

COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION REPORT IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW

Report of the Corporate Director (Corporate and Support Services) and Deputy Chief Executive

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (“the Commission”) is an independent body, responsible for determining electoral arrangements of local authorities across England.
- 1.2 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (“the Act”) outlines the duty on the Commission to undertake an electoral review of every principal local authority in England ‘from time to time’.
- 1.3 Many metropolitan districts have not been reviewed since the Commission’s predecessor body undertook a review of all local authorities in England between 1996 and 2004; Stockport’s last electoral review was completed in 2003. The Commission intends to review all authorities that have not been reviewed since that time, and thus have decided to undertake an electoral review of Stockport in 2020/21.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to propose the draft Council Size Submission Report for approval at the Council Meeting on 21 January 2021 prior to a final version being submitted to the Commission on 2 February 2021.
- 1.5 A previous working draft was provided to Group Leaders for comments and was then appended to a Briefing Report that went to CRMG Scrutiny Committee on 17 December 2019. A further progress update report went to CRMG Scrutiny Committee on 3 March 2020. Work on the review then paused due to the pandemic.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Further discussions have taken place with the Commission and the following timetable has been agreed for the review:-

Briefings	Attendees		Key Dates
	Council	LGBCE	
Initial Meeting	Council Leader Chief Executive	Chair Chief Executive	31 July 2019
Officer Briefing	Council Officers involved in review	Review Manager Review Officer	9 th October 2019
Full Council Briefing	All Councillors	Lead Commissioner Review Manager Review Officer	

Parish/Town Council & Local Groups Briefing	Not required	Review Manager Review Office	N/A
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Activity	Involvement		Key Dates
	Council	LGBCE	
Develop council size proposal and agree at Council Meeting on 21 January 2021	Council Political Groups and Full Council Meeting	Officers will be available to answer any technical queries on making a submission	Now to 21 January 2021
Submission of council size proposals	Council Political Groups	Officers will acknowledge receipt of submissions.	2 February 2021
Commission Meeting: Council Size	Not required	Commission	16 March 2021

Activity	Involvement		Key Dates
	Council	LGBCE	
Consultation on warding patterns	Council Political Groups General Public	Run consultation, collate & analyse responses.	25 May 2021 to 2 August 2021
Commission Meeting: Draft Recommendations	Not required	Commission	19 October 2021
Consultation on Draft Recommendations	Council Political Groups General Public	Publish draft recommendations. Run consultation, collate & analyse responses.	2 November 2021 to January 2022
Commission Meeting: Final Recommendations	Not required	Commission	15 March 2022
Final Recommendations published	Not required	Publish final recommendations	29 March 2022

Activity	Involvement		Key Dates
	Council	LGBCE	
Order laid	Not required	Commission	Summer 2022
Order made	Not required	Commission	Autumn 2022

Implementation	Council	Not required	2023
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2.3 Attached at Appendix 1 is the revised draft Submission on Council Size.

3. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 None currently but this will be revisited once the Commission's decision on the submission is known.

4. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Save for the fact that a Size Submission has to be made to the Commission pursuant to the Act, no other legal considerations currently, but this will be revisited once the Commission's decision on the submission is known.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

5.1 None at the moment.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1 None at the moment but an EIAR will be done in the event a consultation is required.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.1 None at the moment but a review will be done at the time of consultation in the event of any change that may occur due to location of boundaries and any change in polling stations that may cause an environmental impact.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Cabinet is asked to note the report and recommend that the report proceed to the Council Meeting for consideration on 21 January 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Vicki Bates

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