

**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 23 February 2017

**Wards Affected:** All Wards in Torbay

**Report Title:** Review of Electoral Arrangements - Submission by Torbay Council on Council Size

**Is the decision a key decision?** Yes

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** by end of February 2017

**Executive Lead Contact Details:** Councillor Derek Mills, Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Health and Wellbeing and Corporate Services

**Supporting Officer Contact Details:** Anne-Marie Bond, Assistant Director Corporate and Business Services, (01803) 207160, anne-marie.bond@torbay.gov.uk

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## 1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Further to Council Minute 40/7/16, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review of the number of Councillors in Torbay to ensure electoral equality and that Councillors represent the same number of electors across the whole of Torbay.
- 1.2 The first stage of the process is to decide how many Councillors in total should be elected to Torbay Council in what is known as 'Council Size' submission. This is to ensure that the Council has the right number of Councillors to take decisions effectively.
- 1.3 The second stage of the process is to look at the ward boundaries to ensure an equal spread of Councillors across each ward. This will be launched in May 2017 when the LGBCE commences its formal consultation on warding patterns. Further information on this will be available on their website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

## 2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 The current level of 36 elected Members should be retained so that the Council can ensure it continues to:
  - provide an effective decision making process;
  - provide effective arrangements for the management and delivery of its business, responsibilities and regulatory functions;
  - support extensive and effective involvement in community representation and

- continue to develop Members' roles as community leaders; and
- respond to the challenges facing Torbay and its local communities, as the population continues to grow.

### **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

- 3.1 That the Review of Electoral Arrangements - Submission by Torbay Council on Council Size set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved and that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be recommended to retain 36 Councillors for Torbay.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Review of Electoral Arrangements - Submission by Torbay Council on Council Size

### **Background Documents**

[www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) – guidance on electoral reviews