



Constitution and General Purposes Committee

22 October 2018

Title	Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of the London Borough of Barnet Stage 2 - Warding Arrangements Supporting information
Report of	John Hooton - Chief Executive
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A - Electoral Review of the London Borough of Barnet - Stage 2 Warding Arrangements - Supporting information
Officer Contact Details	Emily Bowler, Head of Business Development and Project Delivery (Assurance) 020 8359 4463 – emily.bowler@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking an electoral review of the London Borough of Barnet. The review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the whole local authority, and will take decisions upon:

- The total number of councillors to be elected to the council (Council Size)
- The names, numbers and boundaries of wards
- The number of councillors to be elected to represent each ward.

The Commission have made their provisional decision on council size and announced that they are minded to recommend 63 councillors be elected for Barnet in the future.

Stage 2 of the Electoral Review determines the ward patterns is carried out in two phases

of public consultation between September 2018 and April 2019.

This report brings together available information, data and evidence that organisations or individuals submitting a proposal on warding arrangements might find useful.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Constitution and General Purposes Committee note the information included in this report which will be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, which is also available to all interested organisations or individuals submitting a proposal on warding arrangements.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a statutory review of the London Borough of Barnet's electoral arrangements. This will be the first review of the ward boundaries in the borough since 1999.
- 1.2 The compulsory review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the whole local authority, and will finally take decisions upon:
 - The total numbers of councillors to be elected to the council (Council Size)
 - The names, numbers and boundaries of wards
 - The number of councillors to be elected to represent each ward.
- 1.3 The statutory criteria that the LGBCE will apply when making its proposals and decisions are:
 - Electoral equality (a consistent number of electors per councillor)
 - Community identity (strong ward boundaries that reflect communities) and
 - Effective and convenient local government (coherent wards with good internal transport links).
- 1.4 The outcome of the review will be implemented in time to take effect at the May 2022 scheduled elections (i.e. these elections will elect councillors to the new wards for the first time).
- 1.5 Officers have gathered relevant information to support organisations and individuals that may be intending to make a submission or representation to the LGBCE for review as part of the Stage 2 consultation.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The size and scope of this statutory Electoral Review is such that it will affect
 - the number of councillors elected to form the council
 - the boundaries, names and number of all wards, and
 - the electoral representation of all electors and residents by elected members.
- 2.2 The Constitution and General Purposes Committee terms of reference is 'To have responsibility for overseeing the Council's governance arrangements including "Electoral Services including: elections and electoral registration performance; and polling places and polling district boundaries".'

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The council must engage with the Local Government Boundary Commission by law.
- 3.2 The council has the option to make an initial Stage 2 officer submission to the Commission on warding patterns. However, this is not recommended as we consider that it would not be possible to do this in a way that is (and is accepted as being) politically neutral and that could be agreed at Committee.
- 3.3 At the second stage of the consultation (February-April 2019) when the Commission have published draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements including warding patterns officers will consider if a technical response/submission is required.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Stage 2 of the Electoral Review determines the ward patterns will be carried out in two phases of public consultation between September 2018 and April 2019.
- 4.2 The first part of the Commissions consultation runs from 25 September 2018 to 3 December 2018 and invites submissions from the public on where they believe ward boundaries should be in Barnet Council.
- 4.3 The Commission will consider all the proposals received during this phase of consultation, and will publish draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in February 2019. The second public consultation on the draft recommendations will take place between February 2019 and April 2019.
- 4.4 Once the Commission have considered the representations and evidence as part of that consultation, they will publish their final recommendations in June 2019 and the outcome of the complete Electoral Review will be implemented in time to take effect at the May 2022 scheduled elections (i.e. these elections will elect Councillors to the new wards for the first time).

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The 2015-2020 Corporate Plan of has the following principles:
 - of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
 - where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
 - where responsibility is shared, fairly
 - where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.
- 5.1.2 Periodically reviewing ward boundaries ensures that Barnet has the correct number of elected Members and ward sizes.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 Following the LGBCE proposal to keep 63 Ward Councillors, there are currently no resource implications arising from the Electoral Review.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 No applicable

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Section 56 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) requires that the LGBCE review 'from time to time' every principal local authority in England and make recommendations about electoral arrangements (but not their external boundaries).

5.4.2 The report for Stage 2 of the report has been undertaken in accordance with the advice and guidance provided by the LGBCE.

5.4.3 The Constitution and General Purposes Committee terms of reference includes to: "Electoral Services including: elections and electoral registration performance; and polling places and polling district boundaries and to make recommendations thereon to the Council."

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 If ward boundaries are not periodically reviewed to ensure that Barnet has an appropriate number of councillors then there is a risk of there being an inequity in councillors case work across the borough. Moving ward boundaries and/or creating or removing wards enables ward boundaries to have a broadly consistent number of residents and electors in each ward.

5.5.2 If the council do not complete the review within the LGBCE timescales, the council would fail to comply with the requirements of this statutory review and there is a risk of reputational damage.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- Foster good relations between people from different groups

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 Not applicable

5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 The LGBCE are running the public consultation (www.lgbce.org.uk/barnet) which is being widely publicised by the Commission and Barnet Council.

5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 The data included in this report is publicly available on a range of public sector websites.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 [Electoral Review of the London Borough of Barnet Stage 1 - Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission](#)

6.2 [Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Electoral Review of Barnet](#)