

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 26 February 2020

Report Title

The Rotherham (Electoral Changes) Amendment Order 2020

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Council received the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) final recommendations for the future warding of Rotherham in October 2017, which confirmed that there should be 59 councillors in the borough elected from 25 wards from May 2020. As part of the review, the LGBCE took into account parish council number and inadvertently reduced the number of parish councillors to be elected to Bramley Parish Council from 13 to 7 in the order laid before Parliament in January 2018. The error by the LGBCE has now been corrected via The Rotherham (Electoral Changes) Amendment Order 2020.

This report is submitted for information to ensure that all Members are aware of the final amendment to the Electoral Changes Order for Rotherham, which takes effect in May 2020.

Recommendations

1. That the Rotherham (Electoral Changes) Amendment Order 2020, and the specific correction therein of returning the number of members of Bramley Parish Council to 13 parish councillors, be noted.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Report to Council – Review of Ward Boundaries and the Size of the Council – 13 July 2016

Report to Council – Review of Ward Boundaries and the Size of the Council – 7 September 2016

Report to Council – Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s Review of Ward Boundaries in Rotherham – 8 March 2017

Report to Council – Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s Review of Ward Boundaries in Rotherham – 12 July 2017

Report to Council – Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s Review of Ward Boundaries in Rotherham – Notification of Final Recommendations – 13 December 2017

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

The Rotherham (Electoral Changes) Amendment Order 2020

1. Background

1.1 Following the move to all-out elections in Rotherham in May 2016, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) commenced an electoral review of the Council in July 2016. There are two key stages for the electoral review:

a) Preliminary Stage – for the Council to indicate what size of membership would be appropriate to undertake the functions and responsibilities of the authority in future and to reach agreement on this with the LGBCE.

b) Second Stage – for the LGBCE to consult upon the future warding pattern for the Borough. Taking account of the overall number of councillors, there will be a need to create ward boundaries which address the criteria of electoral equality, community identity and effective and convenient local government. Taking account of consultation, the LGBCE to issue draft and then final recommendations for the future pattern of wards.

1.2 On 31 October 2017, the LGBCE published its final recommendations in respect of the future ward boundaries and number of Members of Rotherham MBC, specifically recommending:

- Rotherham MBC will be represented by 59 councillors, four fewer than now
- Rotherham MBC will have 25 wards, four more than now.
- 9 wards will have 3 councillors and 16 wards will have 2 councillors.
- The boundaries of all wards will change, some wards will be similar to existing wards but others will be quite different.
- The new boundaries come into force in May 2020

2. Key Issues

2.1 An error was made in the Electoral Changes Order that the LGBCE laid before Parliament in December 2017. The effect of the error was to reduce the number of parish councillors elected to Bramley Parish Council from 13 to 7, from May 2020.

2.2 The Council made representations to the LGBCE, along with Bramley Parish Council and John Healey MP to rectify the error. This led to the laying of the Rotherham (Electoral Changes) Amendment Order 2020, which has had the effect of restoring the membership of Bramley Parish Council to 13 parish councillors.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report is submitted for information and the Council is asked to note the Rotherham (Electoral Changes) Amendment Order 2020.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 There is no formal decision required by Council in respect of this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Whilst there are no legal implications arising from this report, the LGBCE undertook an electoral boundary review in accordance with the statutory criteria detailed in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, which requires LGBCE to have regard to the need to:

- Secure equality of representation;
- Reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
- Effective and convenient local government

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for children and young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications arising from this report.

11. Implications for Ward Priorities

11.1 There are no implications for ward priorities arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no direct implications for partners arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1. Failure to ensure electoral representation is fair and equitable restricts the Council's ability to deliver services reflective of local need, demands and choice. The final recommendations from the LGBCE have been designed as a mitigation to any associated risk.