

# REPORT TO COUNCIL

**REPORT OF:** Governance and Communication Portfolio Holder

**REPORT NO:** LDS112

**DATE:** 7 November 2013

<b>TITLE:</b>	Electoral Review of South Kesteven – Draft Recommendations	
<b>KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:</b>	Statutory Requirement	
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:</b>	Councillor Paul Carpenter Portfolio: Governance and Communication	
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<b>INITIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS: Equality and Diversity</b>	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below	Full impact assessment Required: N/A
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:</b>	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council’s website: <a href="http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk">www.southkesteven.gov.uk</a>	
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p>Draft Recommendations for South Kesteven: <a href="http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/reviews/south-kesteven/draft-recs/south-kesteven-draft-recommendations-to-2013-09-26-final.pdf">http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/reviews/south-kesteven/draft-recs/south-kesteven-draft-recommendations-to-2013-09-26-final.pdf</a></p> <p>Letter from Boundary Commission: <a href="http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/reviews/south-kesteven/draft-recs/s-kesteven-draft-launch-chief-exec-2013-10-15.pdf">http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/reviews/south-kesteven/draft-recs/s-kesteven-draft-launch-chief-exec-2013-10-15.pdf</a></p> <p>South Kesteven Warding Patterns Submission: <a href="http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/reviews/south-kesteven/stage-1/south-kesteven-dc-submission-2013-07-19.pdf">http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/reviews/south-kesteven/stage-1/south-kesteven-dc-submission-2013-07-19.pdf</a></p> <p>South Kesteven Council Size Submission: <a href="http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/reviews/south-kesteven/council-size/lgbce-1318-south-kesteven-council-size-appendix-a-2013-02-12.pdf">http://www.lgbce.org.uk/documents/lgbce/reviews/south-kesteven/council-size/lgbce-1318-south-kesteven-council-size-appendix-a-2013-02-12.pdf</a></p> <p>Equality Analysis: <a href="http://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=11933">http://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=11933</a></p>	

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Council delegates authority to the Electoral Review Working Group to prepare and submit a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations on Warding arrangements on the Council's behalf.**

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is conducting a review of the electoral arrangements for South Kesteven with the revised electoral arrangements being introduced at the next ordinary District Council elections in May 2015.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 12 July 2012, the Council appointed a working group to develop detailed proposals. Councillors Adams, Cooke, Davidson, Howard and Adam Stokes were appointed to the working group. Councillor Woolley was appointed in place of Councillor Cooke at the meeting held on 18 April 2013.
- 2.3 The Council submitted a proposal for a council size of 55 councillors. LGBCE invited submissions proposing Warding arrangements which were based on a council size of 55. Following analysis of the Council's submission, the LGBCE determined that the district would be best served by 56 councillors which would equate to each councillor representing an average of 2,057 electors by 2019.
- 2.4 The LGBCE published its draft recommendations on 15 October 2013 and the consultation period will run until 6 January 2014.
- 2.5 The purpose of this report is to delegate authority to the Electoral Review Working Group to prepare and submit a response to the LGBCE's draft recommendations.

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 3.1 In some areas the LGBCE has adopted the wards proposed by the Council whilst in other parts of the district modifications have been made to the Council's proposed wards. 19 of the 30 proposed wards are the same as those proposed by the Council but the Boundary Commission is proposing revised names for two of these wards. Modifications have been made to the remaining 11 wards.
- 3.2 The LGBCE's draft recommendations propose that the 56 Councillors should represent a total of 30 wards with eight single-member, 18 two-member and four three-member wards across the district.
- 3.3 Attached at Appendix A is the LGBCE's draft recommendations summary report together with a schedule detailing the differences between the Council's submission and these recommendations.
- 3.4 A copy of the LGBCE's full report is available on its website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/lincolnshire/south-kesteven-fer>. An Interactive map of the Commission's draft recommendations is available in the consultation area of their website <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/>.

- 3.5 It is proposed that the Electoral Review Working Group, comprising of 5 members, prepare and submit a response to the proposed changes from the Council submission to the LGBCE by the deadline of 6 January 2014.
- 3.6 Members are encouraged to submit any comments they have on changes proposed in the draft recommendations to the representatives of the working group by 15 November 2013.
- 3.7 The consultation period will run until 6 January 2014 and members can, if they wish, submit their own comments to the consultation direct to the LGBCE.
- 3.8 As part of the consultation process, the LGBCE has contacted MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in the area and all parish and town councils. In addition the Council will make parish and town councils aware of the draft recommendations and of the consultation period.
- 3.9 The LGBCE will consider all comments received during the consultation period and will publish its final recommendations on 25 March 2014.

#### **4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Other interested parties, such as political parties, parish councils or local residents and members may make their own comments to the LGBCE on the Draft Recommendations.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The review has had and will have staffing implications which have been absorbed by the Legal and Democratic Services team. Evidence and assistance has been provided by the Planning Policy team and IT. Following the completion of the review, a full review of all polling districts and polling places will need to be carried out which will have further staffing implications.
- 5.2 Travelling expenses are payable to Councillors appointed to the working group. Provision is made within the Legal and Democratic Services budget for the payment of travel expenses.

#### **6. RISK AND MITIGATION**

- 6.1 Risk has been considered as part of this report and no exceptional / high risks have been identified.

#### **7. ISSUES ARISING FROM IMPACT ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 A stage 1 equality analysis has been completed and is available as a background paper to this report. No adverse impact was identified. Every consideration was given to ensure equality of representation throughout the process.

#### **8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising as a result of this report.

## **9. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

- 9.1 The change to the number of Councillors will have financial implications. A review of members' remuneration is currently being carried out and will take into account the financial implications of the reduction in the number of Councillors from 58 to 56. Any proposed changes to the warding arrangements may have an impact on the cost of elections although it is not expected to impact significantly.

## **10. COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

- 10.1 Local authority boundary reviews are carried out to review the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards and electoral divisions and the number of councillors to be elected to each. Electoral reviews are initiated primarily to improve electoral equality. This means ensuring, so far as is reasonable, that each councillor elected to the authority represents the same number of electors. The Local Government Boundary Commission is responsible for putting any changes to electoral arrangements into effect and does this by making an Order. The local authority then conducts local elections on the basis of the new arrangements set out in that Order.
- 10.2 The Boundary Commission and provision for review was introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## **11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICES**

- 11.1 Not applicable.

## **12. APPENDICES:**

- Appendix A –LGBCE's draft recommendations summary report and schedule detailing the differences between the Council's submission and these recommendations