

Meeting: Council

Date: 7 December 2017

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Torbay Council – Electoral Review – Submission by Torbay Council

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? as soon as possible

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Further to Council Minute 71/8/17, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has published its draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Torbay Council – Electoral Review for formal public consultation. Their proposals are based on 16 Wards with 10 – two member Wards, 5 – three member Wards and 1 – one member Ward. Specific questions were included in the consultation which have been addressed in the Council's draft response.
- 1.2 This report sets out the recommendations of the Constitution Working Party on the proposed Council response in respect of the LGBCE draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Torbay Council.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 The Council has an opportunity to influence the review and put forward its suggested proposals on Wards boundaries and number of Councillors per ward to the LGBCE.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Proposed Changes to Warding Patterns – Submission by Torbay Council set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved for submission by the Director of Corporate Services and Operations to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Torbay Council – Electoral Review – Submission by Torbay Council

Background Documents

Council report on Review of Electoral Arrangements – Submission by Torbay Council on Council Size -

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&MId=6622&Ver=4>

Review of Electoral Arrangements – Submission by Torbay Council on Warding Patterns -

www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&MId=8222&Ver=4

LGBCE Review - <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/devon/torbay>

4. Background Information

- 4.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has commenced its formal public consultation on ward boundaries and number of Councillors per Ward for Torbay based on a proposed number of 36 Councillors. Full details of which can be found at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/devon/torbay> the consultation closes on 11 December 2017.
- 4.2 Torbay Council currently has 36 Councillors and an Elected Mayor up until 2019, the Council will be moving to a Leader and Cabinet system of governance. The Council reviewed the number of Councillors it felt necessary to enable the Council to manage its business and for Councillors to perform the tasks and responsibilities expected of them and run the Council from 2019 in February 2017 and submitted a proposal to the LGBCE for it to remain at 36, which was accepted in principle. The 36 Councillors represent 15 Wards with either two or three Councillors representing electors within these Wards. The Council then put forward proposals on Warding patterns to the LGBCE in August 2017.
- 4.3 The LGBCE received a number of responses to their initial consultation on warding patterns and are now conducting formal consultation with the public and key stakeholders on the proposed Ward boundaries and number of Councillors per Ward for Torbay to ensure that the statutory criteria for the determination of electoral reviews is met.
- 4.4 The Constitution Working Party met on 1 and 15 November 2017 to consider the recommendations of the LGBCE and their recommended response to the consultation is set out at Appendix 1 to this report.