

## **BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Report of Michael Wassell, Executive Member for Finance & Democratic Services**

**To: Council: 25 October 2012**

**(Author: Rory Ringer, Democratic Services Team Leader)]**

### **Subject: Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review**

**Purpose:** This report recommends to Council that an Electoral Review Working Group is established to support the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in its electoral review of the Breckland area.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

- **To agree to the establishment of an Electoral Review Working Group.**
- **To appoint six members to the Working Group.**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has initiated an Electoral Review of the Breckland District Council area on the basis that one or more of its district wards has an electoral imbalance of more than 30%. The review is due to formally commence in February 2013. Group Leaders and Key Officers received an initial briefing in early September outlining the process, A further briefing has been arranged for full council at today's meeting, with subsequent presentations to Town & Parish Councils at 2pm and 3,30pm today.

## **2. OPTIONS**

The authority is obliged to provide assistance to the Boundary Commission with conducting the review and because of the detailed nature of the review Council may wish to consider appointing a working group to carry out any tasks as required by the LGBCE. The options available to Council are:

- Agree to the establishment of a cross party Working Group of six elected members to assist the LGBCE with the review and report back to Council as appropriate.
- To carry out the work itself

## **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The LGBCE have requested an initial submission on proposed Council Size prior to the commencement of the formal review in February 2013. The council cannot take its own decisions on size or warding arrangements but it can submit proposals to the LGBCE at every stage. The establishment of a Working Group would allow the detailed ground work to be undertaken; however final approval of any Council submissions will remain with Full Council. A further report, together with a draft proposal on council size will be brought before Council in January 2013 for further consideration.

#### **4. EXPECTED BENEFITS**

N/A

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Legal:** None, The duty to comply with the law rests with the LGBCE
- 5.2 **Risks:** This report does not require a risk assessment because the issues covered by the recommendations are not significant in terms of risk.
- 5.3 **Financial:** N/A
- 5.4 **Timescales:** The review will commence formally in February 2013, reviews typically take 12 months to complete, and any changes to the current arrangements will come into force at the next scheduled elections in May 2015.
- 5.5 **Equality and Diversity:** N/A
- 5.6 **Stakeholders / Consultation:** This will be undertaken by the LGBCE
- 5.7 **Contracts:** N/A
- 5.8 **Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998:** N/A

#### **6. WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:**

All

Background papers:- None

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#### **Lead Contact Officer**

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#### **Director/Officer who will be attending the Meeting**

Name/Post: Rory Ringer - Democratic Services Team Leader

**Appendices attached to this report:** None