

 <b>Regulatory Committee</b> <b>Monday 15 August 2011</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b>
<b>Title</b>	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England Electoral Review Warwick District Council	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Gillian Friar <a href="mailto:Gillian.friar@warwickdc.gov.uk">Gillian.friar@warwickdc.gov.uk</a> (01926) 453177	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	none	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Correspondence from The Local Government Boundary Commission for England 2008 to 2011 and Electorate Variance report February 2009.	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality &amp; Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No
Duty being undertaken by Returning Officer is part of E&SIA's already pertaining to Electoral Services	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2011	Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2011	Mike Snow
Finance	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2011	Jenny Clayton and Lorraine Henson
Portfolio Holder(s)	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2011	Councillor Doody
Consultation & Community Engagement		
In 2009 Group Leaders gave the Returning Officer the views of their parties as to which areas of the District need to be given particular attention under the review (appendix 1). During the review, consultation is part of the process with all Communities affected by any recommendations.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) none		

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of the forthcoming Electoral Review within the District of Warwick to be carried out during the next 12 months.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Committee notes the details of the review which are known so far and to agree that information should now be forwarded to all Town and Parish Councils in the District so that they can begin to consider their response.
- 2.2 The Committee agrees to establish a Working Party consisting of one member from each Group (nominees coming from the respective Group Leaders) to consider all issues arising during the review and draft the Council's submission for consideration by the Commission.

## 3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England was established in April 2010 and their key roles are to conduct electoral and structural reviews of local government in England. Consideration is given to authorities with electoral variance in excess of 10% from the average for the District and 30% of our wards fall within this category.
- 3.2 In these circumstances the Commission has decided that an electoral review of Warwick District Council will commence in September 2011, with a preliminary period to give us all a chance to meet and prepare for the review.
- 3.3 The process, at its longest, would last no more than a year, providing sufficient time for new electoral arrangements to be made in advance of the election year in which they are to be implemented.
- 3.4 The review process is normally in four stages:

**Stage One** – begins with a 12 week consultation period during which everyone is invited to make proposals on the future electoral arrangements for the council. Electoral arrangements are:

- Total number of councillors to be elected to the council
- Number of councillors to be elected from each ward
- Number of wards
- The boundaries of wards
- Names of wards
- Any parish electoral arrangements

**Stage Two** – 10 to 14 week deliberation based on submissions received and preparation of draft recommendations.

**Stage Three** – publication of draft recommendations and 12 week consultation on these.

**Stage Four** – 10 to 14 week deliberation based on the comments received on the draft recommendations, formulation and publication of final recommendations.

- 3.5 The Council's Constitution provides for the Regulatory Committee to exercise all powers in respect of matters "relating to Parliamentary Elections and Boundary Reviews".
- 3.6 It is inevitable that issues will need to be discussed and it is suggested that a Working Party of one member from each Group should be set up for this purpose. Given the importance of this work it is proposed that the respective Group Leaders put forward their respective nominees. The Working Party would also draft the Council's submission to be presented to the Commission.

#### **4. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The aim of the review is to ensure that within each ward the number of electors represented by each councillor is roughly the same. It will take into account the identities and interest of local people and try to ensure that the boundaries are easily identifiable.

#### **5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The review will take place within the current financial year 2011/2012 and the financial year of 2012/2013 and a cost of £34,700 has been projected. The Electoral Services budget can carry a total cost up to £25,000 over the two years but a request for £9,700 has been made to the Executive for supplementary funding over both financial years.
- 5.2 The timing of the Review coincides with other Local Governance Reviews being considered by the Electoral Services team:
- for the alteration of the boundary between the parishes of Barford and Wasperton;
  - the creation of a Parish and the Parish Council for Burton Green and its subsequent separation from Ashow, Burton Green and Stoneleigh joint Parish Council,
  - the completion of the Polling Station Locations review to be approved by Council.
- 5.3 The team has only two members and in addition to the above there is a significant amount of work ongoing viz the preparation and submission of the election accounts for the Referendum and the recharging of the Parish and Town elections before the end of December 2011; the commencement of the annual autumn Electoral Registration canvass; publication of the 2012 electoral register on 1 December; and the preparation of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections to be held on 3 May 2012.
- 5.4 To assist with the administration of all of the above while the Electoral Services Manager and Electoral Administrator are engaged with the Electoral Reviews, a request has been made to the Executive for additional funding for a 12 month seconded post to Electoral Services for 3 days a week commencing in September 2011.

#### **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 none

## 7. **BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 Correspondence from The Local Government Boundary Commission for England 2008 to 2011 and Electorate Variance report February 2009 is available from Electoral Services upon request.

**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Electoral Review - Warwick District Council**

After consultation with Group Leaders in 2009 the areas listed below have been suggested for review:

1. Review of all District Ward boundaries with the move to having all single member wards. Warwick District has 20 wards with 46 Councillors – 15 multi member and 5 single member wards - with all out elections every 4 years.
2. The Warwick Gates housing development in the towns of Warwick and Whitnash is spilt over 3 District wards/Town wards or Parishes/County Divisions. This development could be better represented within 1 District ward/Parish ward/Electoral Division with coterminous boundaries. The new District ward/Parish ward/County Division could belong to either the town of Warwick, Whitnash or Royal Leamington Spa.
3. Should the part of the Warwick Gates housing development currently within the Parish of Bishops' Tachbrook, be taken out of the District ward of Bishop's Tachbrook and the Parish of Bishops' Tachbrook – as in number 2 above, the existing single member District Ward will not have enough electors to exist.
4. Within the District ward of Budbrooke, the Hatton Park housing estate has been developed and in connection with 3 above, the Budbrooke ward could be split in to 2 new wards incorporating the Bishop's Tachbrook ward without the Warwick Gates housing development. Currently Budbrooke ward is a 2 member ward. Bishop's Tachbrook and Budbrooke wards are within the same Electoral Division except for the Parish of Hatton which is within the Leek Wootton electoral division.
5. Within the Warwick West District ward/Parish ward/County Division in the town of Warwick there has again been a large housing development. This again may be better represented by splitting it into its own District and Parish ward/County Division in the town of Warwick – at the moment it is with its own polling district with the same District and Parish ward/County Division.
6. The group leaders have said that it would be good to have as much coterminousity as possible between the District wards and County Electoral Divisions, as the two member Leamington North Electoral Division is not ideal.