

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Governance	Council	22 January 2019

CHORLEY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To consider a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) draft recommendations on new borough warding arrangements for Chorley.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To approve:
 - a) support for the LGBCE's draft recommendations on the new boundary arrangements for the following borough wards -.
 - Adlington & Anderton
 - Buckshaw & Whittle
 - Chorley East
 - Chorley East, Brindle & Hoghton
 - Chorley North
 - Chorley North East
 - Chorley North West
 - Chorley South East
 - Chorley South West
 - Clayton West & Cuerden
 - Coppull
 - Euxton
 - b) the boundary changes proposed to the LGBCE's draft recommendations as detailed in Option 1 (paragraph 18) for the following wards –
 - Croston & Mawdesley
 - Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South

3. To approve the proposed new borough ward names as follows:

LGBCE ward names	Preferred ward names
Adlington & Anderton	No change
Buckshaw & Whittle	No change
Chorley East	No change
Chorley North	Chorley North & Astley
Chorley North East	Chorley Rural North East
Chorley North West	No change
Chorley South East	Chorley South & Heath Charnock
Chorley South West	No change

Clayton East, Brindle & Hoghton	No change
Clayton West & Cuerden	No change
Coppull	No change
Croston & Mawdesley	No change
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	Chorley Rural West
Euxton	No change

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- On 6 November, the LGBCE published its' draft recommendations on new warding arrangements for Chorley.
- The Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee has since held two meetings to discuss the draft recommendations and formulated a response to the LGBCE which is detailed in this report.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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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 homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

BACKGROUND

- The electoral review of Chorley Council by the LGBCE is now well over half-way through the two stage process which consists of:
 - Stage one – Decision on the Council Size
 - Stage two – new ward patterning arrangements
- At the council meeting on 10 April 2018, and in response to stage one of the review; members agreed, by majority decision, to propose a reduction in council size from 47 to 42 members and to continue to elect its membership by thirds. As a consequence of holding elections by thirds, the LGBCE stipulates that each new ward consist of three members, to allow for voter equality in that each voter will be entitled to vote at each election.
- On 26 June 2018, that LGBCE announced that it was minded to approve the council's proposal for a reduction in its membership to 42. Therefore if the proposal is adopted the number of wards will automatically be reduced by 30% (from 20 to 14 wards). This decision brought stage one of the electoral review to a close.
- The 26 June was also the day the LGBCE triggered stage two of the electoral review with the launch of its public consultation into new warding arrangements. The aim of the consultation was to identify 14 new borough wards with broadly the same electorate in each (6,439 electors per ward). Those taking part in the consultation were encouraged to identify neighbouring areas of the borough that shared common identities and/or linkages which would be suitable to be included in a new borough ward.

11. After considering the responses received from the first consultation, the LGBCE published its' draft recommendations on new warding arrangements on 6 November and launched a second public consultation which expired on 14 January 2019. Chorley Council has been granted an extension to submit its response to allow this report to be debated at the council meeting on 22 January.
12. Although the draft recommendations published by the LGBCE have been based largely on the council's submission, proposals from other consultees have also been incorporated. All 14 wards of the draft recommendations are within the +/- 10% variance tolerance to the mean and demonstrate elector equality for years to come based on resident projections.
13. Since the draft recommendations were published, the Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee has met on two occasions (13 November 2018 and 8 January 2019) to debate the proposals in more detail. From that debate a proposed response to the LGBCE is detailed below.

COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

14. Altogether the LGBCE has proposed 14 new borough wards which the Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee considered when drafting its response.

Wards approved by the committee

15. The committee supports the LGBCE's draft recommendation (including ward names) for the following wards, which it considers to be fair and reasonable: -
 - Adlington and Anderton
 - Buckshaw and Whittle
 - Chorley East
 - Chorley North West
 - Chorley South West
 - Clayton East, Brindle and Hoghton
 - Clayton West and Cuerden
 - Coppull
 - Euxton

Proposed changes to ward names

16. Although the formulation of the following wards are considered fair and reasonable, the committee considered that the proposed names did not properly reflected the ward and suggests alternative names:-

LGBCE ward names	Preferred ward names
Chorley North	Chorley North and Astley
Chorley North East	Chorley Rural North East
Chorley South East	Chorley South East and Heath Charnock

Ward arrangements being objected to

17. The LGBCE's proposal to include the village of Heskin in the Croston and Mawdesley ward was not considered appropriate. Members of the committee felt that Heskin would be more suited to the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward due to its close connections with Eccleston (ie residents living in the village of Heskin have to visit Eccleston to attend schools, doctors' appointment, chemists and places of worship for

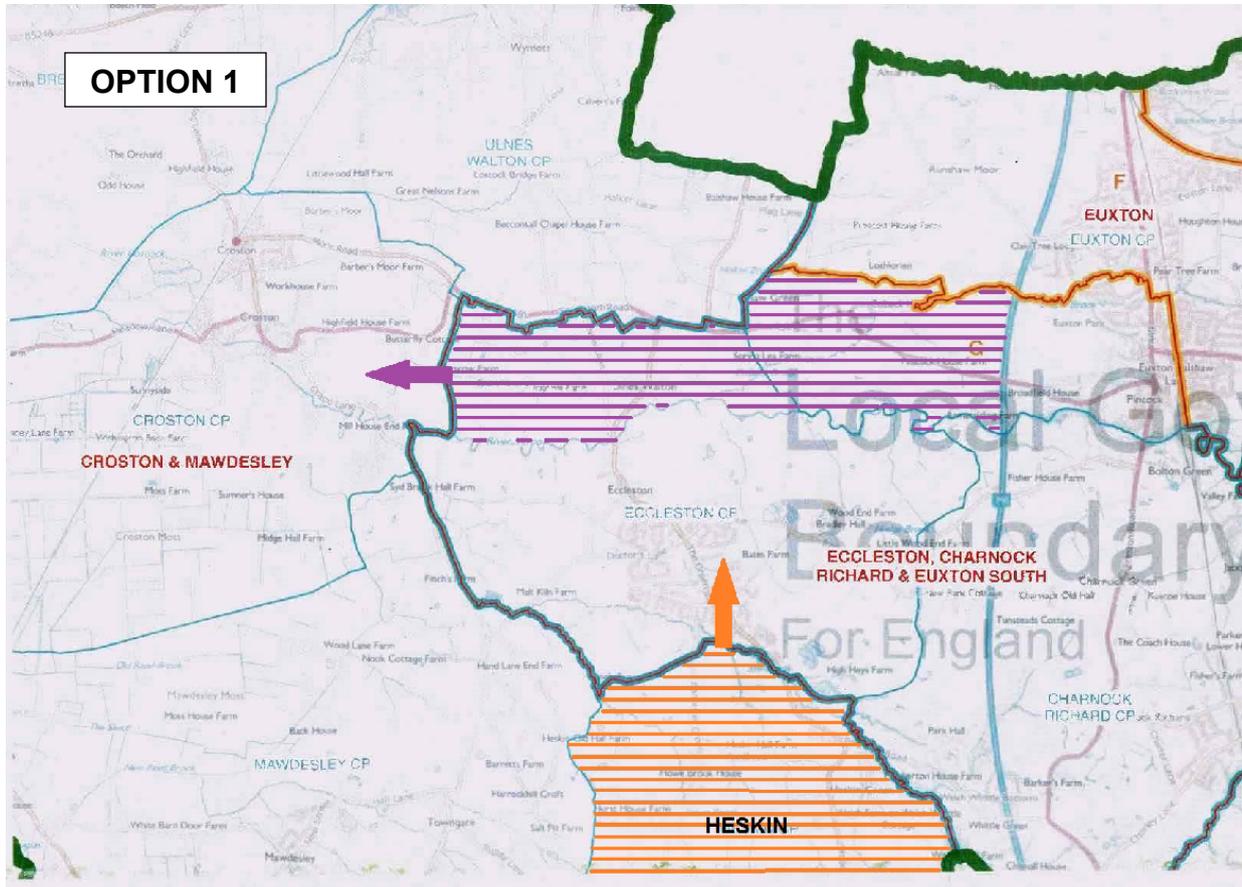
example. In addition the main road from Heskin runs through Eccleston). However, by simply moving the village of Heskin into the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward would cause both wards to greatly exceed the variance tolerance level beyond the LGBCE's +/- 10% tolerance requirement.

18. At its meeting on 8 January 2019, the committee considered a number of alternative proposals which would accommodate the village of Heskin moving from the Croston and Mawdesley ward to the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward. During debate, the committee decided on two alternative options that it wanted the LGBCE to consider, with its preferred option being Option 2 (below) which was proposed at the meeting itself subject to the impact it would have on the variance figures.

19. **Option 1:**

- move Heskin (730 electors) from the Croston and Mawdesley ward to the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward;
- move part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward (284 electors) into Croston and Mawdesley ward (north of the River Yarrow to the new Euxton boundary and east of the (Croston and Mawdesley) boundary to the M6).

IMPACT		
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Croston and Mawdesley	5, 478	-14.92
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	7,013	+8.92

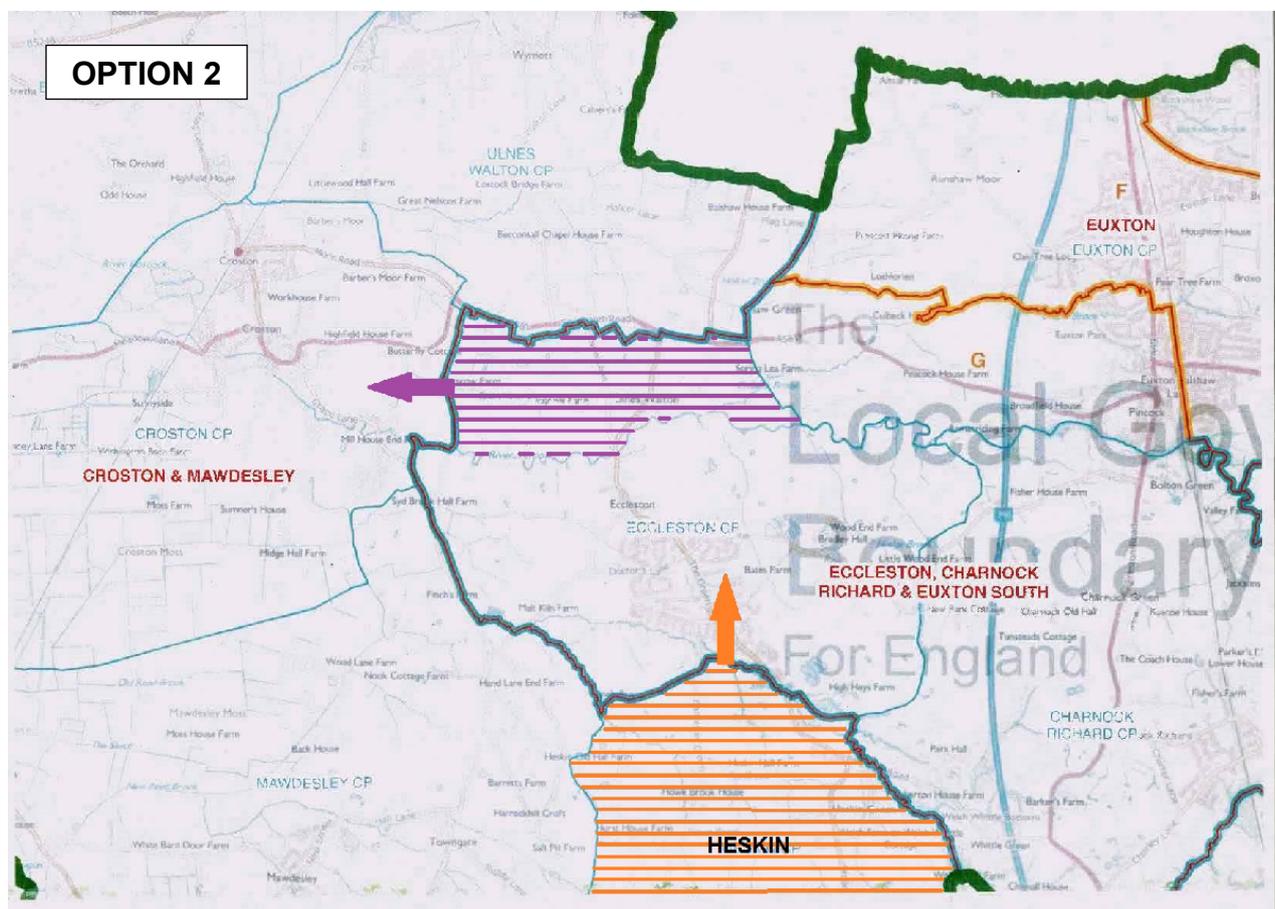


20. **Option 2*:**

- move Heskin (730 electors) from the Croston and Mawdesley ward to Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward;
- move part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward (178 electors) into Croston and Mawdesley ward (north of the River Yarrow to the Euxton Parish boundary).

IMPACT		
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Croston and Mawdesley	5,372	-16.57
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	7,191	+11.68

* The figures detailed in option 2 were unavailable at the meeting.



21. At the meeting, members of the committee voted for option 2 as their preferred option, subject to satisfactory variance to the mean tolerance levels. However, as the figures for both wards have resulted in the tolerance levels to fall outside the +/- 10% requirement, it is felt that this proposal is less attractive and members should consider option 1 as their preferred option.

22. At the meeting, members of the committee further proposed that the ward name be amended to Chorley Rural West to better reflect the villages and communities therein.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

23. 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	

24. By not responding to the draft recommendations will not indicate support or otherwise to the LGBCE's proposals, and could result in an alternative, unfavourable proposals being imposed on the council without additional consultation.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

25. The revenue budget implications of reducing the total number of members will be brought into the budget as and when final approval of these changes is made.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

26. As the report states the proposed consultation responses increase the departure from the 10% tolerance. However this can be justified where there are good reasons for doing so. This can include ensuring that community links are retained, as is the situation here.

REBECCA HUDDLESTON
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND 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%20Council%20Size%20Submission.pdf	Council agenda
Draft minutes	15 August 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CategoryId=906&Mid=6896	Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee meeting

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Electoral Review – Ward Arrangements Proposal	18 September 2018	http://mod/documents/s89709/Electoral%20Review%20-%20Ward%20Arrangements%20Proposal.pdf	Council agenda
Draft minutes	13 November 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g7016/Printed%20minutes%2013th-Nov-2018%2018.45%20Electoral%20Review%20of%20Chorley%20Council%20Committee.pdf?T=1	Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee meeting
Response to LGBCE draft recommendations on warding arrangements	8 January 2019	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s93909/Response%20and%20alternative%20proposal%20to%20the%20electoral%20review%20of%20Chorley%20Council.pdf	Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee meeting

Report Author	Ext	Date
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