

Council

21 March 2023

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership - Councillor G Duggins

Director approving submission of the report:

Chief Legal Officer

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Electoral Review: Council Size and Forecasting Submissions - Local Government Boundary Review

Is this a key decision?

Yes

Yes - the proposals are likely to have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards in the City.

Executive summary:

The Local Government Boundary Commission have commenced an electoral review of Coventry. The review will look at whether the boundaries of wards within the local authority need to be altered to ensure fairer representation at local government elections.

Coventry City Council meets the Commission's criteria for electoral inequality with 6 of 18 wards (33%) having a variance over 10%. In addition, the last electoral review of Coventry City Council was completed in 2003, meeting the Commissions duty, set out in law, to review every authority from 'time to time'. The Commission has interpreted this to be about 12 – 14 years

This report is the preliminary work required as part of the review process to consider the future council size and electoral forecasting submissions.

Recommendations:

That Council:

1. Supports Option 3 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report to retain the existing Council size as part of the review process and that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be informed accordingly.
2. Approves Appendix 2 of the report as the Council's electorate forecast submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Council size submission

Appendix 2 – Electoral forecast submission

Background papers:

List here:

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review of Coventry City Council – A Guide for Councillors

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – technical guidance for number of councillors –

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – technical guidance for electoral forecasting

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/how-reviews-work/technical-guidance>

Other useful documents

List here:

Census Data 2021 - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/facts-coventry/population-demographics/4>

Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?

No – matter reserved to Council.

Has it or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?

Yes – Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities Electoral Arrangements Advisory Panel

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 21 March, 2023

Report title: Electoral Review: Council Size and Forecasting Submissions - Local Government Boundary Review

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) commenced its review of Coventry City Council started in October 2022.
- 1.2. The report at Appendix 1 provides the LGBCE with the Council's view on the optimal Council size for Coventry for it to consider as part of the review.
- 1.3. The Council is also required to provide the LGBCE with electoral forecasts up to 2029 taking into account predicted housing development and population growth. This is set out in Appendix 2.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

Detailed in Appendix 1 are the options in relation to the council size which were considered. There are no other options in relation to the electoral forecasting.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. None required for this report.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. This report is the preliminary stages of the review. The next stage will commence in May 2023 and the final recommendations for the Local Government Boundary Commission will be implemented at the local elections in May 2026.

5. Comments from Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer

- 5.1. Financial Implications
None in relation to this report.
- 5.2. Legal Implications
The LGBCE is an independent body established by Parliament in April 2010. The LGBCE has a statutory duty to undertake electoral reviews.

6. Other implications

- 6.1. **How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?**

The LGBCE is conducting an electoral review of Coventry City Council to ensure fairer representation at local government elections.

- 6.2. **How is risk being managed?**

There are no risks associated with this report.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None in relation to this report.

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

No equalities impact assessment has been completed in relation to this report.

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

None.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

None.

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person

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Members: Cllr George Duggins	Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	9/3/23	9/3/23
Cllr Gary Ridley	Leader of the Opposition		9/3/23	10/3/23

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