



Full Council
9 July 2018

Report from the Chief Executive

Electoral Boundary Review Council size submission for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	3
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Full Council of the Council's recommendations for its future size following a Governance Review and to seek approval for this report and review to be referred to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 For Full Council to agree to the proposed reduction in councillors as set out in Appendix A, Section 2.

2.2 For Full Council to agree for the review and appendices to be referred to the LGBCE for consideration.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The LGBCE completes Boundary Reviews in a bid to secure electoral equality, or as close as possible, across the wards which make up a local authority.

3.2 Brent last underwent a local governments Boundary Review in 1999 - 2000. Since then, the Council has seen increasing electoral variance in a number of wards.

3.3 Brent's Boundary Review has been triggered because ten wards have an electoral variance of 10% above or below the average electorate for the authority and one ward has an electoral variance of 30% above the average electorate for the authority.

- 3.4 Following the LGBCE's guidance, the methodology behind the Council's recommendations include consideration of the Council's governance arrangements, scrutiny function and the representational role of councillors.
- 3.5 In forming these recommendations, the Council has, as required, also considered the electoral forecast for 2023, the future plans for the Council and the ongoing redevelopment which is taking place across the borough.
- 3.6 The Council's recommendations for a reduction in Council size are supported by the following:
- a) The more streamlined governance and decision making arrangements approved by the Council, following the local election in May 2018;
 - b) The number of councillors actively involved as members serving on bodies with a role in the Council's formal decision making structure; and
 - c) Changes in the way that residents now interact with the Council and are able to communicate with their locally elected representatives.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 If the LGBCE agree to reduce the number of councillors, the Council will make cost savings in regards to Member Allowances.
- 4.2 If there is a reduction in Wards, the cost of holding Local Government Elections will possibly reduce as the number of polling places will reduce also.
- 4.3 Associated costs, such as surgery costs, are minimal but would also reduce.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Recommendations are made within the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 which the LGBCE must adhere to.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 Recommendations have taken into consideration the diverse make-up of the borough and the need for councillors to reflect this diversity as they carry out their representational role.
- 6.2 For the above reasons, we would recommend that one-member wards are not introduced in Brent to ensure that the diverse nature of representation in the borough is not impacted.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 Ward members have been consulted of the initial Council size submission process through a briefing session hosted by the Chief Executive. They have been invited to partake in discussions with their party groups regarding the information provided to them.
- 7.2 External stakeholders, including youth groups, residents' associations, cultural groups, faith communities, neighbourhood forums and other community groups have been invited to a briefing by the LGBCE on the 23 July 2018 which will provide them with guidance on how to get involved.

All elected members and relevant internal stakeholders have also been invited.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 There are no direct human resources or property implications which relate to this report.

Report sign off:

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive