

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: COUNCIL

DATE: 26th SEPTEMBER 2019

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ELECTORAL REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To report the Boundary Commission's draft proposals for new wards and to agree the Council's representations on them; and to consider related matters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Corporate Director make the representations at paragraph 4 to the Boundary Commission.
- (2) That the requirements for a review of polling places and polling stations be noted and the Governance Working Group report on it to the Council meeting on 17th December, 2019.
- (3) That the Governance Working Group conduct a community governance review starting in June 2020.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To take the electoral review of the Borough forward.

Boundary Commission warding proposals

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission published its draft recommendations on 30th July. In summary they confirm that Pendle should have 33 councillors in eleven wards which is nine fewer than at present. All would have changed boundaries.
2. The detailed proposals are set out in the Appendix.
3. The Commission is now carrying out a public consultation with representations required by 7th October. It will publish its final recommendations on 3rd December.

4. The Council's Governance Working Group has met on two occasions to consider the Commission's report and is recommending the Council to make the following representations:
- That the Old Laund Booth (OL) and Higham (HI) polling districts be taken out of the proposed Brierfield West, Fence and Higham ward to create an additional single member ward to be called Fence and Higham with a forecast 2024 electorate of 1956.
 - That polling district RA2 be taken out of the proposed Brierfield East and Clover Hill ward and added to the remainder of the proposed Brierfield West ward to create a three member ward to be called Brierfield West with a forecast 2024 electorate of 6016.
 - That 280 electors be moved out of the proposed new Bradley ward (leaving it with a forecast 2024 electorate of 5632) and into the proposed new Whitefield and Walverden ward.
 - That 1075 electors then be moved out of the proposed new Whitefield and Walverden ward (leaving it with a forecast 2024 electorate of 5632) and into the Brierfield East and Clover Hill ward (leaving it with a forecast 2024 electorate of 5694).
 - That the proposals for the remaining new wards are acceptable.
 - That the proposed new ward names are acceptable with the exception of Waterside which should be renamed Waterside and Horsfield; West Craven East which should be renamed Coates and Earby; and West Craven West which should be renamed Barnoldswick.

Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts

5. Whatever the Commission's final recommendations the Council will need to review its polling places and polling districts. Nowadays councils are under a separate legal duty to carry out five yearly reviews and the current one must be completed by 31st January 2020.
6. A review starts with a public notice and a consultation exercise inviting representations including any suggestions for changes. It is proposed to begin this on Monday 30th September. The responses will then be considered by the Governance Working Group taking into account the Commission's final recommendations and a report will be submitted to the Council meeting on 17th December for final decision.
7. The revised arrangements would come into force on 17th January 2020.

Parish electoral arrangements

8. The Commission's proposals for new Borough wards mean that Barnoldswick, Colne and Nelson parishes will be divided between different wards. This in turn means that the parishes must also be divided into parish wards which must lie wholly within a borough ward. The Commission's proposals for these are at pages 23-25 of its report.

Community governance review

9. The Council may wish to conduct a community governance review looking at the parish pattern across the Borough taking into account the new Borough wards. It last undertook such a review in 2016- 2017 but did not implement any changes pending the review of the Borough wards. It is suggested a further review be carried out starting in June 2020.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:	The Council's policy is contained in the minutes of the Council on 5 th December 2019 and 26 th March 2020.
Financial:	There are no financial considerations arising directly from this report. A reduction to 33 or 34 councillors will lead to a corresponding reduction in allowances (c£50,000) and potentially other small efficiencies from May 2020.
Legal:	None arising directly from the report.
Risk Management:	None arising directly from the report.
Health and Safety:	None arising directly from the report.
Sustainability:	None arising directly from the report.
Community Safety:	None arising directly from the report.
Equality and Diversity:	None arising from the report.

APPENDIX

Boundary Commission report dated 30th July on its draft recommendations.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None