

**Report for:  
ACTION**

**Item Number:**

<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	No
<b>Title</b>	Approval of response to the Local Government Boundaries Commission for England draft proposals for Ealing Wards
<b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>	Helen Harris, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
<b>Author(s)</b>	Keith Fraser – Head of Democratic Services
<b>Portfolio(s)</b>	
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Boundaries Panel
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	N/A
<b>Affected Wards</b>	N/A
<b>Keywords/Index</b>	Local Government Boundaries Commission for England (LGBCE), review

**Purpose of Report:**

To approve the council's response to the Local Government Boundaries Commission for England's draft recommendations for Ealing's ward boundaries

**1. Recommendations**

- 1.1. Subject to any final changes approved under 1.2 to approve the Council's submission to the LGCBE attached at the appendix.
- 1.2. To authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to make any final changes to the submission required by this Panel and to make the submission to the LGBCE on behalf of the council within the deadline

## 2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

### Background

2.1 The LGBCE is an independent body, responsible for determining the electoral arrangements of local authorities across England. The LGBCE aims to review all areas about once every fifteen years (the last review in Ealing was in 1999), and it is now London's turn within the LGBCE's programme. The review will cover the overall number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards, and the number of councillors in each ward. The LGBCE makes recommendations, and the final decisions will be taken by parliament. In practice, parliament nearly always accepts LGBCE recommendations.

2.2 The LGBCE has taken a view on Council size and produced draft recommendations for ward boundaries.

2.3 The LGBCE proposal was published on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019. All representations must be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

2.4 The Council, political parties, and the public are all entitled to put forward their views on the proposals. The proposal is available on the Ealing Website.

<https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6194/Committee/20/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

2.5 Information on the proposals has been publicised by the council and sent to all public buildings in the Borough. All information about the review is available on the LGCBE website – including details of how to comment on the proposals, including an online form <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/ealing>

The Commission's criteria for considering a response are set out below

#### Statutory criteria

- **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.

### **3 Key Implications**

- 3.1 The council's suggested detailed response to the LGCBE's proposals is shown in the appendix. In summary the LGCBE accepted the broad details of the Council submission and the Council will be accepting these recommendations. The only area where the council does not accept the proposals concern elements of the borders of Ealing Broadway, Pitshanger (formerly Cleveland) and Hanger Hill wards. These are set out within the body of the report in the appendix.
- 3.2 The LGBCE is not obliged to accept the council's submission but it is obliged to consider it. Third parties are entitled to make their own individual submissions to the LGBCE.

### **4 Financial**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. However, there will be financial implications for the council's allowances budget from May 2022 should Parliament accept the proposed increase in councillor numbers from 69 to 70 which, on current figures will increase expenditure by £11k per annum. This will be met from existing budget provision.
- 4.2 On the positive size the radical redrawing of ward boundaries will, of necessity, require a total review of polling districts. Given that the electoral commission recommend that a London Borough of Ealing's size should have just over 100 polling districts and Ealing has 169 it is possible that the review of polling districts will reduce the number which will deliver savings on the cost of elections.

### **5 Legal**

- 5.1 The responsibility for approving the response to the LGBCE falls to the Boundaries Panel. This is because electoral boundaries issues are not a function of the executive and are the responsibility of the Boundaries Panel.
- 5.2 The final recommendations of the LGBCE, taking into account all responses to their draft recommendations, will be sent to Parliament, which may approve or reject them but not amend them without further consultation. This is likely to be in July. Any changes approved by Parliament will take effect from May 2022.

### **6 Value for Money**

No issues

### **7 Sustainability Impact Appraisal**

No issues.

## 8 Risk Management

No issues.

## 9 Community Safety

No issues.

## 10 Links to the 3 Key Priorities for the Borough

The council's administration has three key priorities for Ealing. They are:

- Good, genuinely affordable homes
- Opportunities and living incomes
- A healthy and great place

## 11 Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

No issues.

## 12 Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

No issues.

## 13 Property and Assets

No issues.

## 14 Consultation

Consultation details are set out in the table at the end of this report.

## 15 Timetable for Implementation

The LGBCE review timetable is shown below.

Date/Timing	Activity	Body	Comments
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	LGBCE publishes draft proposal for wards for consultation	LGBCE	
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Boundaries Panel approves response to LGCBE	Boundaries Panel	
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Deadline for responses to consultation	LGBCE	
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Publication of Final recommendations	LGBCE	
Parliamentary stage			
July 2019	Parliamentary Scrutiny of recommendations	Parliament	They can accept or reject the

Date/Timing	Activity	Body	Comments
			recommendations- they cannot modify them
May 2022	Local Elections fought on new Ward Boundaries, to elect new number of councillors	Returning Officer	

## 16 Background papers

Ealing Council's Constitution, available at [http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200892/decision\\_making/597/council\\_constitution](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200892/decision_making/597/council_constitution)

### [LGBCE guidance on the process](#)

## 17 Appendices

Appendix – Draft response to the LGBCE.

## Consultation

<b>Name of consultee</b>	<b>Post held</b>	<b>Date sent to consultee</b>	<b>Date response received</b>	<b>Comments appear in paragraph:</b>
<b>Internal</b>				
Paul Najsarek	Chief Executive	15/3/19		
Helen Harris	Director, Legal and Democratic Services	15/3/19	19/3/19	Throughout
Ross Brown	Director, Finance	15/3/19	15/3/19	Para 4
Cllr. Julian Bell	Leader of the Council			Appendix
Overview and Scrutiny Committee				Appendix

## Report History

<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Urgency item?</b>
Non-key decision	No