

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

## **PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW**

### **1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Council on progress of the periodic electoral review of North Lincolnshire being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England ('LGBCE').
- 1.2 To seek approval to the establishment of a cross party elected member Electoral Review Working Group and associated Terms of Reference, to oversee the review and make recommendations to full Council thereon.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 In October of last year the LGBCE notified the Council of its intention to carry out a periodic electoral review of North Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The LGBCE is under a statutory duty to carry out an electoral review of every principal local authority 'from time to time'. The last electoral review of the Council was carried out in 2001.
- 2.3 The purpose of an electoral review is to consider the total number of councillors elected to a council, the names, number and boundaries of the wards and the number of councillors to elect to each ward.
- 2.4 On the 2 November 2020 all members were invited to a briefing by LGBCE officers on the review process and timetable, which is attached at Appendix 1. Essentially the review comprises of two main phases: firstly to determine the council size in terms of the number of councillors to be elected to the Council and secondly the warding arrangements in terms of numbers, names, boundaries and the number of councillors to be elected to each ward. The first phase of the review requires the Council to submit its proposals on council size by 25 February 2021.
- 2.5 Since this briefing and in line with the practice adopted for the 2001 review, a cross party, politically balanced elected member Electoral Review Working Group has been established to oversee the review and make recommendations to full Council for decision pursuant to the review process.

An officer working group has also been established to support the Electoral Review Working Group and substantial progress has already been made in collating the prescribed information required by the LGBCE.

2.6 The Electoral Review Working Group has established its Terms of Reference, as attached at Appendix 2, and as it will be making recommendations to full Council, it is appropriate that full Council receives and endorses these at its first opportunity to do so.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The Council is under a duty to respond to the electoral review and through full Council make appropriate submissions following recommendations by the Electoral Review Working Group.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 The establishment of the Electoral Review Working Group follows the practice adopted for the last electoral review of the Council in 2001 and is recognised by the LGBCE as a form of internal governance adopted by many councils in responding to electoral reviews.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 There are no direct resource implications associated with consideration of this report.

### **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 There are no other relevant implications.

### **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

### **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 No conflicts of interest have been identified or declared.

8.2 The LGBCE is responsible for leading on the public consultation aspects of the electoral review process.

## 9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Council notes the contents of this report and approves the establishment of the Electoral Review Working Group and its Terms of Reference as attached at Appendix 2.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

LGBCE Electoral Reviews Technical Guidance April 2014

## Appendix 1

### LGBCE Review timetable for North Lincolnshire

Stage	Action	Duration
Preliminary Period	Informal dialogue with local authority. Focus on gathering preliminary information including electorate forecasts and other electoral data. Commissioner-level involvement in briefing group leaders on the issue of council size. Meetings also held with officers, group leaders, full council and, where applicable, parish and town councils. At the end of this process, the council under review and its political groups should submit their council size proposals for the Commission to consider.	October 2020 to 25 February 2021
Council size decision	Commission analyses submissions from local authority and/or political groups on council size and takes a 'minded to' decision on council size.	16 March 2021
<b>Formal start of review</b>		
Consultation on future warding/division arrangements	The Commission publishes its initial conclusions on council size. General invitation to submit warding/division proposals based on Commission's conclusions on council size.	18 May 2021 to 26 July 2021
Development of draft recommendations	Analysis of all representations received. The Commission reaches conclusions on its draft recommendations.	21 September 2021
Consultation on draft recommendations	Publication of draft recommendations and public consultation on them.	5 October 2021 to 13 December 2021
Further Consultation (if required)	Further consultation only takes place where the Commission is minded to make significant changes to its draft recommendations and where it lacks sufficient evidence of local views in relation to those changes.	Up to 5 weeks
Development of final recommendations	Analysis of all representations received. The Commission reaches conclusions on its final recommendations and publishes them.	1 March 2022
Order made and laid before Parliament	Order subject to the negative resolution procedure.	Summer 2022
Order confirmed and elected upon	Order confirmed and will form the basis for the next elections.	May 2023

## Appendix 2

### Periodic Electoral Review of North Lincolnshire

#### Electoral Review Working Group - Terms of Reference

- a) To oversee the provision of information required by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in carrying out its electoral review of North Lincolnshire, including any consultation arrangements with electors or other stakeholders;
- b) To update full Council on the progress of the electoral review;
- c) To make recommendations to full Council on proposed submissions to the LGBCE relating to:
  - i) The total number of councillors for North Lincolnshire;
  - ii) The total number of wards and boundaries within North Lincolnshire;
  - iii) The number of councillors to be elected to each ward within North Lincolnshire;
  - iv) The name of any ward within North Lincolnshire.
- d) To provide such further advice and support as may be requested by the Council relating to, or arising from, the electoral review.