

| Report of                       | Meeting | Date         |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Director of Policy & Governance | Council | 9 April 2019 |

## ELECTORAL REVIEW - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To present the final recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on new warding arrangements for the borough of Chorley following the conclusion of the electoral review.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Following its electoral review of Chorley Council, the LGBCE has concluded that the electoral arrangements for the borough will result in:
  - 14 new borough wards
  - elections will be held by thirds
  - each ward being represented by 3 elected members
- The majority of wards in the final recommendations remain unchanged from the draft proposals. In some cases, while the ward boundary remains the same, the name of the ward has been revised.
- The main changes revolve around the ward boundaries for Croston and Mawdesley which now include Euxton South; and relocating the parish of Heskin into a ward with the parishes of Eccleston and Charnock Richard. Changes have also been made to the parish electoral arrangements for Clayton-le-Woods and Euxton.
- A summary of the changes can be found in at point 16 of this report, while the LGBCE final recommendations can be viewed at appendix a.

|  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| <b>Confidential report</b><br>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**

8. Chorley Council was first informed that the LGBCE would be undertaking an electoral review of the council in June 2017, as part of its 2018/19 work programme.
9. The review was split into two parts:
  - Part 1: council size
  - Part 2: new warding arrangements (which included two public consultations)
10. In January 2018, a cross party committee was formed to oversee the review process and make recommendations to council, prior to them being submitted to the LGBCE.
11. Stage 1 of the review process concluded in June 2018, with the announcement that the LGBCE was minded to 'approve' Chorley Council's preferred recommendations of a reduction in council size from 47 to 42 elected members and that it wanted to continue to elect its membership by thirds. As a result of this announcement, and to ensure voter equality, each ward would be represented by three elected members. Therefore, the number of borough wards would be reduced to 14 (at present there are 20 wards).
12. Stage 2 of the review consisted of two public consultations conducted by the LGBCE:
  - In the first consultation (which was held between 26 June to the 3 September 2018) the LGBCE invited comments on which neighbouring areas should be put together to form wards and suggestions for ward names;
  - The second consultation (which was held between 6 November 2018 and 14 January 2019) was based solely on the LGBCE's draft recommendations which had been proposed based on the response it received from the first consultation.
13. In the first consultation the council put forward its preferred warding pattern as agreed at the council meeting on 18 September 2018.
14. After considering the responses it received from the first consultation, the LGBCE published its' draft recommendation on 6 November 2018. Although the LGBCE had largely based its draft recommendation on the council's submission, there were noticeable differences. These differences included boundary changes to the wards of Croston and Mawdesley which included the parish of Heskin; and Euxton South being placed with the parishes of Eccleston and Charnock Richard.
15. In response to the draft recommendations, the council (as agreed at its meeting on 22 January 2019) put forward its' comments which included some alternative ward names that it considered better reflected the wards. In particular, the council argued that the parish of Heskin should be kept with the parishes of Eccleston and Charnock Richard due to historical, and practical linkages. It also argued that the linkages between Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South were less notable. As a result, the council proposed two alternative options which put the three parishes together, and placed Euxton South with Bretherton, Croston, Mawdesley, and Ulmes Walton.

## **FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

16. On the 26 March 2019, the LGBCE published its final recommendations. In those recommendations the LGBCE confirmed that the council size should be reduced to 42 elected members. As the council indicated it wanted to continue to elect its membership by thirds, the LGBCE confirmed that there be 14 borough wards consisting of 3 members per ward. The overall outcome provides -

|  | 2018* | 2024  |
|--|-------|-------|
| Average number of electors per councillor                      | 2,038 | 2,146 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average | 2     | 0     |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average | 0     | 0     |

*\*figures based on 42 councillors split over 14 wards*

17. The LGBCE final recommendation for each ward is summarised below.

| WARD                                | FINAL RECOMMENDATION  | COMMENTS  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Adlington & Anderton                | Apart from the inclusion of Anglezarke the ward remains unchanged from the LGBCE's draft recommendation.  | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.   |
| Buckshaw & Whittle                  | Remains unchanged from the LGBCE draft recommendation.  | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.   |
| Chorley East                        | Apart from transferring the eastern part of Heath Charnock parish to Chorley South East ward and moving the area of Anglezarke into Adlington & Anderton ward, the draft recommendations remain unchanged.                | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.   |
| Chorley North East                  | Remains unchanged for the LGBCE draft recommendation.   | In its response to the draft recommendations, the council supported the draft boundary arrangements but sought to change of name to <b>Chorley Rural North East</b> . However, the LGBCE rejected this proposal.  |
| Chorley North West                  | Remains unchanged from the LGBCE draft recommendation.  | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.   |
| Chorley North & Astley              | With the exception of a new ward name, the final recommendation remains unchanged from the draft recommendations.   | Chorley Council's response to the draft recommendation supported the proposal with the exception of the ward name.<br><br>The council proposed the alternative ward name of <b>Chorley North &amp; Astley</b> due to the high proportion of Astley Village residents, which the LGBCE accepted. |
| Chorley South East & Heath Charnock | The LGBCE has made changes to this ward since the draft recommendations in that it has placed the whole parish of Heath Charnock in this ward.<br><br>It also accepted the alternative ward name proposed by the council. | Chorley Council's response to the draft recommendations supported the proposal with the exception of the ward name.<br><br>The council proposed the alternative ward name of <b>Chorley South East &amp; Heath Charnock</b> to acknowledge the fact that the                                    |

|                                      |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|                                      |  | parish of Heath Charnock is included in the ward.  |
| Chorley South West                   | Remains unchanged from the LGBCE draft recommendation.   | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.  |
| Clayton East, Brindle & Hoghton      | Remains unchanged from the LGBCE draft recommendation.   | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.  |
| Clayton West & Cuerden               | Remains unchanged from the LGBCE draft recommendation.   | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.  |
| Coppull                              | Remains unchanged from the LGBCE draft recommendation.   | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.  |
| Croston, Mawdesley & Euxton South    | <p>As a result of changes made to the Eccleston, Heskin &amp; Charnock Richard ward, Euxton South has been placed in a ward containing Bretherton, Croston, Mawdesley and Ulnes Walton.</p> <p>As a result of this change the ward has been renamed.</p>   | <p>In response to the LGBCE's draft recommendations the council put forward two alternative proposals, which placed a portion of Euxton South in the Croston and Mawdesley ward. This move allowed Heskin to be included in a ward with Eccleston and Heskin.</p> <p>Although the LGBCE did not accept either proposal it did revert back to the council's original proposal during the first round of consultation.</p>                               |
| Eccleston, Heskin & Charnock Richard | <p>The LGBCE reverted back to the council's original proposal made during the first round of consultation. The proposal kept the parishes Eccleston, Heskin and Charnock Richard together in one ward.</p> <p>To accommodate this change, Euxton South is now included in the above ward with Croston and Mawdesley.</p> <p>The ward name has changed to reflect the parishes within it.</p> | <p>In response to the LGBCE's draft recommendations the council put forward two alternative proposals, which placed the parish of Heskin with Eccleston and Charnock Richard. Although the LGBCE rejected both suggestions, they decided to revert back to the council's original proposed boundary as detailed in the council report on 18 September 2019.</p> <p>The change of ward name to <b>Chorley Rural West</b> was rejected by the LGBCE.</p> |
| Euxton                               | Remains unchanged from the LGBCE draft recommendation.   | Chorley Council supported the draft recommendation.  |

18. As a result of the LGBCE's proposed ward boundaries, the electoral arrangements for the parishes of Clayton-le-Woods and Euxton have been amended as follows:

| Parish           | Parish Ward      | No. of Parish Councillors |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Clayton-le-Woods | Clayton Brook    | 5                         |
|                  | Clayton Green    | 1                         |
|                  | South East       | 2                         |
|                  | West             | 7                         |
| Euxton           | Buckshaw Village | 5                         |
|                  | North & East     | 11                        |
|                  | South            | 2                         |

## NEXT STEPS

19. The timing of the publication of the electoral review to new warding arrangements across Chorley has been fortuitous as it comes at the same time local authorities are required to undertake a 5 yearly 'polling district and polling place review'. The national review is required to take place within a 16 months timespan (starting after 1 October 2018 and concluding no later than 31 January 2020), however, the length of a review itself is not prescribed.
20. As part of the review of polling districts and polling places, the location of polling station will also be considered to ensure that they are the most practical in terms of location and accessibility, particularly in light of the new warding arrangements.
21. Once the review of the polling districts and polling places is completed, a public consultation will take place on the draft proposals, responses for which be considered before the reviews findings is presented at a future council meeting for ratification.
22. The timescale for the council's own polling district and polling place review is yet to be confirmed but it is anticipated that the council's review will commence over the summer months with the aim that it will be completed and implemented prior to the revised publication of the electoral register on 1 December 2019.

## 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. Chorley Council is obliged to undertake a polling district and polling place review for the purpose explained in paragraph 19 of this report. However, changes to polling stations are not exclusive to the review period and can be made at any time following council approval. Therefore, once the polling district and polling place review is concluded, polling stations will be kept under constant review allowing changes to be made should the need arise.

## COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

25. The costs of the review will be met within existing resources

## COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

26. No comments.

REBECCA HUDDLESTON  
DIRECTOR OF POLICY & GOVERNANCE

| Background Papers   |                   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Document  | Date              | File  |
| Electoral Review  | 5 October 2017    | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s79211/Electoral%20Review.pdf">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s79211/Electoral%20Review.pdf</a>   |
| Electoral Review Update   | 23 January 2018   | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s82429/Report.pdf">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s82429/Report.pdf</a>   |
| Minutes   | 23 January 2018   | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g5714/Printed%20minutes%2023rd-Jan-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g5714/Printed%20minutes%2023rd-Jan-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1</a>   |
| The Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee                   | 27 February 2018  | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s83882/Electoral%20Review%20Committee.pdf">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s83882/Electoral%20Review%20Committee.pdf</a>   |
| Minutes   | 27 February 2018  | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g5715/Printed%20minutes%2027th-Feb-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g5715/Printed%20minutes%2027th-Feb-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1</a>   |
| Electoral Review of Chorley Council – draft council size submission | 10 April 2018     | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s85271/Electoral%20Review%20of%20Chorley%20Council%20-%20Draft%20Council%20Size%20Submission.pdf">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s85271/Electoral%20Review%20of%20Chorley%20Council%20-%20Draft%20Council%20Size%20Submission.pdf</a>   |
| Minutes   | 15 August 2018    | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g5716/Printed%20minutes%2010th-Apr-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g5716/Printed%20minutes%2010th-Apr-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1</a>   |
| Electoral Review – warding arrangements: Draft recommendations      | 18 September 2018 | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s92194/LGBCE%20-%20draft%20recommendations%20on%20warding%20arrangements%2013112018%20Electoral%20Review%20of%20Chorley%20Council.pdf">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s92194/LGBCE%20-%20draft%20recommendations%20on%20warding%20arrangements%2013112018%20Electoral%20Review%20of%20Chorley%20Council.pdf</a> |
| Draft minutes   | 20 November 2018  | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g6426/Printed%20minutes%2020th-Nov-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g6426/Printed%20minutes%2020th-Nov-2018%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1</a>   |

|   |                 |   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Chorley Council response to draft recommendations of warding arrangements | 22 January 2019 | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g6427/Printed%20minutes%2022nd-Jan-2019%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g6427/Printed%20minutes%2022nd-Jan-2019%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1</a> |
| Minutes   | 22 January 2019 | <a href="https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g6427/Printed%20minutes%2022nd-Jan-2019%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1">https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g6427/Printed%20minutes%2022nd-Jan-2019%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1</a> |

| <b>Report Author</b>            | <b>Ext</b>   | <b>Date</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Cathryn Filbin<br>& Phil Davies | 5123<br>5131 | 28/03/2019  |