

Council

16 January 2024

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:

Local Government Boundary Review – Response to Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Draft Recommendations

Is this a key decision?

No. Although, the proposals could have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards in the City, this report responds to a consultation and the Council will not make the final decision on this matter.

Executive summary:

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) commenced an electoral review of Coventry in January 2023. The review looks at whether the boundaries of wards within the local authority need to be altered to ensure fairer representation at local government elections.

The LGBCE carried out their initial consultation between 23 May and 31 July 2023. On 31 October 2023 they published their draft recommendations for Coventry for consultation the closing date for responses to this is 22 January 2024.

This report seeks the Council's views on whether or not to submit a response to the draft recommendations.

Council is requested to approve one of the following options:

1. That Council does not respond to the draft recommendations to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, or
2. That Council approves Appendix 1 of the report as the Council's response to the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, or
3. That Council considers and approves any other response to the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Response to the draft recommendations of the LGBCE

Background papers:

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

Draft recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the Warding patterns for Coventry.

Other useful documents

None

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?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 16 January 2024

Report title:

Local Government Boundary Review – Response to Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s Draft Recommendations

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) commenced its initial consultation on the review of Coventry City Council in May 2023.
- 1.2. On 18 July 2023 the Council approved a submission to the LGBCE in relation to the proposed warding patterns for Coventry.
- 1.3. The LGBCE have published its draft recommendations on the warding patterns for the City for consultation the closing date of the consultation is 22 January 2024.
- 1.4. Appendix 1 contains an option for responding to the draft recommendations of the LGBCE on warding patterns for the City in response to their consultation.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

The options are:

1. That Council does not respond to the draft recommendations to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, or
2. That Council approves Appendix 1 of the report as the Council’s response to the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, or
3. That Council considers and approves any other response to the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. None required for this report.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. This report is to consider the draft recommendations published by the LGBCE for public consultation. The consultation on the draft recommendations concludes on 22 January 2024. The next stage will be when the LGBCE publishes its recommendations on 7 May 2024. The final recommendations for the Local Government Boundary Commission will be implemented at the local elections in May 2026.

5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (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 One Coventry Plan?

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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Members: Cllr George Duggins	Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	03/01/24	03/01/24

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