

Report to: **Governance Committee**

Date: **26 April 2016**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title of report: **New electoral arrangements for East Sussex County Council**

Purpose of report: **To decide the means of formulating the County Council's final submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in respect of the review of East Sussex County Council electoral boundaries.**

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**RECOMMENDATION: The Governance Committee recommends the County Council to delegate authority to the Governance Committee to agree the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review of East Sussex County Council boundaries.**

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## **1. Supporting Information**

1.1 Further to the County Council's submission agreed at Council on 1 December 2015, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has now published a set of draft proposals for consultation. The thirteen-week consultation period ends on 16 June 2016.

1.2 The draft proposals are for new county electoral division (CED) boundaries as well as new ward boundaries for each of East Sussex's five district and borough councils. The Commission is proposing that East Sussex County Council has 50 councillors in the future, one more than the current arrangements.

1.3 The Commission's draft proposals are, broadly speaking, consistent with the County Council's earlier submission. The full recommendations and interactive maps are available on the Commission's website at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk) and [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). Hard copies of the Commission's report and maps have been provided and distributed to Council buildings and libraries, and can be found in the Member and Cabinet rooms. Anyone can submit comments on the proposals directly to the LGBCE via their website or in writing.

1.4 The LGBCE has re-emphasised that the proposals aim to:

- deliver *electoral equality* for local voters so that each councillor represents a similar number of electors;
- ensure that our proposals reflect the *interests and identities of local communities* across East Sussex; and
- ensure that the pattern of wards or divisions helps the Council to deliver *effective local government* to local people.

1.5 The Commission aims to publish its final recommendations in September 2016. Assuming that Parliament is satisfied with the recommendations, the new boundaries will come into effect at the next local elections: 2017 for East Sussex County Council, 2018 for Hastings Borough Council and 2019 for Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council and Wealden District Council.

## **2. Conclusion and decision**

2.1 The timescale of the current consultation does not align with the County Council's scheduled meetings of full Council which is due to meet on 10 May and then not again until 12 July. Therefore, in order to ensure an efficient process, it is proposed that:

- Any County Councillor who wishes to make specific comments for inclusion in the County Council's submission is requested to liaise with Member Services officers as soon as practicable, and at the latest by 26 May 2016 to enable responses to be considered and a report to Governance Committee prepared;
- County Council at its meeting on 10 May 2016 delegates authority to the Governance Committee to consider all proposed amendments from County Councillors and agree the Council's final submission to the LGBCE.

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Local Member: All

Background Documents: None