections, move the 596 electors to a different polling station. This would be straightforward from an administrative point of view but is not desirable for the voter, in that they would vote in different polling stations for different elections, which can only lead to confusion. Alternatively,
 - Within the existing polling premises, another polling station could be created resulting in there being two stations in the one location. One station would be for those voting in the Chorley South Division and the other station for the Chorley Central electors. This is not ideal, but would be the preferred option should these changes be implemented. The guidance on the location of polling stations says that the station should be situated in the actual voting area and as such this would clash with this rule, however in circumstances where there are no other options, it is permissible. In order to avoid elector confusion from year to year it could be deemed that we have no other viable options.
11. Members' views are requested on whether to make comment and challenge the changes proposed to Chorley Central and Chorley South Divisions; or to accept the draft recommendations and respond to the LGBCE accordingly.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

12. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

13. There are no financial implications for the changes.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

14. There are no Monitoring officer comments.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Carol Russell/Phil Davies	5196/5131	18 November 2015	***

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Report to Council – Electoral Review of Lancashire including supplementary information	21 July 2015		https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=114&MId=4467&Ver=4
LGBCE Consultation information for Review of Lancashire			https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/lancashire/lancashire-county-council