

Council

Oxfordshire County Boundary Review

27 February 2012

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the final recommendations report on Oxfordshire County Boundary Review.

This report is public

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- (1) Note the update on the County Boundary Review.

Executive Summary

Introduction

County Boundary Review

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is responsible for reviewing local authority electoral arrangements, defining boundaries for local elections and the number of councillors to be elected, as well as conducting reviews of local government external boundaries and structures.
- 1.2 In October 2010 the Commission began an electoral review of Oxfordshire following its decision to review Oxfordshire Council's electoral arrangement to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority. On 19 July 2011 the LGBCE published its draft recommendations with a consultation closing date of 10 October 2011. A summary of the review and recommendations is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 On 17 January 2012 the LGBCE published their final recommendations for Oxfordshire.

Details

Oxfordshire Boundary Review

- 1.4 In October 2010 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) started an electoral review of Oxfordshire County Council. Full details of the review to date can be found at www.lgbce.org.uk and a hard copy of all documents is available on deposit in the Members' Room.
- 1.5 A preliminary consultation was held between 12 October 2010 and 22 November 2010. Between 11 January 2011 and 4 April, the second period of consultation on the pattern of divisions for Oxfordshire was undertaken.
- 1.6 On 19 July 2011 the LGBCE published its draft recommendations for the electoral review of Oxfordshire County Council.
- 1.7 The Commission's draft recommendations propose that Oxfordshire County Council should have 63 councillors – a reduction of 11 from the current arrangements. The proposals would mean those county councillors would represent 59 single-member divisions and two two-member divisions across the county. The full recommendations and maps are available on the Commission's website at www.lgbce.org.uk.
- 1.8 Between 19 July and 10 October 2011 a public consultation on the recommendations is being undertaken in which the LGBCE is inviting comments, in particular, on the following questions:
 - Do the proposed electoral divisions reflect local communities?
 - How do you think the proposals can be improved whilst maintaining electoral equality?
 - Are the names of the proposed divisions right
- 1.9 The LGBCE considered all submissions and published its final recommendations on 17 January 2012. LGBCE will lay a draft order in both Houses of Parliament during May 2012. Parliament will then have 40 days in which to consider the recommendations. If both Houses are satisfied with the recommendations, the draft order will be 'made' during July 2012 and the new electoral divisions will come into effect at the county council elections in May 2013.

Conclusion

- 1.10 This report is for information so all members are advised on the proposed changes to the County Divisions within Oxfordshire.

Consultations

None

Implications

Financial:	<p>There are no financial implications associated with this report.</p> <p>Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant 01295 221559</p>
Legal:	<p>No legal implications arising directly from this report regarding the Boundary review.</p> <p>Comments checked by James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager 01295 221587</p>
Risk Management:	<p>No risk implications arising directly from this report regarding the Boundary review.</p> <p>Comments checked by James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager 01295 221587</p>

Wards Affected

All

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Oxfordshire Boundary Review Final Recommendation Report
Appendix 2	Final Banbury Map
Appendix 3	Final Bicester and Kidlington Maps
Background Papers	
None	
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