

Appendix 1

Local Government Boundaries Commission for England Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries. Overview of Activity

- 1.1 Members will be aware of the Review. OSC had an initial discussion on this issue on 11th January – the papers can be read from the link below
<http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/5553/Committee/34/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>
- 1.2 The LGBCE is currently undertaking an information-gathering exercise. They addressed London Councils on 20th October, and met the Leader, the Chief Executive, and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services on 20th November.
- 1.3 The LGCBE then met relevant officers on 17th January.
- 1.4 After that we distributed their guide to the Review to all Members of the Council.
- 1.5 On 19th February the Commissioner will meet the Party leaders followed by a session in the Council Chamber, at 18.00 where all members will have a chance to hear the commissioner speak and ask her questions
- 1.6 On 8th March OSC will consider this topic again and come up with an initial view on Council size.
- 1.7 On 21st June OSC will consider their previous view as well as any new data
- 1.8 On 26th June the General Purposes Committee will formally agree the Council representation.
- 1.9 By 10th July this representation has to be submitted to the LGBCE.
- 1.10 The LGBCE will then make its judgment on council size by considering three broad areas:
- They will look at the **governance arrangements** of the council and how it takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities. The LGBCE aims to ensure that councils have the right number of councillors to take decisions and manage the business of the council in an effective way now and in the future.
 - The LGBCE will look at the council's **scrutiny functions** relating to its own decision making and the council's responsibilities to outside bodies. Every local authority has mechanisms to scrutinise the executive functions of the council and other local bodies. They also have significant discretion over the kind (and extent) of activities involved in that process. In considering council size, the

LGBCE will want to satisfy itself that these responsibilities can be administered in a convenient and effective way.

- They will also consider the **representational role of councillors in the local community** and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the council on local partner organisations.

The LGBCE understands that there is no single approach to representation and members will represent and provide leadership to their communities in different ways. However, they are interested in hearing about the extent to which members routinely engage with communities and how this affects workload and responsibilities.

Note that the LGCBE will consider written representations from the council and any other party who makes a written submission to them within the time period allowed.

1.11 On 28th August the LGCBE will inform us of their decision on Council size- i.e. how many councillors there should be in Ealing.

1.12 This opens an intensive period of discussion on the actual ward Boundaries. This will take place during September and October noting that the formal deadline for submission is 5th November. This can include submissions from the public or political parties. The LGBCE is able to propose any pattern of wards that it believes best meets its statutory criteria. This is usually a mixture of single-, two- and three-member wards.

1.13 The Statutory criteria are:

- **Delivering electoral equality for local voters** – this means ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters so that the value of your vote is the same regardless of where you live in the local authority area.
- **Interests and identities of local communities** – this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, avoid splitting local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- **Effective and convenient local government** – this means ensuring that the wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole, including both the council size decision and warding arrangements, allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

1.13.1 On 8th January 2019 the LGCBE will publish their draft proposals for consultation. All views on the draft proposals have to be submitted by 18th March 2019

- 1.14 In May 2019 the LGCE publish their final recommendations- these then go to Parliament in June. Parliament can only accept or reject the recommendations, it cannot modify them
- 1.15 Assuming the ward boundaries are accepted the 2022 elections will be contested with these boundaries