

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	Council
DATE:	18 March 2020
SUBJECT:	Local Government Boundary Commission Review 2020
REPORT FROM:	Councillor Jane Black Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR
CONTACT OFFICER:	Marcus Connor Head of Electoral Services and Governance
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	<p>The Local Government Boundary Commission has determined to conduct a review of Bury Council's wards in accordance with their selection criteria.</p> <p>Bury Council is required to submit its evidence for the preliminary part of the review by 7 May 2020. Council is asked to delegate authority to Bury's Boundary Commission Member Working Group to approve Bury's submission as part of the preliminary part of the review.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>Option 1: Council is asked to delegate authority to Bury's Boundary Commission Member Working Group to approve Bury's submission as part of the preliminary part of the review.</p> <p>Option 2: There are no other Council meetings between now and the fixed submission deadline of 7 May 2020. Therefore, in order to meet this deadline and obtain</p>

	<p>approval for the submission, an additional Council meeting would have to be convened.</p> <p>Council are asked to support Option 1.</p>
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	There are no financial implications arising from this proposal.
Equality/Diversity implications:	At the present time there are no equality or diversity implications.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	The Council's Constitution states that decisions regarding district boundaries, Wards and Polling Districts can only be made by Full Council. This report asks Full Council to delegate authority to approve Bury's submission to the planned boundary review, to the Member Working Group. JW
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Joint Executive Team/CCMT	Cabinet Member/Chair Briefed	Ward Members (if necessary)	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Other Committee	Council	Comms

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Local Governance Boundary Commission (LGBC) for England can choose to conduct an electoral review either:

- 1) at the request of the local authority
- 2) if the local authority meets the Commission's intervention criteria of:
 - a) one ward has an electorate of +/-30% from the average electorate of the authority;

b) if 30% of all wards have an electorate of +/-10% from the average electorate for the authority.

- 1.2 The review will involve the examination of a council's electoral arrangements:
- the total number of councillors elected to the local authority;
 - the number and boundaries of wards or divisions for the purposes of the election of councillors;
 - the number of councillors for any ward or division of a local authority; and
 - the name of any ward or division.

- 1.3 The review will involve six steps:

- 1) Preliminary Stage – collection of data from the local authority on electoral forecasts, meetings with councillors, officers and group leaders;
- 2) Council numbers – LGBC's decision on the number of councillors required based on information submitted by the local authority;
- 3) Warding or Division Arrangements – consultation with the public
- 4) Draft Recommendations – using information from the public consultation this will produce draft recommendations on boundaries, number of wards, number of councillors, etc.;
- 5) Final Recommendations – determined by the LGBC based on information collected during the review;
- 6) Parliamentary Scrutiny – to agree or reject the final recommendations

- 1.4 Bury is at the start of this process, with a draft council size submission required by the 20 April 2020 and a final submission required by 7 May 2020.

- 1.5 To oversee this work, Bury has established a cross party, Boundary Commission Member Working Group comprising of the four party leaders in the borough, with support from senior officers in legal, policy and electoral services.

- 1.6 The first meeting of the group was held on the 4 March 2019, and there was consensus that in order to progress this work effectively and meet the deadlines set by the LGBC Council be asked to delegate authority to them to approve Bury's preliminary submission.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 Progress on this work has been delayed locally by the demands of the unexpected General Election in December 2019.

- 2.2 Formal requests to extend Bury's deadline have been declined by the LGBC, therefore, in order to maximise the time available to collate a satisfactory submission, the working group were in agreement that they be given delegated authority to approve Bury's submission.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Council is asked to consider this report and the two options below:

Option 1: Council is asked to delegate authority to Bury's Boundary Commission Member Working Group to approve Bury's submission as part of the preliminary part of the review.

Option 2: There are no other Council meetings between now and the fixed submission deadline of 7 May 2020. Therefore, in order to meet this deadline and obtain approval for the submission, an additional Council meeting would have to be convened.

- 3.2 Council is asked to support Option 1 and give delegated authority to the Boundary Commission Member Working Group to approve the council's submission.

List of Background Papers:-

None.

Contact Details:-

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