

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Leader of the Council	Report Number: MC/17/23
To: Mid Suffolk Council	Date of meeting: 23 November 2017

BOUNDARY REVIEW – RESPONSE TO STAGE TWO CONSULTATION ON WARDING PATTERNS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to the stage two consultation on warding patterns, which is part of the further electoral review of the Mid Suffolk district being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the Council's formal response to the stage two consultation, including the comments appended to this report at appendix 1 and any further comments arising from the Council's debate.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The LGBCE are responsible for conducting the review and for ensuring compliance with all relevant legal provisions.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No. 5c. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
That the LGBCE determine a warding pattern for Mid Suffolk that does not provide equal democratic representation and fails to take into account community identity.	2 - Unlikely	3 – Bad	The Council is responding to the consultation and all councillors have had the opportunity to contribute to the consultation response.

6. Consultations

6.1 For the purposes of this stage of the further electoral review the Council is a consultee and is not responsible for conducting the consultation. The Council is supporting the LGBCE with its consultation activities through our communications channels and disseminating the information to Town and Parish Councils.

7. Equality Analysis

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

8. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

8.1 This report supports the ongoing joint working arrangements of the two Councils.

9. Links to Joint Strategic Plan

9.1 This report supports the Enabled and Efficient Organisation programme.

10. Key Information

10.1 Following the stage one consultation process which concluded on 14 August 2017, the LGBCE has published its first draft of the warding patterns for Mid Suffolk District Council. These recommendations are included as appendix 1 to this report. The LGBCE is currently consulting on these proposals until 11 December 2017.

10.2 The LGBCE's draft recommendations propose a scheme of 34 councillors, six fewer than there are now, in 26 wards, four fewer than currently. The proposals include eight two-member wards and 18 single member wards. Only one of the existing boundaries will stay the same.

10.3 The Council, and other consultees, are asked to comment in particular on the following aspects:

- Electoral equality;
- Community identity; and
- Effective local government.

Comments are also invited on the suitability of the proposed ward names.

10.4 All councillors were asked to submit comments to the Assistant Director – Law and Governance by 20 October 2017. The responses have been included at appendix two.

10.5 The LGBCE has also recommended that a related alteration is undertaken alongside this review to amend the boundaries of the County Divisions in Stowmarket. This will achieve coterminosity of the electoral Divisions, District Wards and Town Wards. The Chief Executive has written to the LGBCE requesting that this related alteration be undertaken.

10.6 The LGBCE will publish its final recommendations on 6 February 2018 and the order bringing these recommendations into force will be made in time for the new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the scheduled District Council elections in 2019.

11. Appendices

Title	Location
1) LGBCE Draft Recommendations	Attached
2) Consultation response	Attached

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