

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Governance	Special Council	27 February 2018

THE ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CHORLEY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To correct the political proportionality to the Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee, and to consider a formal request to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to defer the 2019 local borough elections.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To approve the amendments to the membership of the Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee, with the political proportionality of 5 Labour (and 2 substitutes), 3 Conservative (and 2 substitutes) and 1 seat to be allocated to the smaller groups within the council.
3. To approve a formal request being made to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to defer the 2019 local borough elections due to the whole of council election in 2020. This would result in a cost saving to the council of approximately £120,000.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4. 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 homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

BACKGROUND

5. At the council meeting on 23 January 2018, a report was presented which sought approval to the formation of a new committee (and its membership), to oversee the electoral review process for Chorley Council being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The role of this Committee is to receive information and to make recommendations to Council. In turn Chorley Council can consider any recommendations received from the Committee and make recommendations to the LGBC.

6. This report also sought a recommendation as to whether a formal request be made to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a deferment of the 2019 local borough election by Order under section 87 of the Local Government Act 2000.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

7. In the report to council on 23 January, it was reported that membership of the committee should consist of 4 Labour, 3 Conservative and 1 National Health Action Party, with the following appointments being made on that basis:
- Labour - Alistair Bradley, Jane Fitzsimons, Danny Gee and Peter Wilson (substitutes Adrian Lowe and Paul Walmsley)
 - Conservative – Paul Leadbetter, Debra Platt and John Walker (substitutes Martin Boardman and John Dalton)
 - National Health Action – Mark Jarnell
8. Since the meeting a lack of political proportionality has been identified and reviewed. The outcome of the review provides –
- an additional seat to Labour; bringing the total membership for Labour to 5
 - one seat be offered to the minor groups (Independent Group and the National Health Action Party).
9. Through discussion with members of the small groups, it has been agreed that the seat be taken by the representative of the National Health Action Party, Mark Jarnell.
10. Prior to the first meeting of the new committee on 7 March 2018, all members will be asked to complete a survey relating to the demands that their council duties place on their time.

LOCAL BOROUGH ELECTIONS 2019 - DEFERMENT

11. Since being informed of the review, there have been a number of enquires by members as to the possibility of postponing the 2019 local elections. As a result, advice was sought from the Department for Community and Local Government (DCLG). In response (appendix A), the DCLG advised that for the council to defer its 2019 local government elections, a formal request would need to be made to the Secretary of State setting out its reasons for requiring the change. If approved the Secretary of State would then formulate the necessary Order.
12. The cost to the council for holding a borough election in 2019 was approximately £120,000. However, those members elected would serve a one year term only, it is therefore considered reasonable to seek permission for a deferment of these elections on these grounds. A copy of the formal request is appended to this report (Appendix B).
13. Parish council elections for 2019 would take place as scheduled.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

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

area			
------	--	--	--

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

15. The consequence of making the request to defer the 2019 Local Election is detailed within the report. Approval of the request would lead to the Council making a saving of approximately £120k in that year which is the estimated cost of a local election.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

16. No Comment.

Rebecca Huddleston
Director of Policy and Governance

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Cathryn Filbin	5123	12 February 2018	***