Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Governance	Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee	6 November 2018

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present the LGBCE's draft recommendations on new warding arrangements for Chorley Council and for members of the committee to discuss and formulate a response.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To formulate a formal response to the LGBCE's draft recommendations; to be presented at the council meeting on 22 January 2019 prior to submitting it to the LGBCE.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The LGBCE has published its draft recommendations into new warding arrangements for Chorley Council as part of the electoral review (appendix A). This report provides a summary of the draft recommendations and highlights any variation with Chorley Council's submission on preferred ward boundaries.

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. Chorley Council was informed in June 2017 that the LGBCE would be conducting an electoral review intervention as part of its 2018/19 work programme. The aim of the review is to improve electoral equality across the borough. The electoral review is split into two stages:-
   - Stage 1 – Decision on the Council Size
   - Stage 2 – New ward patterning arrangements

6. On 26 June 2018, the LGBCE announced that it was minded to agree to the council's proposal on its preferred council size (the submission for which was approved by majority decision at the council meeting on10 April 2018) in that:
   - Chorley should be represented by 42 councillors, five fewer than at present;

- Chorley should consist of 14 wards, six fewer than at present;

This decision brought stage one of the review to a close.

7. Stage 2 of the review consists of two separate public consultations. In its first consultation which ran from 26 June 2018 until 3 September 2018; the LGBCE sought suggestions on which neighbouring areas of the borough should be put together to form each ward. Chorley Council's proposal was accepted as a late submission (following LGBCE's prior approval) which was agreed by majority decision at its meeting on 18 September 2018.

LGBCE'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

8. On 6 November 2018 the LGBCE published its draft recommendations on new warding arrangements for Chorley. On the same day they also launched their second public consultation based on those draft recommendations. The consultation is open until 14 January 2019.

9. When comparing the LGBCE's draft recommendations against those proposed by Chorley Council, the findings are as follows:

10. **Adlington and Anderton Ward**

The LGBCE's proposal remains unchanged from the proposal of the council.

11. **Clayton East, Brindle and Hoghton *(this ward was named Brindle and Hoghton in the council's proposal)***

The LGBCE did not consider that the council's proposal satisfied its statutory criteria. It therefore developed its own proposal based on a local resident's submission. By using the A6 road as a ward boundary from the south of the parish up to the B5256 it was able to create a Clayton East, Brindle and Hoghton Ward and a Clayton West and Cuerden ward which follow relatively clear boundaries and provide for reasonably good electoral equality.

Reason: It will ensure that communities in the east of Clayton-le-Woods parish will have clear road links with the parishes of Brindle and Hoghton via Sandy Lane and Westwood Road.

12. **Buckshaw and Whittle**

The LGBCE's proposal remains unchanged from the proposal of the council.

13. **Chorley East**

Although largely based on the council proposal, the LGBCE has changed the boundary in the north of the ward. The proposal is to run the ward boundary along the railway line and Corporation Street, instead of following the polling district boundary as proposed by the council which ran across Stump Lane and to the rear of Kershaw Street, Cobden Street and Foster Street.

Reason: The proposed ward broadly follows the existing Chorley East ward. It will also incorporate the rural areas of Heath Charnock and Anglezarke both of which have good road access to the urban part of the ward.

14. **Chorley North**

The LGBCE has adopted the council's proposal in regards to including Astley Village in this ward. However, it has significantly amended the remainder of the ward in that it has followed the Astley Village and Euxton parish boundary to remove a 'bottle neck' between north-west and south-east Euxton. It has also transferred Whittle-le-Woods East parish ward to the Chorley North East ward.

Reason: The LGBCE did not consider that the council's proposed Chorley North ward followed sufficiently clear boundaries and contained relatively disparate areas with little sense of shared community identity.

15. **Chorley North East**

The LGBCE's proposal is based on the council's submission apart from a significant amendment of the boundary in the west of the ward. The decision to place the existing East parish ward of Whittle-le-Woods in this borough ward was to create a more cohesive warding pattern in this part of the borough.

Reason: It is considered that this ward patterning better reflects road access routes in the area, where Whittle-le-Woods parish has strong links all the way up to Withnell parish via the A674 and B6229.

16. **Chorley North West**

The LGBCE's proposal is broadly based on the council's submission for this ward which is similar to the existing ward in this area. It agrees that the council's proposal to incorporate the 09E polling district in this ward using Tootell Street as a strong, recognisable boundary. However, some modifications to this ward have been made to create more identifiable boundaries which follows the railway line (rather than Market Street) in the east of the ward. The recommendation also follows Pall Mall in its entirety.

Reason: That the proposed boundaries are more identifiable than those proposed by the council for this ward. This arrangement will also have a good electoral equality in 2024.

17. **Chorley South East**

This ward has broadly been based on the council's proposals. However, the LGBCE has made a minor change to the northern boundary where it proposes to follow Pall Mall.

Reason: Pall Mall is considered a strong boundary. This arrangement would also have good electoral equality in 2024 which reflects community identities.

18. **Chorley South West**

The LGBCE has based its recommendations for this ward on that of the council's subject to minor boundary changes to the east of the ward. Its proposal includes electors on the western side of Tootell Street, Weldbank Lane and Mountbatten Road and its connected roads.

Reason: it is considered that the LGBCE's draft recommendation follows more identifiable boundaries and will ensure good electoral equality.

19. **Clayton West and Cuerden** ***(this ward was named Clayton North in the council's proposal)***

As with the ward of Clayton East, Brindle and Hoghton, the LGBCE did not consider that the council proposal satisfied its statutory criteria. It therefore developed its own proposal based on a local resident's submission. By using the A6 road as a ward boundary from the south of the parish up to the B5256 it was able to create a Clayton East, Brindle and Hoghton Ward and a Clayton West and Cuerden ward which follow relatively clear boundaries and provide for reasonably good electoral quality.

Reason: It will ensure that communities in the east of Clayton-le-Woods parish will have clear road links with the parishes of Brindle and Hoghton via Sandy Lane and Westwood Road.

20. **Coppull**

The LGBCE has based its draft recommendation on the council's.

21. **Eccleston, Charnock Richard and South Euxton** ***(this ward was named Eccleston, Heskin and Charnock in the council's proposal)***

Chorley Council's proposal for this ward was rejected in favour of an alternative submission (Chorley Conservative Association) which placed the south of Euxton parish in a ward with the parishes of Eccleston and Charnock Richard.

The LGBCE also decided to include Firbak, Brookside and Park Avenue in this ward as it best reflects the local road layout and access routes.

Reason: The submission better reflected local transport routes between communities and overall, provide for more clearly identifiable ward boundaries. The change of name is descriptive of the communities which comprise it.

22. **Euxton**

The council's submission is similar to that of the Chorley Conservative Association's submission in which they both place the current Euxton North ward and the eastern part of the current Euxton South ward together. This proposal has been agreed by the LGBCE, with the exception of an amendment to the eastern boundary.

Reason: the eastern boundary has been amended to follow the parish boundary.

23. **Croston and Mawdesley** ***(this ward was named Lostock and Mawdesley in the council's proposal)***

Chorley Council's proposal for this ward was rejected in favour of an alternative submission (Chorley Conservative Association) which placed Heskin with Bretherton, Croston, Mawdelsey and Ulnes Walton.

Reason: The submission better reflected local transport routes between communities and overall, provide for more clearly identifiable ward boundaries. The ward name has changed from that proposed by the council, as it was considered Croston, being a village and having 40% of the wards electorate, was a more defining feature of the ward than the River Lostock.

Parish Electoral Arrangements

24. The LGBCE cannot make any recommendations to change parish external boundaries; this can only be achieved through the local authority conducting a Community Governance Review. However, Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 provides that (as a result of an electoral review) if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single borough ward.

25. The draft recommendations for the new warding arrangements recorded above will result in the following changes to three parish councils: -

Parish Council	Parish Ward	No. of parish councillors	Total No. of parish councillors per parish ward
Clayton-le-Woods	Clayton Brook Clayton Green East South East West	5 1 2 7	15
Euxton	Buckshaw Village North & East South	5 11 2	18
Heath Charnock	East West	2 5	7

NEXT STEPS

26. The draft recommendations are currently out for public consultation, the deadline for which is 14 January 2019.

27. It would be expected that the council responds to the draft recommendations (including ward names). However, should the Committee be minded to suggest any amendments to the proposal, members are reminded that the LGBCE's draft recommendations do demonstrate elector equality in each ward for some years to come. Changing a boundary of a single ward would have a domino effect on the rest of the wards.

28. Due to the authority's timetable of meetings, the LGBCE has approved an extension for the council to submit its response by the 25 January 2019. This will allow sufficient time for the committee to consider the proposed response, and for it to be presented at the council meeting on 22 January 2019 for approval, subject to a draft response being submitted to the LGBCE before the consultation expires.

29. The LGBCE's final recommendations will be published on 26 March, two weeks later than previously timetabled. After which the proposed changes must be approved by Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Chorley in 2020.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

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

31. Any changes to the proposed wards cannot be made in isolation. Changes made to any of the wards will have a subsequent effect on its neighbouring wards.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

32. No comment

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

33. The report properly sets out the process followed to date and the next steps to be taken in relation to the consultation.

REBECCA HUDDLESTON
DIRECTOR OF POLICY & GOVERNANCE

Background Papers			
Document	**Date**	**File**	**Place of Inspection**
Electoral Review	5 October 2017	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s79211/Electoral%20Review.pdf	Executive Cabinet agenda
Electoral Review Update	23 January 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s82429/Report.pdf	Council agenda
The Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee	27 February 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s83882/Electoral%20Review%20Committee.pdf	Council agenda
Electoral Review of Chorley Council – Draft Council Size submission	10 April 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s85271/Electoral%20Review%20of%20Chorley%20Council%20-%20Draft%20Councilil%20Size%20Submission.pdf	Council agenda
Draft minutes	15 August 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=906&MId=6896&Ver=4	Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee meeting
Electoral Review – Ward Arrangements Proposal	18 September 2018	http://mod/documents/s89709/Electoral%20Review%20-%20Ward%20Arrangements%20Proposal.pdf	Council agenda

Have your say on draft recommendations for Chorley (map)	6 November 2018	https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/13207	LGBC Website

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