

AGENDA ITEM NO.13

COUNCIL

Date **20 DECEMBER 2012**

Title **FENLAND ELECTORAL REVIEW**

1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY

For Council to consider and approve the District Council consultation response in relation to the future warding proposals arising from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) electoral review.

2. KEY ISSUES

- The Fenland District Council area has been undergoing an electoral review which has sought to address electoral inequality in the area through proposing revised District ward boundaries.
- This process is now coming to a conclusion and the LGBCE published its draft scheme for the future Fenland District ward boundaries for consultation from 23 October 2012 – 7 January 2013.
- The District Council is a key stakeholder in this process; therefore extensive consultation has been undertaken with all Members, with the leadership of the Member Working Group, to inform a consultation response to the LGBCE.
- The consultation approach was devised to ensure the District Council response to the LGBCE in relation to the future warding proposals are robust, future proof, evidence based and compliant with the LGBCE criteria of electoral equality, protecting established communities in addition to facilitating convenient and effective Local Government.
- To date the level of engagement with elected Members regarding the future warding arrangements has been recognised by the LGBCE as an example of ‘best practice’.
- The current proposals published by the LGBCE have been considered by Members at an open briefing session; a series of Member focus groups dedicated to each of the four district market towns in addition to meetings of the Member Working Group. All comments have been incorporated into the consultation response.
- The District Council has also actively engaged with Parish Council colleagues.
- It is important we respond to all elements of the proposed LGBCE draft scheme to ensure the views of the District Council are clear and can be taken on board in the

formulation of the final scheme which will be published on 25 March 2013.

- The consultation response will be located at Appendix 1, which is to follow to enable final comments from all Members to be collated into the consultation response.

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council approves the consultation response for submission to the LGBCE.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Alan Melton – Leader of the Council
Report Originator	Carol Pilson Corporate Director cpilson@fenland.gov.uk Anna Goodall Head of Governance and Legal Services agoodall@fenland.gov.uk
Contact Officer(s)	Carol Pilson Corporate Director, cpilson@fenland.gov.uk Anna Goodall Head of Governance and Legal Services agoodall@fenland.gov.uk Paul Medd – Chief Executive paulmedd@fenland.gov.uk Rob Bridge – Corporate Director robbridge@fenland.gov.uk Alan Pain – Corporate Director alanpain@fenland.gov.uk
Background Paper(s)	Fenland Council Size Report Fenland Electoral Review Report