

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	County Council
Date:	20 May 2016
Subject:	Electoral Review of Lincolnshire - Update

Summary:

This report updates councillors on the review being carried out in Lincolnshire by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, following a decision by the Commission to undertake a further period of limited consultation in four of the seven district areas.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the Council notes the launch of a further period of limited consultation in North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven and West Lindsey.
- 2) That the Council delegates to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, any council response to the further period of limited consultation in those four district areas.

1. Background

In May 2015 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) launched a public consultation on a review of electoral boundaries in Lincolnshire based on a Council size of 70 councillors, a reduction of seven.

1.1 The LGBCE's review sought to improve electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters.

1.2 In December 2015 the LGBCE published its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements throughout Lincolnshire and launched a public consultation on those draft recommendations. The consultation closed on 8 February 2016.

1.3 Following a meeting to consider responses to the consultation, the LGBCE has written to the Council's Chief Executive, informing him that the Commission has decided to undertake a further period of limited consultation prior to publication of its final recommendations. This will involve their proposals for North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven and West Lindsey.

1.4 The LGBCE informed the Chief Executive that it had received alternative division patterns covering those districts, which they felt had merit, in that they would ensure clear boundaries while reflecting communities and achieving electoral equality.

1.5 Because these new pattern of divisions is markedly different from what has been proposed in the Commission's draft recommendations, the LGBCE has decided that the views of local councils, residents and organisations should be sought before it makes its final recommendations.

1.6 The second recommendation proposes that authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Group Leaders to determine any response to the consultation on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. This would not prevent individual Group or indeed individual Councillor responses.

1.7 This latest round of consultation closes on 6 June 2016.

1.8 The final recommendations from the LGBCE will be published on 16 August 2016.

2. Conclusion

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is consulting on proposed boundary changes in four of the seven district areas. The Council needs to consider how it wishes to respond to that consultation.

3. Legal Comments:

The Report sets out the latest position in relation to the Boundary Commission review of electoral areas in Lincolnshire and recommends a process for determining any Lincolnshire County Council response to the Boundary Commission's further consultation.

The matter is within the remit of the Council.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no material financial implications arising from acceptance of the recommendations in this report

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

This page is intentionally left blank