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16<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Mr Jackson

**London Borough of Redbridge Electoral Review**

The London Borough of Redbridge welcomes the opportunity to make a formal submission on council size to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review of electoral arrangements. This review will help to redress the electoral inequality within Redbridge.

The Authority recommends that the LGBCE considers a range of between 60 and 65 when making their judgement on council size. Our understanding is that the Commission requires a single figure, so we further recommend retaining a council size of 63 for the Borough. Furthermore, we recommend that the council size determined by the LGBCE is an odd number. These recommendations were approved by Cabinet at their meeting on 13 October 2015.

Cabinet also approved our formal electoral forecast for 2021 at this same meeting. Our electoral forecast at ward and polling district level for 2021 is 231,872 electors. Our methodology statement and section four of the Officer Report to the Cabinet paper provide full details of how we have arrived at this forecast. We informally submitted our forecast and methodology in September and are grateful to the LGBCE for confirming that our methodology is sound.

We concur with the LGBCE that local authorities under review are best placed to provide electorate forecasts as they have the greatest knowledge about the factors of change in population and electorate. However, we are aware that there are alternative views within the Borough on the best electoral forecast for 2021 and that the LGBCE currently anticipate receiving alternative forecasts from interested parties. The forecast included in this submission is the official forecast of the London Borough of Redbridge which has been ratified through our decision making processes. As such, we would request the LGBCE to contact us as soon as possible should there be any issues with our submission.

The population of Redbridge has grown significantly since the last electoral review was conducted in the Borough in 1999 and is expected to continue growing at a rapid pace:

- Between 2001 and 2011 the Borough's population grew by over 40,000 people (17%).
- In the last decade, between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014, the population of Redbridge grew by 44,000 people.
- ONS sub-national population projections show Redbridge as having the third highest projected percentage population growth in England by 2022 and also by 2037.
- GP registrations continue to increase also – between January 2014 and July 2015 the number of GP registrations in Redbridge grew by nearly 3%.
- Applications for Reception school places continue to increase year by year whilst the latest projections for the number of children who will need either Reception or Secondary school places in future years show there is currently insufficient capacity to meet growing demand.

Our forecast is that the adult population/electorate ratio will remain at similar levels in Redbridge to that seen in the last 5 years. It is based on strong population growth independent of significant new housing development – mirroring the trend seen in recent years. ONS mid-year population estimate data attributes 50% of the population growth seen in the last decade to natural change (births minus deaths) and 46% to net international migration – this was at a time of quite modest development.

The authority's draft 2015-30 Local Plan is currently in its latter stages of development, before being submitted to a full meeting of the Council for approval, prior to it being published for statutory consultation. Current indications are that there are some sites in the draft Plan with the potential to be occupied by 100 electors or more, though it is difficult at this stage to predict with any degree of certainty whether or not these sites will be both developed and occupied by electors before 2021. Some do not even have planning permission to build housing (only having permission to develop part or all of the land) whilst others are yet to begin construction. Our rapid population growth and the acute shortage of housing in the Borough leads us to conclude that these developments will not necessarily contribute any additional electors to those already factored into our forecast.

With regard to electoral registration data, we have used the Electoral Register at 1st December each year in forecasting our electorate in 2021, and have taken the 1st December 2014 published Register figure as the most recent substantiated figure for analysis purposes. In so doing, we have had regard to the Commission's current Guidance and to discussions and e-mail exchanges with your officers. We have accordingly disregarded the fluctuating nature of the Register every month since its last publication, as on a monthly update basis it includes a varying number of electors who do not meet Individual Electoral Registration (IER) requirements. At this stage of the IER process it is difficult to predict what the first full IER register figure for electors will be, until publication of the register on 1st December 2015. All authorities are expected to lose voters from their registers, although levels will vary and some lost voters will, in due course, re-register prior to elections.

In Redbridge's case, evidence suggests that the largest cohort of electors on the current Register who do not meet IER requirements is concentrated in the most deprived areas of the Borough. In these areas 80% of residents are from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, with high levels of residents that do not speak English well, or at all. In these areas residents are likely to be living in private rented accommodation. Ensuring that all residents in these areas are registered to vote is a significant challenge for the Council, and

we are taking firm action to maximise registration so that residents understand the implications of not being on the register. The decision to shorten the IER transition by one year has made this a more challenging task. The current uncertainty around the impact of IER on our electorate means that there is no way to establish any meaningful trend which includes IER, and so we have concluded that it simply cannot be factored into our electoral forecast. I refer you to paragraph Paragraph 4.17 of the Officer Report within our 13th October Cabinet report on this point.

We believe that the electoral forecast included in our submission will provide a firm base from which the next stage of the review can be conducted.

Yours sincerely,

**ROGER HAMPSON**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Supporting evidence:

1. Report to Cabinet on 13 October 2015.
2. Review of Council Size paper.
3. Methodology statement for 2021 Electorate Forecast.
4. Electorate Proforma at polling district level.
5. Electorate Proforma at ward district level.

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	<b>Classification</b> Public
<b>Relevant Committee</b> Strategy and Resources Service Committee – 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2015	
<b>IF THE REPORT IS AGREED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY THE LEADER, DEPUTY LEADER OR APPROPRIATE CABINET MEMBER FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION BY THE SERVICE COMMITTEE, THE REPORT WILL NOT BE FORMALLY CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET ON 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015</b>	
<b>Cabinet Member</b> Leader	<b>Title Of Report</b> Electoral Review – Council Size Submission

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report advises the Cabinet of the initial deliberations of the Electoral Review Corporate Panel and seeks Cabinet agreement to refer to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) the Authority's recommendation in respect of Council size and the Authority's electoral forecast for 2021.
- 1.2 The timescales for the electoral review have been set by LGBCE. Their deadline to receive the Authority's submission on Council size and the Authority's electoral forecast for 2021 is the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.
- 1.3 LGBCE advised all Members of their review timetable at their All Member briefing on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
- 1.4 Section 3 of the Officer report outlines the Authority's recommendation on Council size. Appendix 1 is the draft submission to LGBCE.
- 1.5 There is no set formula for producing an electoral forecast. LGBCE guidance stipulates though that patterns of population change, official Office for National Statistics (ONS) population figures, the impact of likely housing/economic developments and ratios of the adult population to the electorate should be factored in. Section 4 of the Officer report outlines the Authority's methodology for the electoral forecast which is included as Appendices 2 and 3.
- 1.6 LGBCE will consider the Authority's submission on council size before deciding on a number which will form the basis of its work to draw up new ward boundaries. The electoral forecast will be published on their website so all interested parties can use the same data when making proposals in response to the public consultations on new ward boundaries, which are scheduled to take place between 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

## **2. Reasons For The Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is necessary for the Cabinet to consider the deliberations of its subsidiary body established under Standing order 36.

## **3. Recommendations**

**The Cabinet is recommended to accept the recommendations of the Electoral Review Corporate Panel and, accordingly:-**

- 3.1 agree that the Authority's primary recommendation to LGBCE in respect of Council size is a range of between 60 and 65 Members;**
- 3.2 agree, that as LGBCE have requested a single figure in terms of council size, the Authority's secondary recommendation is to retain the current arrangement of 63 Members, it being in the middle of the above range;**
- 3.3 agree that the Authority further recommends to LGBCE that the final council size be an odd number;**
- 3.4 agree that the Authority's submission on council size can be formally submitted to LGBCE; and**
- 3.5 agree that the Authority's electoral forecast at ward and polling district level for 2021 of 231,872 electors be formally submitted to LGBCE.**

**THE DECISIONS PROPOSED IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THIS REPORT MAY NOT BE REQUISITIONED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 54.1 (n)**

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<b>Officer Report</b>	
<b>To:</b>	<b>Leader</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>Chief Strategy Officer</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> October 2015</b>

**1. Background**

1.1 A report on the Cabinet agenda of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 asked the Cabinet/Executive, in accordance with Standing Order 36, to establish the Electoral Review Corporate Panel. In accordance with the Council’s governance arrangements the Leader resolved as follows:-

“That (i) the establishment of a cross-party Member body (the Electoral Review Corporate Panel) for the duration of the Review be agreed;

(ii) the terms of reference of the Panel be as follows:

- To coordinate the review process and act as the main Member point of contact for the LGBCE;
- To oversee the development of the Council’s submission to the LGBCE regarding Council size;
- To oversee the Council’s submission to the LGBCE on the number, size and name of wards and the number of councillors per ward;
- To develop Council responses to LGBCE consultations on their recommendations for LBR.

(iii) the membership of the Corporate Panel comprise 4 Labour councillors, 2 Conservative councillors and 1 Liberal Democrat councillor and delegated authority to the Chief Strategy Officer to obtain nominations from the political groups and appoint those members to the Panel.

(iv) named substitute members will be permitted comprising 4 Labour councillors, 2 Conservative councillors and 1 Liberal Democrat councillor and delegate authority to the Chief Strategy Officer to obtain nominations from the political groups and appoint those members to serve on the Panel.”

(v) it be recommended to the Electoral Review Corporate Panel that its meetings not be open to the public.”

1.2 In accordance with the delegation set out in resolutions (iii) and (iv) above the following Members were subsequently appointed to serve on the Panel:-

Members: Councillors Athwal (Chair), Bond, Canal, Hayes, Hehir, Norman (Vice-Chair) and Sachs

Substitutes: Councillors Mushtaq Ahmed, Cleaver, Mrs Dunn, F. Hussain, Rai, Turbfield and Zammatt.

## **2. Deliberations of the Electoral Review Corporate Panel**

2.1 Since its establishment the Electoral Review Corporate Panel (the Panel) has met on two occasions, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

2.2 At its first meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August the Panel agreed its Terms of Reference and Work Programme. The Panel also had a discussion on council size and were presented with the following initial papers:

a) Evidence against the key lines of enquiry set out by LGBCE in determining council size; and

b) Electoral Forecasts.

2.3 At its second meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September the Panel reviewed the Council's draft submission on council size and agreed the following:-

"That, whilst noting that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England were seeking a specific number, we recommend a range of council size be considered of between 60 and 65 for the London Borough of Redbridge".

2.4 At this second meeting the Panel were also presented with an Electoral Forecasts Update which addressed issues raised by the Panel at the first meeting. The Panel agreed the following:-

"That we (i) note the electoral forecasts produced for 2021 at ward level to be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE); and

(ii) note that the electoral forecasts, together with the methodology for their calculation, will be shared with LGBCE on an informal basis."

(Councillors Bond, Canal and Hayes recorded their votes against the above decisions)

## **3. Council Size**

3.1 The first part of the review determines the total number of councillors to be elected to the Council in future (council size). The Council is required to submit to the LGBCE its preferred council size. The LGBCE will make a judgement on council size by considering three broad areas:

3.1.1 the governance arrangements of the council and how it takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities;

3.1.2 the council's scrutiny functions relating to its own decision making and the council's responsibilities to outside bodies; and

3.1.3 the representational role of councillors in the local community and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the council on partner organisations.

3.2 The Panel recommends that LGBCE consider a range of between 60 and 65 councillors when making their judgement. LGBCE are seeking a single figure

rather than a range so, under these circumstances, the Panel further recommends that the council size for the London Borough of Redbridge remains at 63, it being in the middle of the range described. Furthermore, the Panel recommends that the council size determined by LGBCE is an odd number.

3.3 The reasons for the recommendation indicated in 3.2 above are:

- 3.3.1 increased workload of councillors in recent years, which can be attributed to a variety of factors including our rapid population growth, the rise of social media making our councillors more easily accessible, the continuing shortage of housing in the Borough, and, more recently, reduced Council services and other austerity measures such as changes to housing benefit entitlement.
- 3.3.2 projected population growth (39,500 more people between 2014 and 2021 and then a further 69,000 people by 2037) increasing the workload of councillors whilst adding to the existing pressure on Council services.
- 3.3.3 the current council size allowing us best to reflect the diverse nature of our residents and to take their various needs into account within all areas of decision making.
- 3.3.4 no justification, in the context of a reducing Council budget amidst a backdrop of austerity, for increasing the number of councillors serving the Authority as a way of addressing the above pressures.
- 3.3.5 that any decrease in council size could adversely impact on the ability of councillors to fulfil their civic/social responsibilities.
- 3.3.6 the Council currently demonstrating that it can operate effectively with 63 Members, and believing it can continue to do so.

3.4 In coming to its conclusion on council size the Panel has overseen a survey of all Members and reviewed an assessment of the Council's governance arrangements, scrutiny functions and the representational role of councillors. The results of both the survey and assessment have been used in formulating the Council's draft submission to LGBCE which is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

## 4. Electoral Forecast for 2021

### Background

- 4.1 Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 states that LGBCE must have regard to the likely increase, decrease or movement in electorate over a five-year period from the making of their final recommendations.
- 4.2 LGBCE has asked the Council to produce an electoral forecast at both ward and polling district geographical level for 2021.
- 4.3 Once agreed with LGBCE, the forecast will be published on their website so all interested parties can use the same data when making proposals in response to the public consultations on new ward boundaries, which are scheduled to take place between 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016.



- 4.4 There is no set formula for producing such a forecast, but LGBCE guidance stipulates that they should take account of the following factors:
- patterns of population change (births/deaths/migration);
  - official Office for National Statistics (ONS) population figures;
  - impact of likely housing and economic developments; and
  - ratios of the adult population to the electorate, including previous trend analysis.

#### Methodology

- 4.5 Greater London Authority (GLA) population projections produced at ward level on an annual basis already take the first three factors in 4.4 above into account. Therefore they have been used to underpin our electoral forecast, together with analysis of the adult population to electorate ratio.
- 4.6 The methodology adopted is as follows:
- a) For each of the five years between 2011 and 2015, derive a ratio by dividing the electorate (as at December to reflect the Council's annual return to LGBCE) by the population figure for residents aged 18 years and above.
  - b) Calculate the average ratio over the five year period for each ward and the Borough.
  - c) Identify the projected population figure in 2021 for residents aged 18 years and above in each ward and for the Borough.
  - d) Apply the average ratio to the projected population figure within each ward and for the Borough to determine an electoral forecast at ward and borough level.
  - e) Constrain the electoral forecast to the population projections in (c) above.
  - f) For each of the five years between 2011 and 2015, derive a ratio by dividing the electorate within each polling district by the electorate within the relevant ward.
  - g) Calculate the average ratio over the five year period for each polling district.
  - h) Apply the average ratio for each polling district to the electoral forecast for the relevant ward to determine an electoral forecast at polling district level.
  - i) Constrain the electoral forecast at polling district level to the electoral forecast in (d) above.
- 4.7 In order to produce the most robust forecast possible, the Panel has deliberated over two key elements:

- 4.71 the most appropriate population projection to use to underpin the electoral forecast; and
- 4.72 whether or not to factor Individual Electoral Registration (IER) into the above methodology.

### GLA Population Projections

- 4.8 The GLA produce both housing-linked and trend-based projection variants.

**Housing-linked** projections incorporate information about future development. The trajectory used in the Borough Preferred Option (BPO) is based on development data provided by local authorities and is not made public due to the potential sensitivity of the underlying development assumptions provided by the local authority.

**Trend-based** projections project forward on the basis of recent trends in fertility, migration and mortality. Other than to disaggregate borough projections down to ward level, development data is not used although past development influences the previous migration trends that are used to project forward.

- 4.9 The housing-linked BPO variant projects the 18 plus population of Redbridge to be 225,000 in 2021. This is much lower than the latest ONS sub-national projection for the Borough (for the same age group), which is 246,000 and shows low/minimal growth in the majority of wards which is inconsistent with previous trends. However, it does capture planned developments and uses development data submitted by the Council within its formulation, which is also consistent with the draft Local Plan.
- 4.10 Past growth has relatively little influence in this projection which is driven by future development. The assumed development trajectory within the development data submitted by the Council to the GLA is reasonably modest, which in turn results in the low/minimal growth projected.
- 4.11 The trend-based (short term migration scenario) variant projects the 18 plus population of Redbridge to be 240,000 in 2021, which is similar to the latest ONS sub-national projection for the Borough. The projection shows growth in each ward consistent with previous trends and growth is seen in the north, south and west of the Borough. Housing development data is used within the model to allocate the Borough population between wards.
- 4.12 In the last decade significantly more births than deaths and high levels of international migration have been the key factors in the population growth seen in Redbridge. Mid-year estimate population data published by ONS for the period between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 shows that the population of Redbridge grew by 44,000 people. 50% of this growth was attributed to natural change (births minus deaths) and 46% was attributed to international migration.
- 4.13 Therefore, as Redbridge is a borough that has seen strong population growth independent of significant new housing development, the Panel concluded that the Trend-based projection rather than the Housing-linked BPO projection

represents the most accurate reflection of our population and should be used to underpin our electoral forecast.

#### Individual Electoral Registration (IER)

- 4.14 Guidance published by LGBCE acknowledges that the introduction of IER will present a discontinuity of data across which comparisons may not be valid. They also caution against calculating an adult population to electorate ratio from data for a single year as to do so would introduce a risk that the ratio calculated may not be representative.
- 4.15 The legislation currently requires that all electors who are on the current electoral register but are not successfully registered by the time the new register is published on 1st December 2015 are deleted from the electoral register prior to publication. Electoral Services (ES) have sent out a Household Enquiry Form to all properties in the Borough and those that have not responded will receive a personal visit from a canvasser with the aim of getting their form completed on the doorstep. From this form ES ascertain the details of who resides at the property and use this information to send out an Invitation to Register form to any new electors or existing electors not currently IER registered. Once again the first form is sent in the post and a canvasser will be calling at the property in October to remind those who have not completed the form that they need to do so.
- 4.16 As at the beginning of September 2015 the number of electors who are on the Register but who do not meet IER requirements stands at 24,563. As at 8th September ES have sent out 6,600 Invitations to Register to electors that are a combination of both new and existing non IER electors and this number will increase as they continue to process Household Enquiry Forms on a daily basis and send out further Invitations to Register. Electors have a choice of either completing the form online or returning it in the post.
- 4.17 In the event of an election being called prior to the publication of the revised register on 1st December 2015 all registered electors (including those not currently meeting IER requirements) would be eligible to vote at that election. This figure currently stands at 218,661 as at the beginning of September, although numbers have fluctuated since the Register was published on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014:

December 2014	208,821
January 2015	209,137
February 2015	210,144
March 2015	210,608
April 2015	212,727
May 2015	218,923
June 2015	219,892
July 2015	219,828
August 2015	220,121
September 2015	218,661

- 4.18 Based on previous trends, it is likely that if an election were to be called there would be an increase in applications for registration from voters whose sole interest is in voting at that election - there were just over 6,000 new applications made for the general election in May 2015.
- 4.19 At this stage of the process it is difficult to predict what the first full IER Register figure for electors will be until publication of the Register on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015. All authorities are expected to lose voters from their registers, although levels will vary and some lost voters will, in due course, re-register prior to elections.
- 4.20 The Panel concluded that as the impact of IER within Redbridge won't be clear until December 2015 and will only be a static figure at that point rather than a trend, it should not be factored into our electoral forecast which is based on published population and electoral data for the last 5 years.

### Forecast

- 4.21 The average electorate per councillor will be 3,681 in 2021, compared to 3,315 as at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. Nine wards will have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for the Borough, compared to seven wards as at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014.
- 4.22 The Authority's electoral forecast at both ward and polling district geographical level are attached to this report as Appendices 2 and 3.

## **5. Fairness Implications**

- 5.1 This process is being undertaken following a review of local authority electoral arrangements by the LGBCE. This identified that an electoral review is appropriate to further fair electoral representation. The LGBCE will also act as an advisory body throughout this review. Equality considerations will be taken into account throughout this process.
- 5.2 Data shows an electoral [ ] equality in wards with a high proportion of residents from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. Aldborough, Loxford, Newbury and Seven Kings are the four wards where the current electoral imbalance is higher than the average ratio. At the time of the 2011 Census Loxford's BME population equated to nearly 90% of all residents with Newbury and Seven Kings both nearly 85% and Aldborough nearly 70%. Clementswood's BME population was more than 90% and this ward is also forecast to have an electoral imbalance higher than the average ratio in 2021.
- 5.3 The next stage of the review involves a meaningful public consultation on new ward boundaries which will be open to all residents.

## **6. Comments of the Director of Finance and Resources**

- 6.1 This report requests Cabinet to agree that the Authority's primary recommendation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

(LGBCE) in respect of Council size is a range of between 60 and 65 Members, but as the LGBCE have requested a single figure in terms of council size the recommendation would be to retain the current arrangement of 63 Members.

- 6.2 Cabinet are further requested to agree that the Authority recommends to the LGBCE that the final council size be an odd number and that the Authority's electoral forecast at ward and polling district level for 2021 of 231,872 electors be formally submitted to LGBCE.
- 6.3 Any change to the number of Councillors would have a financial implication primarily in relation to the cost of Member's allowances. The current basic Member's allowance is £10,138 per annum. This report recommends that the number of Councillors remains at 63 members which would have no financial implications at this stage.
- 6.4 Any financial implications arising from an increase in the number of registered electors will be contained within existing budgetary resources.

## **7. Comments of the Borough Solicitor and Secretary**

- 7.1 The law on this subject is now to be found in Part 3 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ("the Act"). Section 55 of the Act established the Local Government Boundary Commission for England ("the LGBCE"). The LGBCE's function of carrying out the type of electoral review that is now proposed arises under section 56.
- 7.2 The LGBCE are under a duty to carry out section 56 reviews for each principal council from time to time, and may carry out such a review at any time. There is no formal process for triggering such a review, but the LGBCE will consider requests for them. In this case the LGBCE has confirmed its intention, following the Council's request, to conduct a review. Under a section 56 review the full range of electoral arrangements come under review. These are defined in section 56(4) and are:
  - a) the total number of members of the Council ("Councillors"),
  - b) the number and boundaries of electoral areas for the purposes of the election of Councillors,
  - c) the number of Councillors to be returned by any electoral area in that area, and
  - d) the name of any electoral area.

Under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 of the Act the LGBCE is required to have regard to:

- a) the need to secure that the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of members of the London borough Council to be elected is, as nearly as possible, the same in every electoral area of the Council,
- b) the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and in particular:

- (i) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable, and
- (ii) the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties, and

c) the need to secure effective and convenient local government.

7.3 The LGBCE refer to reviews under section 56 which are carried out following a request for one as Further Electoral Reviews ("FERs"). Such a review could, therefore, result in a change in the number of Councillors per ward, and the total number of wards. The LGBCE guidance sets out the criteria they use for deciding to conduct an FER. In general these are as follows:

"2.6 Our criteria for initiating a FER in those circumstances is as follows:

- o More than 30% of a council's wards/divisions having an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority; and/or
- o One or more wards/divisions with an electoral imbalance of more than 30%; and
- o the imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate within a reasonable period."

7.4 The FER process leads, in time, to the publication of a report by the LGBCE under section 58(4) of the 2009 Act, stating its recommendations. Under section 59, where a section 58(4) report contains recommendations for electoral changes, implementation of these is through an Order, made by the LGBCE, giving effect to these. The Order then establishes the basis for the electoral arrangements at the next due ordinary local government elections.

7.5 In respect of IER arrangements, Members' attention is drawn to the effect of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (Transitional Provisions) Order 2015. This Order makes transitional provision relating to the introduction of individual electoral registration in Great Britain. It is made under Schedule 5 to the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. It brings forward the effect of paragraph 6 of Schedule 5 to that Act. That paragraph 6 requires registration officers, immediately before the publication of a register following the third new canvass, to remove the entry of any person who has neither had his or her entitlement to remain registered as an elector confirmed nor has made a successful new application for registration in the register. The effect of the Order is to require registration officers to remove those entries immediately before publication of a register following the second new canvass, instead of the third new canvass. In practice this means that the first Register containing exclusively IER confirmed electors will now be published on the 1st of December 2015.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015

## Review of Council Size

### Introduction

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is currently conducting a review to deliver electoral equality for voters within the London Borough of Redbridge. As at December 2014, seven of the Borough's wards have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average, with the greatest differences seen in Newbury Ward at +25% and Monkams Ward at -16%.

The Council's Cabinet/Executive established a cross-party Member body (the Electoral Review Corporate Panel) for the duration of the review with responsibility to:

- co-ordinate the review process;
- act as the main Member point of contact for LGBCE;
- oversee the development of the Council's submission to LGBCE regarding council size;
- oversee the Council's submission to LGBCE on the number, size and name of wards and the number of councillors per ward; and
- develop Council responses to LGBCE consultations on their recommendations for the London Borough of Redbridge.

The Panel's membership is as follows:

Councillor Jas Athwal	Leader of the Council
Councillor Ian Bond	Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Paul Canal	Leader of the Conservative Group
Councillor Nicolas Hayes	Conservative
Councillor Joe Hehir	Labour
Councillor Elaine Norman	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Councillor Anne Sachs	Labour

The Panel has the following substitute members:

Councillor Mushtaq Ahmed	Labour
Councillor Hugh Cleaver	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Michelle Dunn	Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group
Councillor Farah Hussain	Cabinet Member for A Fairer Redbridge
Councillor Kam Rai	Cabinet Member for Finance and Support Services
Councillor Robin Turbfield	Conservative
Councillor Neil Zammett	Labour

This paper sets out the Council's submission to LGBCE on council size.

## **Council size**

The first part of the review determines the total number of councillors to be elected to the council in the future (council size). LGBCE will make a judgement on council size by considering three broad areas:

1. the governance arrangement of the council and how it takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities;
2. the council's scrutiny functions relating to its own decision making and the council's responsibilities to outside bodies;
3. the representational role of councillors in the local community and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the council on local partner organisations.

## **Recommendation**

We recommend that LGBCE considers a range of between 60 and 65 councillors when making their judgement on council size. LGBCE seek a single figure rather than a range so, in this circumstance, we further recommend retaining a council size of 63 for the London Borough of Redbridge. Furthermore, we recommend that the council size determined by LGBCE is an odd number.

## **Reasons for decision**

The workload of councillors has increased substantially in recent years. This can be attributed to a variety of factors including our rapid population growth, the rise of social media making our councillors more easily accessible, the continuing shortage of housing in the Borough, and, more recently, reduced council services and other austerity measures such as changes to housing benefit entitlement.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) the population of Redbridge is projected to grow by 39,500 people between 2014 and 2021 and then by a further 69,000 people by 2037. Redbridge councillors serve all of our residents (young and old; voters and those not eligible/registered to vote) and therefore this expanding population will increase their workload whilst adding to the existing pressure on council services.

The Redbridge population is one of the most diverse in the country in relation to ethnicity, religion, country of birth and languages spoken, and we need a council that reflects that diversity. In addition, the Borough has a very high proportion of young people. The current council size allows us best to reflect the diverse nature of our residents and ensure their various needs are taken into account within all areas of decision making.

A case could potentially be made to increase the number of councillors serving the Authority as a way of addressing this pressure. However, in the context of a reducing



Council budget amidst a backdrop of austerity, we do not feel able to justify an increase in council size.

At the same time we also consider that any decrease in council size could adversely impact on the ability of our councillors to fulfil their civic/social responsibilities.

The Council currently demonstrates that it can operate effectively with 63 members, and believes it can continue to do so.

## **Governance and decision making**

The Council operates a Cabinet/Executive governance system with five 'Relevant Committees' (four Service Committees and the Licensing Committee). The Leader and eight cabinet members each lead on one of our nine portfolios. In addition to council committees, panels and working groups, councillors are appointed to external bodies. On average, our councillors serve on four committees/subsidiary bodies and two outside bodies.

The current number of councillors enables us to ensure that the diversity of our communities is best reflected at all levels of governance.

## **Scrutiny functions**

The Council has a range of mechanisms to ensure effective scrutiny of executive functions:

- Statutory scrutiny is undertaken through two overview and scrutiny committees, with two standing panels between them, and involvement in a joint health overview and scrutiny committee, together with three neighbouring boroughs.
- Routine pre-decision review of Cabinet/Portfolio Holder executive decision making is undertaken by five Relevant Committees, which have three Standing Panels between them.
- Pre-decision advice is offered by Cabinet appointed, time-limited cross-party Corporate Panels, of which there are currently three.

Our well-planned work programme is the key part of the success of our statutory scrutiny function, with carefully selected topics which help to focus the work of the committees/panels on priorities and which contribute to greater public and stakeholder involvement. Each Relevant Committee uses the Executive's published Forward Plan as the basis for its programme of work.

We believe that this level of scrutiny is appropriate for our governance arrangements. The current council size is important to enable effective scrutiny of all our decisions, and to ensure that the diversity of our communities is reflected within that scrutiny.

## **Representational role of councillors**

Our councillors play an active representational role in their communities by regularly participating in residents groups, local forums, safer neighbourhood meetings and similar community events. The majority of councillors hold ward surgeries. The Leader and Mayor write blogs and newsletters are distributed door to door by political groups.

Given the large and diverse population, the current council size allows residents the best opportunity to connect with and engage with councillors and to ensure that their views and concerns are listened to and dealt with effectively.

Evidence against the key lines of enquiry set out by LGBCE in determining council size is included in Appendix 1a.

## **Survey of all Councillors**

A survey was undertaken of all Redbridge councillors to gauge their view on council size and to find out about their workload. The survey had a 68% response rate and the overwhelming view of councillors responding was that our current council size is right.

Respondents also expressed a firm view that their communities are best represented by three member wards, particularly as this allowed greater access by constituents and for workloads to be shared efficiently. Views were also expressed that single member wards would be detrimental to residents but that two member wards could potentially work in wards with fewer residents. It was also felt important that the profile of councillors in terms of gender, age and ethnic background reflect the profile of the community.

More than three quarters of respondents reported an increased workload since they became a councillor. Factors behind this include representing more constituents than before due to an increasing population, being more accessible due to social media and dealing with more issues as a result of reduced council services.

Respondents engage with constituents in a variety of manners: on the telephone; e-mails; door to door; attending community events; surgeries and social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs).

An extract of the survey is included in Appendix 1b.

## **What makes Redbridge different?**

### **Redbridge Profile**

Redbridge is an outer north east London borough, with a culturally rich, well-educated community of 293,100 (June 2014). Despite having many green affluent areas that people choose to move to, there are also areas of deprivation where our residents are struggling to manage the rising cost of living.

The Borough covers 5,652 hectares (13,900 acres), combining a host of attractive parks, with historic buildings, busy town centres and well-established business and retail opportunities. The Borough has excellent rail, underground, bus and road links to central London, airports and motorway networks.

### **Our people**

The population has grown by nearly 55,000 since the 2001 Census and is predicted to grow at a faster rate than the rest of London. Population projections suggest growth to 401,600 by 2037, with the older population aged over 65 predicted to grow at the fastest rate.

Redbridge has a diverse population with a wide variety of religions. The 2011 Census showed that Redbridge was the fourth most diverse community in England and Wales. Over 65 per cent of residents were from black and ethnic minority (BME) communities. Over four in ten residents were Asian (42 per cent) and just over one third (37 per cent) were born outside the UK. Over 90 different languages were spoken by our residents, while nearly a quarter aged three and over had a first language that was not English.

Nearly 37 per cent of the population were Christian, the fourth lowest proportion in England and Wales, while just over 23 per cent were Muslim, nearly double the London average and the sixth highest in England and Wales.

Redbridge has a proportionally youthful population with 23 per cent aged under 16 years old, the third highest level in London. The average age of residents is 35 years 8 months.

Diversity has been embraced locally. The 2014 residents' survey showed that 58 per cent of respondents felt that Redbridge is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Levels of crime in the Borough are low (68 crimes per 1000 population for Jul 14-Jun 15) compared to the rest of London (84 crimes per thousand 1000 population).

### **Housing**

The 2011 Census showed that 64 per cent of households owned their own homes, although this had decreased from 75 per cent in 2001. As home ownership decreased, private renting increased from 15 per cent of households in 2001 to 23 per cent in 2011. Redbridge had the second lowest proportion of households in London who were living in social rented accommodation. The median house price in Redbridge of £301,500 (2014)

was £63,500 lower than for London overall. However this is still not affordable for many of our residents.

## **Education and Employment**

There are high levels of educational attainment in Redbridge. The 2011 Census showed that 34 per cent of the population aged 16 and over were qualified to degree level, compared to 27 per cent for England and Wales. In 2014, almost 69 per cent of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A\*-C (including English and Maths), the second highest level in London. Our employment rate of 68 per cent was lower than the London average of 72 per cent, while our unemployment rate of 8 per cent was higher than the London average of 7 per cent (March 2015).

## Redbridge's Priorities

The changes of the past decade have provided opportunities and challenges for Redbridge. We have responded to these and will continue to do so. Our corporate strategy, *Ambitious for Redbridge*, sets out our corporate priorities for the next few years:

1. Increase fairness and respond to the aspirations of the Borough.
2. Empower our communities to help shape our Borough and the services we deliver.
3. Improve the quality of life and civic pride amongst our communities.
4. Transform our council in tough times to be dynamic and responsive to the challenges of the future.

We will utilise regeneration, provide adequate housing and ensure we intervene early where necessary to support our communities to gain a fair and good quality of life.

There have been huge changes to the Council budget that will deeply impact how we operate as a council. Although we are looking at efficiency savings to work smarter and more cheaply, we have to acknowledge that this will also mean cuts to services.

Projections indicate that the Council needs to save £58 million by 2018/19, approximately a third of our total net revenue budget. The level of savings needed to address this is bigger than we have ever had to face before. We will have to operate with fewer employees and so we will not be able to provide all the services we currently do.

Redbridge is facing a high budget gap because:

- Government's core settlement funding assessment has been cut by £12 million (10 per cent) in 2014/15 and £15 million (15 per cent) in 2015/16 with further cuts expected.
- Targeted grants from Government have been reduced.
- An increase in demand on our services. For example the implementation of the Care Act, an increasing population and a shortage of housing.

## Local Government Boundary Commission for England

### Review of Council Size

The technical guidance published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England sets out the type of information required when making a submission on Council size. This includes the requirement for information on:

- Governance and decision making
- Scrutiny functions
- Representational role of councillors
- The future

### Part One: governance and decision making

*The Commission aims to ensure that councils have the right number of councillors to take decisions and manage their business in an effective way. We therefore look at how decisions are taken across the authority to assess the volume and distribution of responsibility amongst elected members and staff.*

**Q. What kind of governance arrangements are in place for your authority? Does the council operate an executive mayoral, Cabinet/Executive or committee system?**

A. The London Borough of Redbridge (LBR) operates a Cabinet/Executive governance system. The system includes 5 “Relevant Committees” (4 Service Committees and the Licensing Committee) part of whose remit is to advise the executive on individual Portfolio matters.

**Q. How many portfolios are there?**

A. Nine:

Leaders  
 Children and Young People  
 Finance and Support Services  
 Health and Social Care  
 Environment and Sustainability  
 Planning, Economy and Regeneration  
 Housing, Payment and Benefits  
 Civic Pride  
 A Fairer Redbridge

**Q. To what extent are decisions delegated to portfolio holders or are most decisions taken by the full Executive and/or Mayor?**

A. Few decisions are now taken by the full Executive. The majority of executive decisions that are not delegated to officers are taken by portfolio holders following pre-consideration and acceptance of decisions by a proportionate non-

## APPENDIX 1 a

executive "Relevant Committee", being, currently section 102(4) Local Government Act 1972 committees exercising advisory functions. Those committees are presently as follows:

Strategy and Resources Service Committee (11 members)  
Children and Young People Service Committee (11 members)  
Neighbourhoods Service Committee (11 members)  
Health, Social Care and Civic Pride Service Committee (11 members)  
Licensing Committee (15 members)

**Q. Do Executive (or other) members serve on other decision making partnerships, sub regional, regional or national bodies?**

- A. Both Executive members and other members are appointed to serve on decision-making partnerships and outside bodies. Such bodies include:
- London Councils Committees/Forums;
  - East London Waste Disposal Authority;
  - Lee Valley Regional Park Authority;
  - North East London Strategic Alliance;
  - London Stansted Cambridge Consortium.

**Q. In general, are leadership and/or portfolio roles considered to be full time roles?**

- A. Leader and Deputy Leader roles can be considered as full time roles. The full time nature of other Portfolio roles will be dependent on their remit.

**Q. In relation to licensing, planning and other regulatory responsibilities, to what extent are decisions delegated to officers?**

- A. The majority of planning responsibilities are delegated to officers. The Council has a Regulatory Committee that considers larger / strategic / controversial planning applications. The Licensing Committee considers licensing policy whilst its 7 sub-committees (3 Members on each) discharge all other licensing functions. The terms of reference of the Regulatory and Licensing Committees are set out in Part 2, Sections 8 and 9 respectively of the Council's Constitution.

[http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s94662/Part2\\_S8.pdf](http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s94662/Part2_S8.pdf)

[http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s100417/Part2\\_S9.pdf](http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s100417/Part2_S9.pdf)

The delegations to the Chief Planning and Regeneration Officer and Chief Community Safety Officers in respect of Planning, Regulatory and Licensing functions are set out in the Council Scheme of Officer Delegation.

[http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s99224/Chief\\_Planning\\_and\\_Regeneration\\_Officer.pdf](http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s99224/Chief_Planning_and_Regeneration_Officer.pdf)

[http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s99221/Chief\\_Community\\_Safety\\_Enforcement\\_Officer.pdf](http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s99221/Chief_Community_Safety_Enforcement_Officer.pdf)

**Q. How many members are involved in committees?**

- A. All 63 Members are involved in Council meeting in committee. All but the Mayor and one Conservative Group Councillor are appointed to other committees, including the Cabinet.

**Q. Is committee membership standing or rotating?**

- A. Membership of Council bodies is standing with substitutions permitted in accordance with Standing Order 34.1 -34.5 of the Council's Constitution.

**Q. Are meetings *ad hoc*, frequent and/or area based?**

- A. A Calendar of Meetings for the Council's main bodies is agreed at full Council annually in March. Frequency per year is as follows:

Council - 8 meetings  
Cabinet - 10 meetings  
Scrutiny Committees (x2) - 6 meetings each  
Scrutiny Panels (x2) – 1 x 4 meetings; 1 x 3 meetings  
Service Committees (x 4) – 10 meetings each  
Licensing Committee – 4 meetings  
Licensing Sub-Committees – ad hoc approx. 32  
Regulatory Committee – 10 meetings  
Appeals Committee – Ad hoc  
Appointments Committee – Ad hoc  
Remuneration & Staffing Committee – 4 meetings  
Standards Committee 2012 – 3 meetings  
Pension Fund Investment Panel – 3 meetings  
Audit Committee – 4 meetings  
Health & Well-Being Board- 6 meetings  
Joint Consultative Advisory Committee of Members & Employees – Ad hoc  
Redbridge Education Funding Schools Forum - 5 meetings

Corporate panels and scrutiny working groups are also established each year with varying frequency.

In addition to the above the Chair, Vice-Chair and spokespersons of the various bodies may also receive briefing meetings.

The Council does not operate area meetings.

**Q. What level of attendance is achieved? Are meetings always quorate?**

- A. Meetings of respective bodies are usually fully attended, assisted where appropriate, by a substitution process as defined in the Council's



Constitution. Meetings are always quorate. Members Record of Attendance at meetings for 2014/15

<http://lbrcwsqlmgv01/documents/s99277/memattendcttees.pdf>

**Q. Does the council believe that changes to legislation, national or local policy will have influence on the workload of committees and their members which would have an impact on council size?**

A. A move to a different model of Cabinet/Executive governance, or to the committee system of governance could have some impact.

**Q. Is there a formal role description for councillors in your authority?**

A. There is a Local Councillor Job Description which is set out in Part 4, Section 7 of the Council's Constitution.

[http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s83641/Part4\\_S7\\_LocalCllrJobDescription.pdf](http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/s83641/Part4_S7_LocalCllrJobDescription.pdf)

**Q. Do councillors receive formal training for all or any roles at the council?**

A. A programme of member development is delivered each year which in 2014/15 consisted of 28 different briefing/training sessions, including mandatory training on the code of conduct, licensing, planning and safeguarding.

**Q. Do councillors generally find that the time they spend on council business is what they expected?**

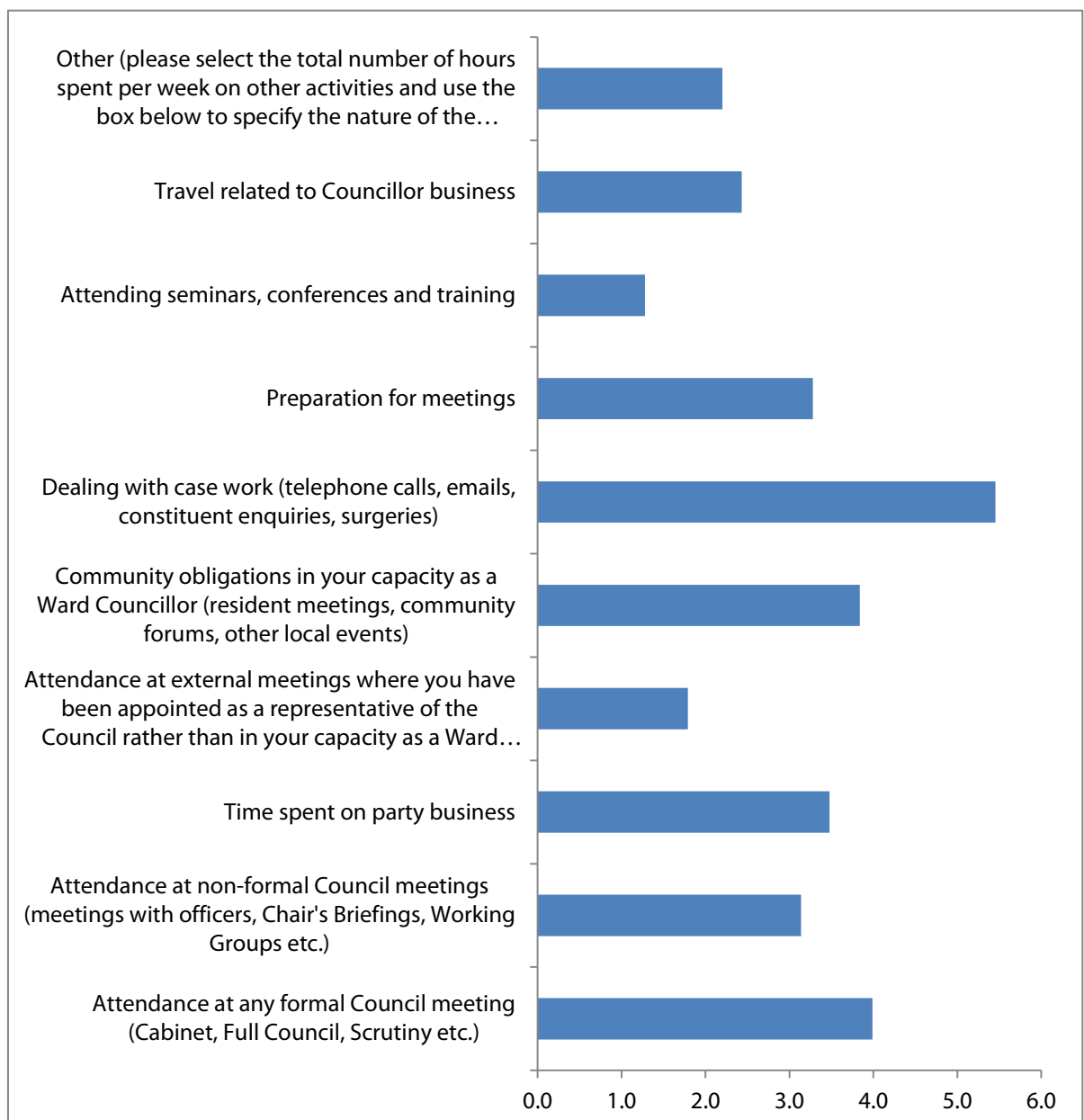
A. In a recent survey undertaken of all Members, 62% felt their role had changed since they became a councillor. Reasons given by respondents included the following:

- More meetings;
- Increased demand for results from constituents;
- More individual consultation with residents;
- More contact with outside bodies such as the Police;
- Growth in planning applications and subsequent enforcement;
- More casework due to Housing and other benefits cuts;
- More in depth reports and issues to deal with;
- More detailed and technical casework;
- More correspondence, newsletters and communication with residents, the police, Health authority, etc;
- Less active role in decision-making with the changes in governance arrangements;

- Increasing use of technology including modern communications making it easier for constituents to contact councillors and for outside organisations to keep them informed;
- More time dealing with case-work of residents impacted by austerity, particularly in deprived wards; and
- Increased case-work due to a reduction in experienced officers at the Council and the disbanding of regular area committees, regional planning committees, Conservation Advisory Panels, etc.

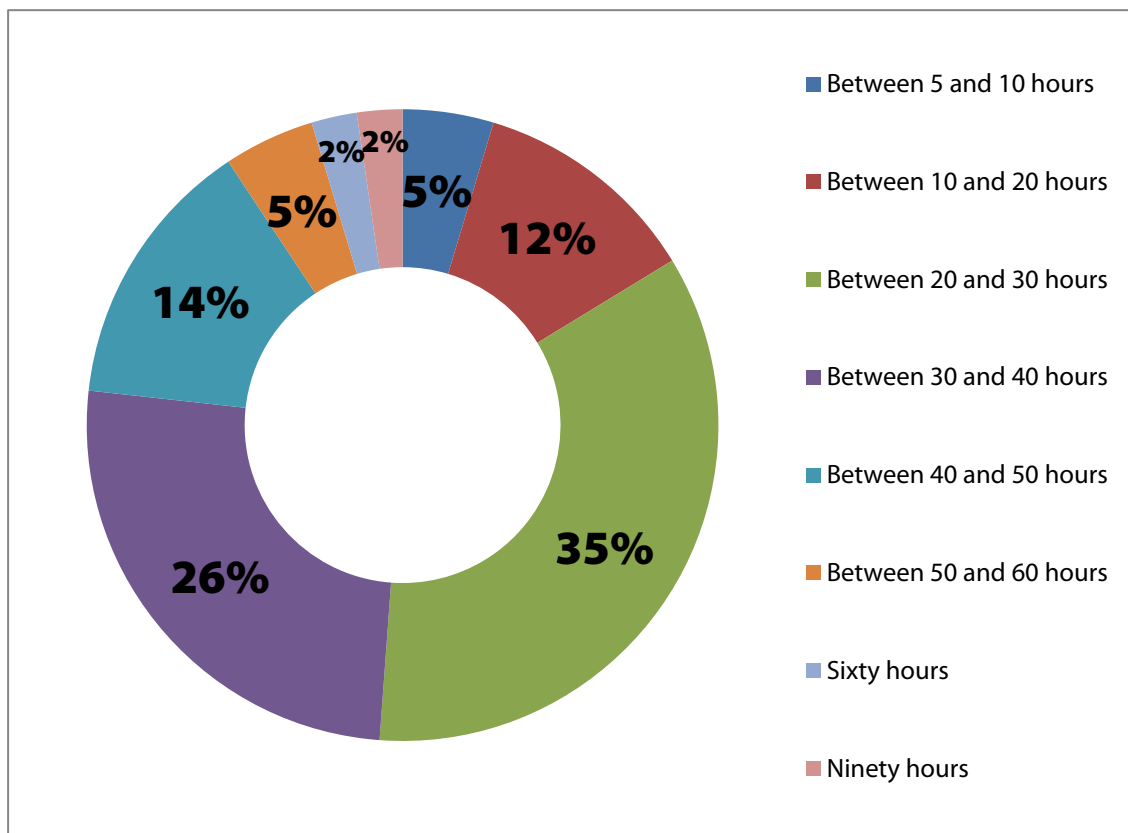
**Q. How much time do members generally spend on the business of your council?**

A. The survey also asked Members about the average time they spent per week on Councillor business. Respondents to the survey spent an average of 31 hours per week on the activities broken down (in hours) in the graph below:



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The average time spent by Members on Councillor business ranged from 5 hours to 60 hours per week, with the exception of the Leader who spent an average of 90 hours per week. The graph below breaks this down further:



**Q. Does the council appoint members to outside bodies? If so, how many councillors are involved in this activity and what is their expected workload?**

A. Yes. The Council appoints representatives to 59 outside bodies. A total of 41 councillors are currently appointed to external bodies and, overall will attend approximately 320 meetings annually. The workload of councillors appointed to individual bodies will depend on the frequency and complexity of the matters considered by individual bodies.

**Q. Does the council attract and retain members?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Have there been any instances where the council has been unable to discharge its duties due to a lack of councillors?**

A. No.

**Q. Do councillors have an individual or ward budget for allocation in their area? If so, how is such a system administered?**

A. No.

## Part Two: scrutiny functions

*Every council has mechanisms to scrutinise the executive functions of the council and other local bodies. They also have significant discretion over the kind (and extent) of activities involved in that process. In considering council size, the Commission will want to satisfy itself that these responsibilities can be administered in a convenient and effective way through the number of councillors it recommends.*

### **Q. How do scrutiny arrangements operate in the authority?**

A: (i) Statutory (s.9F LGA 2000) scrutiny functions currently reside in 2 LBR Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs), with 2 standing Panels between them, and an Outer North East London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), involving LBR and the London Borough Councils of Barking and Dagenham; Havering and Waltham Forest.

(ii) Routine pre-decision review of Cabinet/Portfolio Holder executive decision making is undertaken by 5 Relevant Committees, as above, with, between them, 3 standing Panels

(iii) Pre-decision advice is also offered by Cabinet appointed cross party Corporate Panels, of which there are currently 3.

### **Q. How many committees are there and what is their membership?**

A: (i) OSCs x2; JHOSC x1; (ii) Relevant Committees x 5

- (i) Governance arrangements agreed by Council in May 2013 established a **statutory** scrutiny committee structure as follows:
- Overview Committee – leading on the consideration of cross-cutting issues, the Budget and performance of the authority's services, and providing strategic scrutiny of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the authority's services and policies – 11 Members.

This Committee's terms of reference provide for two standing Panels. The External Scrutiny Panel, the Council's statutory body to consider crime and disorder matters, additionally holds to account the performance of partner organisations and the work the Council does with them. This Panel comprises 7 Members (who do not have to be members of Overview Committee) and 2 non-voting co-optees. The Education Scrutiny Panel – scrutinising local authority education matters – comprises 6 Members (who do not have to be members of Overview Committee) and 4 statutory co-optees (church and parent governor representatives, with voting rights on education matters.)

- Health Scrutiny Committee, discharging the authority's statutory duties of scrutiny of health matters in the Borough and investigating the available options for future direction in policy development in relation to health, comprises 11 Members and 3 non-voting co-optees.
  - Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reviewing and scrutinising matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services that affect two or more boroughs in Outer North East London, comprises 3 Members (the Chair, Vice Chair and Spokesperson from Health Scrutiny Committee).
  - Scrutiny Working Groups – undertaking in-depth investigation – 3 working groups at any one time:
    - 1 x established by Health Scrutiny Committee with Membership of Chair and spokespersons of the Health Scrutiny Committee – the Health Monitoring Scrutiny Working Group meets 10 x per year
    - 2 x established by Overview Committee, with ordinarily 6 Members on each (drawn from all non-executive Members) – generally an in-depth investigation would run for 5 to 7 meetings over 5 to 8 months
- (ii) The same governance arrangements also provided for the establishment of Relevant Committees, of which there are 5, being:

Strategy and Resources Service Committee (11 members)  
Children and Young People Service Committee (11 members)  
Neighbourhoods Service Committee (11 members)  
Health, Social Care and Civic Pride Service Committee (11 members)  
Licensing Committee (15 members)

Relevant Committees exercise functions similar to statutory pre-decision scrutiny, in reviewing and advising on the recommendations and reports that are considered by the executive in each decision making cycle.

### **Q. What is the general workload of scrutiny committees?**

#### A. (i) OSCs:

- (a) Overview Committee meets 6 times per year, though in each year since 2013 there has been a requirement for an additional extraordinary meeting to consider one item of urgent business. Each ordinary meeting has an average of between 6-7 substantive items; the work programme for 2015/16 also suggests that an average of between 6-7 substantive items will be considered at each meeting.

External Scrutiny Panel: established in May 2013 and meets 4 times per year. Meetings are themed, and accordingly an average of 2 or 3 items are discussed at each.

Education Scrutiny Panel: established in May 2013 and meets 3 times per year. In 2013/14 the Panel considered an average of 3 substantive items at each meeting. In 2014/15 the Panel considered an average of 4 substantive items at each meeting.

Overview Working Groups: a maximum of 2 to be established at any one time. In both 2013/14 and 2014/15 a total of 3 Working Groups were established.

- (b) Health Scrutiny Committee has, since 2013, met 6 times per year; though there was the requirement for one additional extraordinary meeting in both 2013/14 (election of Chair) and 2014/15 (urgent item). Each ordinary meeting has an average of between 6-7 substantive items.

Standing Health Monitoring Scrutiny Working Group (est. 2012) meets 10 times per year; the establishment of the Health Monitoring Scrutiny Working Group has assisted in ensuring that Committee agendas are a manageable size, so there has been a reduced need for extraordinary meetings to deal with additional and / or urgent business.

Attendance has also been required at a number of NHS-led meetings and site visits in addition to regular Committee and Working Group activity.

- (c) JHOSC. The Outer North East London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (ONEL JHOSC) is usually scheduled to meet 4 times per year for approximately 3 hours. Serviced by LB Havering; rotating chairmanship. In 2013/14 the ONEL JHOSC considered an average of 4 substantive items at each meeting (6 meetings were held, plus 1 extra-ordinary meeting to consider urgent business). In 2014/15 the Committee considered an average of 3 substantive items at each meeting.

### (ii) Relevant Committees:

The four Service Committees, in addition to exercising non-executive functions advise the Executive on matters within and concerning portfolios under their advisory remit. However they are limited to considering matters within the Forward Plan and matters where the executive has requested that policy development work is undertaken.

Each Service Committee has 11 Members and holds 10 meetings per year. The Council's Licensing Committee also has advisory powers in respect of executive matters within its remit but meets just 4 times per year with 15 Members.

The Chairs of each relevant Committee attends a briefing with officers prior to each meeting, i.e. a total of 44 briefings per year.

Each Service Committee agenda has on average 4 substantive items for consideration, i.e. a total of 160 reports per year.

The following subsidiary bodies of Relevant Committees provide advisory/policy development work for the Executive:

- Contract Corporate Panel – 7 Members – 3 meetings per year
- Fairlop Gravel Advisory Panel- 5 Members – 3 meetings per year
- Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel- 7 Members – 4 meetings per year
- Public & Voluntary Sector Corporate Partnership – 5 Members – 4 per year
- Local Development Framework and Infrastructure Advisory Panel – 5 Members – 3 meetings per year

Each of these subsidiary advisory bodies has on average 2 substantive items for consideration per meeting, totalling 34 reports.

### (iii) Cabinet Corporate Panels

The Cabinet has established 3 time-limited corporate panels to help develop policy as follows:

- (a) Redbridge Fairness Commission (4 councillors + external representatives [Appointed members]) – monthly meetings
- (b) Leisure and Cultural Strategy Advisory Panel (9 councillors, + external representatives [Appointed members]) - monthly meetings between January and May 2015
- (c) Redbridge Equality and Diversity Panel (6 councillors) – monthly meetings

Each is a themed meeting with one substantive item, often in presentation and discussion format.

### ***Q. Has the council ever found that it has had too many active projects for the scrutiny process to function effectively?***

- A. Taking all the elements of scrutiny, statutory and non-statutory, that are described above, not over the operation of the current system of governance.

### ***Q. How is the work of scrutiny committee programmed? Is the work strictly timetabled?***

- (i) Statutory scrutiny:

The work programme is the key part of successful scrutiny. A well planned work programme, with carefully selected topics, helps focus the work of the Committees/Panels on priorities and contributes to greater public/stakeholder involvement.

The work programme is reported to each meeting of the Committee / Panel and revisions are made only by agreement at a Committee / Panel meeting or, in exceptional and/or urgent circumstances, by the relevant Chair, Vice-Chair and Spokespersons. Scrutiny Committee and Panel meetings for the year ahead are included in the Council's corporate calendar and publicised.

At each meeting Members are asked to consider how best to operate the remaining meetings in the municipal year, and the draft work programme is set out, which includes items which have been drawn from suggestions

received from Members, officers, local organisations and the public, and issues emerging from previous Committee / Panel meetings. Most items are generally allocated to an appropriate meeting for consideration; however there are often items which are yet to have a date allocated.

The items which do not have an identified date for consideration might be dealt with in one of two ways: as an information item for circulation outside of a meeting, or to be considered by way of a report to an identified meeting of Overview Committee.

The Committee / Panel is asked at each meeting to consider the proposed Work Programme and identify any changes it wishes to make, whilst considering the agenda work load at each meeting and the need for flexibility to consider and respond to urgent issues of public or Member concern as they arise during the year.

Meetings of Scrutiny Working Groups are much more flexible, with meetings arranged around member availability, within an overall framework for reporting back to Overview Committee within a specified timescale. Overview Committee, when establishing a Working group, will agree outline terms of reference and identify the type and length of scrutiny investigation, which generally includes:

- *In-depth reviews*, typically involving five to seven meetings and/or visits to gather evidence, with a full outcome report to the Overview Committee.
- *Focused reviews* which would involve fewer meetings/visits, and perhaps a fixed set of questions, but with a full report to the Overview Committee
- *Question and answer sessions* with stakeholders, for example when a speedy investigation is thought necessary, leading to a short summary and recommendations to the Overview Committee.

(Most scrutiny investigations are either in-depth reviews or focused reviews).

### (ii) Relevant Committee advisory work

Each Relevant Committee uses the executive's published Forward Plan as the basis for its Work Programme, as to its receipt of executive reports.

### **Q. What activities are scrutiny committee members expected to carry out between formal meetings?**

#### A. (i) OSCs:

##### (a) Overview Committee:

- Chair and spokes – attend a briefing meeting at draft report stage, approximately 2 weeks before the meeting
- Working Groups – each Working Group established by Overview Committee might undertake a visit (or visits) to learn from good practice; there is opportunity for Members to undertake research between meetings for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group; the Chair of a Working Group is expected to draft the Foreword for inclusion in the final draft of the Working Group's final report and to



attend the relevant meeting of Overview Committee and Cabinet to present the final report and recommendations

- Scrutiny Annual Report – the Chair of Overview Committee is expected to draft the Foreword to the Scrutiny Annual Report

### (b) Health Scrutiny:

- Chair and spokes – attend a monthly briefing meeting
- Occasional visits are organised to local and out-of-Borough health facilities (4 visits were organised in 2013/14; 1 for 2014/15; 1 has already been undertaken in 2015/16)
- A number of briefing / information notes ('information items') are circulated outside of meetings for the attention of Committee Members
- Attendance has also been required at a number of NHS-led meetings and site visits (e.g. 1:1s with NHS Trust Chief Executives), which are in addition to regular Committee and Working Group activity. Further events are planned for 2015/16.

### (c) General:

- There is some Member involvement in London Scrutiny Network events – with attendance on perhaps 4 occasions per year (including LSN meetings and training events) – depending on topic this could involve Chair / spokes from Overview and health Scrutiny Committees.
- There is some specific Member development on scrutiny – particularly for new Members – though also around identified issues, such as legislation, changes in Policing, Health matters, and budget scrutiny etc.

### (ii) Relevant Committees

The Chair of each of the Relevant Committee and Subsidiary Bodies attends a briefing with officers prior to each meeting. This equates to 60 briefing sessions lasting approximately 1 hour each. Members are also expected to read the agenda items prior to these meetings.

## Part Three: representational role of councillors

*The Commission understands that there is no single approach to representation and members will represent and provide leadership to their communities in different ways. However, we are interested in hearing about the extent to which members are routinely expected to engage with communities and how this affects workload and responsibilities. In particular, if the council has defined a role for elected members, the Commission would find that evidence interesting.*

- Q. In general terms, how do councillors carry out their representational roles with electors? Do members mainly respond to casework from constituents or do they have a more active role in the community?**

A. As evidenced by responses to the above question in our recent survey, Councillors respond to casework from constituents and also play a more active role in the community, including:

- Attendance at Safer Neighbourhood meetings, Resident groups, local forums and similar community events;
- Holding regular surgeries/drop-ins;
- Attend fairs;
- Canvassing;
- Leafleting;
- Street walkabouts;
- Lead/support community campaigns;
- Respond to planning applications;
- School governorship;
- Membership of community organisations;

**Q. How do councillors generally deal with casework? Do they pass issues directly to staff or do they take a more in depth approach to resolving issues?**

A. Members generally make enquiries via Members Services or directly with Service Areas and then respond directly to constituents on the issues they have raised. A few use Members Services to transcribe and send their responses.

**Q. What support do councillors receive in discharging their duties in relation to casework and representational role in their ward?**

A. Members are provided with telephones; iPads/laptops; printers; letter headed paper; business cards; a dictation service; and typing support. The Council makes a £50 per month per ward contribution to the venue hire costs of ward surgeries. The Council publishes contact details and ward surgery venues and times on the Council's website.

**Q. How do councillors engage with constituents? Do they hold surgeries, distribute newsletters, hold public meetings, write blogs, etc?**

A. The Leader holds monthly Local Forums (public meetings) to which all Members can attend. The majority of Members hold ward surgeries. Newsletters are distributed door to door by political groups. The Leader and Mayor write blogs.

**Q. How has the role of councillors changed since the last Council considered how many elected members it should have?**

A. Last review was prior to modernisation of local government. The population of the Borough has increased with a consequential increase in the amount of

casework/public enquiries made of councillor assisted by developments in information technology

**Q. Has the council put in place any mechanisms for councillors to interact with young people, those not on the electoral register or minority groups or their representative bodies?**

A. Yes. For example:

Young People

Cabinet agreed a budget of £100,000 for initiatives developed by the Youth Council. The Council provides grant funding to the Redbridge Children and Young People's Network that acts on behalf of and represents the voice of children and young people at strategic meetings

Minority Groups

Through:

Redbridge Equalities and Communities Council (RECC)

Redbridge Council for Voluntary services (RCVS)

Concern for Mental Health

Redbridge Disability Association

Age UK

Meetings with faith groups and Redbridge Faith Forum

Electoral register

Meeting statutory requirements

Tweeting

Using the Council's publication - Redbridge Life

**Q. Are councillors expected to attend meetings of community bodies such as parish councils or residents associations? If so, what is the level of their involvement and what role are they expected to play?**

A. Not applicable or no.

## **Part Four: the future**

*The Commission understands that the role of local authorities is constantly changing. In particular, changes such as the introduction of elected mayors in some parts of England have significantly altered the nature of decision making and role of elected members. Equally, many local authorities have not seriously considered the size of their*

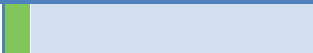
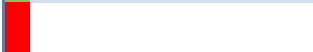



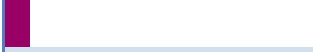
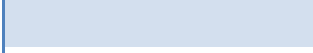
*council since the introduction of Executive/Scrutiny functions over a decade ago. We are aware that a number of local authorities have changed or intend to change their governance arrangements by reverting from executive and scrutiny models to committee administrations. The pace of change for authorities is likely to continue into the foreseeable future. That is why you should consider future trends and developments when coming to conclusions on council size.*

### Redbridge Council's governance arrangements since 2000

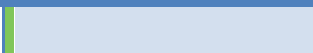
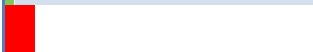

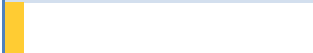


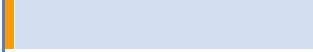
- (a) Introduced interim Leader/Cabinet Model Executive arrangements, with proportionate all party Ratification Committee in 2000.
- (b) Fully implemented Leader Cabinet Model Executive arrangements with the removal of the Ratification Committee in 2002.
- (c) Reviewed the Leader/Cabinet Model Executive arrangements and reduced number of Scrutiny Committees from 8 to 5 in 2010.
- (d) Reviewed the Council's governance arrangements in 2013 and introduced Relevant Committees with executive pre-decision advisory functions. The number of scrutiny bodies were reduced from 5 to 4.
- (e) Abolished 7 Area Committees and 3 Regional Planning Committees in 2014.

## COUNCIL SIZE

### Instinctively, how many Councillors do you think Redbridge Council needs?

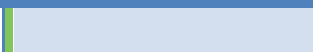
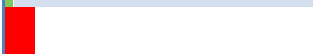

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Below 45		7.1%	3
45 - 50		7.1%	3
50 - 55		2.4%	1
55 - 60		4.8%	2
60 - 65		71.4%	30
65 - 70		7.1%	3
Above 70		0.0%	0
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>42</b>

### Considering your answers to the preceding questions, how many Councillors do you now think Redbridge Council needs?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Below 45		2.8%	1
45 - 50		8.3%	3
50 - 55		0.0%	0
55 - 60		5.6%	2
60 - 65		72.2%	26
65 - 70		8.3%	3
Above 70		2.8%	1
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>36</b>




## WARDS

### Which of the following do you think the community is best represented by?

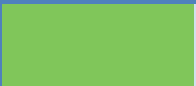







Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
One Member Wards		2.9%	1
Two Member Wards		8.8%	3
Three Member Wards		88.2%	30
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>34</b>

## WORKLOAD OF COUNCILLORS

### Since becoming a Councillor do you think your workload has:












Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Increased		75.7%	28
Decreased		2.7%	1
Stayed the same		21.6%	8
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>37</b>

### Is it because...

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
I am contacted by more constituents than before		82.1%	23
The issues raised by constituents are more complex to deal with and take more time		64.3%	18
I have to attend more Council and Committee meetings than I used to		35.7%	10
Social media means that I am expected to respond very quickly to any issues raised		46.4%	13
I have become a Portfolio Holder or Committee Chair		46.4%	13
I represent more constituents than before due to population change		28.6%	8
I deal with more issues than before due to reduced Council services		57.1%	16
Other, please specify...		3.6%	1
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>28</b>

## ENGAGEMENT WITH CONSTITUENTS

### How do you engage with your Constituents?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Telephone		97.1%	34
Distribute newsletters / flyers / posters		100.0%	35
Hold public meetings		42.9%	15
Surgeries		82.9%	29
Emails		97.1%	34
Other social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs)		48.6%	17
Attending community events		94.3%	33
Coffee mornings		20.0%	7
Door to door		97.1%	34
Face-to-face		88.6%	31
Other, please give details...		11.4%	4
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>35</b>

### How do you engage with your Constituents? (Other, please give details...)

#	Response
1.	Hold stalls on the high street in wanstead
2.	Correspondence
3.	Stories, letters in local newspapers
4.	High Street Stalls

## Electoral forecast for 2021 based on GLA 2014 round ward TREND population projection

## London Borough of Redbridge

	Ward name	2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
		Electorate	Population 18+	Ratio	Electorate	Population 18+	Ratio	Electorate	Population 18+	Ratio	Electorate	Population 18+	Ratio	Electorate	Population 18+	Ratio
1	Aldborough	10505	10897	0.96	10590	10951	0.97	10555	11054	0.95	11088	11387	0.97	11092	11553	0.96
2	Barkingside	9604	9776	0.98	9864	9883	1.00	9804	9968	0.98	10132	10089	1.00	9711	10219	0.95
3	Bridge	8824	9092	0.97	8955	9124	0.98	8947	9216	0.97	9208	9342	0.99	8851	9437	0.94
4	Chadwell	10118	10430	0.97	10327	10482	0.99	10176	10798	0.94	10779	10963	0.98	10510	11107	0.95
5	Church End	8658	9286	0.93	8985	9351	0.96	9002	9463	0.95	9255	9603	0.96	9038	9716	0.93
6	Clayhall	10210	9961	1.02	10548	9995	1.06	10491	10075	1.04	10712	10192	1.05	10588	10309	1.03
7	Clementswood	9829	10457	0.94	10103	11208	0.90	10122	11392	0.89	10649	11590	0.92	10516	11942	0.88
8	Cranbrook	9455	9917	0.95	9763	9970	0.98	9632	10068	0.96	9934	10202	0.97	9786	10354	0.95
9	Fairlop	9462	9758	0.97	9675	9809	0.99	9721	9896	0.98	10048	10015	1.00	9910	10210	0.97
10	Fullwell	9496	9805	0.97	9737	9859	0.99	9701	9947	0.98	10057	10058	1.00	9628	10175	0.95
11	Goodmayes	9286	9674	0.96	9670	9809	0.99	9669	9908	0.98	10038	10078	1.00	9686	10218	0.95
12	Hainault	9375	9672	0.97	9524	9716	0.98	9451	9796	0.96	9838	9930	0.99	9485	10076	0.94
13	Loxford	10566	11420	0.93	10878	11526	0.94	10797	11656	0.93	11284	11827	0.95	11167	12118	0.92
14	Mayfield	9953	10045	0.99	10214	10096	1.01	10216	10190	1.00	10578	10325	1.02	10297	10449	0.99
15	Monkhams	8481	8464	1.00	8587	8485	1.01	8514	8565	0.99	8713	8691	1.00	8367	8776	0.95
16	Newbury	11645	12064	0.97	12035	12147	0.99	12033	12269	0.98	12484	12440	1.00	12389	12700	0.98
17	Roding	8787	9084	0.97	8961	9128	0.98	8811	9220	0.96	9066	9339	0.97	8923	9448	0.94
18	Seven Kings	10343	11191	0.92	10731	11287	0.95	10837	11427	0.95	11174	11622	0.96	10940	11834	0.92
19	Snaresbrook	9215	9894	0.93	9360	9958	0.94	9288	10063	0.92	9566	10201	0.94	9009	10303	0.87
20	Valentines	9728	10477	0.93	10119	10575	0.96	9816	10704	0.92	10326	10859	0.95	9753	11021	0.88
21	Wanstead	8932	9078	0.98	9054	9114	0.99	9024	9225	0.98	9290	9323	1.00	9175	9408	0.98
	<b>REDBRIDGE</b>	<b>202472</b>	<b>210443</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>207680</b>	<b>212472</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>206607</b>	<b>214899</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>214219</b>	<b>218074</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>208821</b>	<b>221372</b>	<b>0.94</b>

2021		
Population 18+	Average ratio	Forecast Electorate
12,521	0.96	12069
10,948	0.98	10770
9,922	0.97	9617
11,942	0.97	11529
10,301	0.95	9762
10,987	1.04	11426
14,093	0.91	12766
11,209	0.96	10779
11,358	0.98	11159
10,842	0.98	10576
11,024	0.97	10728
10,997	0.97	10659
13,869	0.93	12956
11,162	1.00	11196
9,234	0.99	9167
14,215	0.98	13976
10,017	0.96	9656
13,088	0.94	12327
10,850	0.92	9996
11,932	0.93	11069
9,831	0.99	9688
<b>240342</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>231872</b>

Cllrs per ward	2015		2021	
	Electorate per Cllr	Variance	Electorate per Cllr	Variance
3	3697	12%	4023	9%
3	3237	-2%	3590	-2%
3	2950	-11%	3206	-13%
3	3503	6%	3843	4%
3	3013	-9%	3254	-12%
3	3529	6%	3809	3%
3	3505	6%	4255	16%
3	3262	-2%	3593	-2%
3	3303	0%	3720	1%
3	3209	-3%	3525	-4%
3	3229	-3%	3576	-3%
3	3162	-5%	3553	-3%
3	3722	12%	4319	17%
3	3432	4%	3732	1%
3	2789	-16%	3056	-17%
3	4130	25%	4659	27%
3	2974	-10%	3219	-13%
3	3647	10%	4109	12%
3	3003	-9%	3332	-9%
3	3251	-2%	3690	0%
3	3058	-8%	3229	-12%
<b>63</b>	<b>3315</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>3681</b>	<b>43%</b>

**Electorate** comes from the Electoral Register

**Population 18+** comes from the GLA 2014 round ward BPO population projections - trend based (short term migration scenario)

**Ratio** is Electorate/Population 18+

**Forecast Electorate** is Population 18+ for 2021 x average ratio between 2011 and 2015

In **2015** seven wards had an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio

By **2021** nine wards are predicted to have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio



# APPENDIX 3

## Electoral data

### Using this sheet:

Fill in the cells for each polling district. Please make sure that the names of each parish, parish ward, district ward and county division are correct and consistent. Check your data in the cells to the right.

Scroll right to see the second table

What is the polling district code?	Is there any other description you use for this area?	Is this polling district contained in a parish? If not, leave this cell blank.	Is this polling district contained in a parish ward? If not, leave this cell blank.	Is this polling district contained in a group of parishes with a joint parish council? If not, leave this cell blank.	Which district ward is this polling district in? This column is not essential, but may help you.	Which county division is this polling district in? This column is not essential, but may help you.	What is the current electorate?	What is the forecast electorate?
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<b>Check my data</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of councillors:	63	63
Overall electorate:	208,821	231,872
Average electorate per cllr:	3,315	3,681

Scroll left to see the first table

Fill in the name of each ward once. You can also use the drop down list to select the ward.	Fill in the number of councillors per ward	Do not type in these cells. These cells will show you the electorate and variance. They change depending what you enter in the table to the left.
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Polling district	Description of area	Parish	Parish ward	Grouped parish council	Existing district/borough/city ward	Existing county division	Electorate 2015	Electorate 2021
EX1	Example 1	Little Example		Little and Even Littler	Example Rural	Example	480	502
EX2	Example 2	Even Littler Example		Little and Even Littler	Example Rural	Example	67	68
EX3	Example 3	Medium Example			Example Rural	Example	893	897
EX4	Example 4	Big Example	Big Example East		Example Town	Example	759	780
EX5	Example 5	Big Example	Big Example West		Example Town	Example	803	824

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2015	Variance 2015	Electorate 2021	Variance 2021
Aldborough	3	11,092	12%	12,069	9%
Barkingside	3	9,711	-2%	10,770	-2%
Bridge	3	8,851	-11%	9,617	-13%
Chadwell	3	10,510	6%	11,529	4%
Church End	3	9,038	-9%	9,762	-12%
Clayhall	3	10,588	6%	11,426	3%
Clementswood	3	10,516	6%	12,766	16%
Cranbrook	3	9,786	-2%	10,779	-2%
Fairlop	3	9,910	0%	11,159	1%
Fullwell	3	9,628	-3%	10,576	-4%
Goodmayes	3	9,686	-3%	10,728	-3%
Hainault	3	9,485	-5%	10,659	-3%
Loxford	3	11,167	12%	12,956	17%
Mayfield	3	10,297	4%	11,196	1%
Monkhams	3	8,367	-16%	9,167	-17%
Newbury	3	12,389	25%	13,976	27%
Roding	3	8,923	-10.3%	9,656	-13%
Seven Kings	3	10,940	10.0%	12,327	12%
Snaresbrook	3	9,009	-9%	9,996	-9%
Valentines	3	9,753	-2%	11,069	0%
Wanstead	3	9,175	-8%	9,688	-12%

A1	Aldborough	3,722	4,102
A2	Aldborough	1,800	1,874
A3	Aldborough	2,083	2,252
A4	Aldborough	3,487	3,842
BA1	Barkingside	1,614	1,753
BA2	Barkingside	2,286	2,504
BA3	Barkingside	4,282	4,793
BA4	Barkingside	1,529	1,719
BR1	Bridge	3327	3,613
BR2	Bridge	3756	4,146
BR3	Bridge	1768	1,858
CH1	Chadwell	3824	4,182
CH2	Chadwell	3606	3,838
CH3	Chadwell	3080	3,509
CE1	Church End	3862	4,145
CE2	Church End	2621	2,862
CE3	Church End	2555	2,755
CL1	Clayhall	4,604	5,030
CL2	Clayhall	5984	6,396
CW1	Clementswood	2473	3,044
CW2	Clementswood	3828	4,713
CW3	Clementswood	2763	3,307
CW4	Clementswood	1452	1,702
CR1	Cranbrook	3849	4,225
CR2	Cranbrook	2777	3,024
CR3	Cranbrook	3160	3,530
FA1	Fairlop	2,227	2,482
FA2	Fairlop	1,718	1,926
FA3	Fairlop	4,113	4,664
FA4	Fairlop	1,140	1,237
FA5	Fairlop	712	850
FL1	Fullwell	1,582	1,706
FL2	Fullwell	2,703	2,816
FL3	Fullwell	2,597	2,997
FL4	Fullwell	2,746	3,057
G1	Goodmayes	3331	3,676
G2	Goodmayes	3022	3,294
G3	Goodmayes	3333	3,758
H1	Hainault	1,968	2,334
H2	Hainault	1,786	1,969
H3	Hainault	3,778	4,185
H4	Hainault	1,953	2,171
L1	Loxford	2593	2,908
L2	Loxford	4345	5,074
L3	Loxford	4229	4,975
MA1	Mayfield	1373	1,525
MA2	Mayfield	2944	3,149
MA3	Mayfield	3108	3,374
MA4	Mayfield	2872	3,148
MO1	Monkhams	3123	3,368
MO2	Monkhams	2529	2,731
MO3	Monkhams	2715	3,068

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Polling district	Description of area	Parish	Parish ward	Grouped parish council	Existing district/borough/city ward	Existing county division	Electorate 2015	Electorate 2021
N1					Newbury		3107	3,446
N2					Newbury		3390	3,848
N3					Newbury		4166	4,693
N4					Newbury		1726	1,988
R1					Roding		1476	1,587
R2					Roding		2292	2,482
R3					Roding		1879	2,000
R4					Roding		2054	2,219
R5					Roding		1222	1,368
SK1					Seven Kings		2021	2,258
SK2					Seven Kings		3692	4,223
SK3					Seven Kings		2935	3,249
SK4					Seven Kings		2292	2,598
SN1					Snaresbrook		3430	3,823
SN2					Snaresbrook		2955	3,266
SN3					Snaresbrook		2624	2,907
V1					Valentines		3204	3,522
V2					Valentines		2400	2,707
V3					Valentines		4149	4,840
W1					Wanstead		2036	2,094
W2					Wanstead		2773	2,923
W3					Wanstead		4366	4,672

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2015	Variance 2015	Electorate 2021	Variance 2021
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# **Methodology statement for 2021 Electorate Forecast**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has asked the Council to produce an electoral forecast at both ward and polling district geographical level for 2021.

There is no set formula provided by LGBCE for producing such a forecast and other London boroughs that have had a review in recent years all appear to have used different methodologies.

LGBCE guidance does though stipulate that the following factors are taken into account:

- patterns of population change (births/deaths/migration);
- official Office for National Statistics (ONS) population figures;
- impact of likely housing and economic developments; and
- ratios of the adult population to the electorate, including previous trend analysis.

GLA population projections produced at ward level on an annual basis already take the first three factors (above) into account. Therefore they have been used to underpin our electoral forecast, together with analysis of the adult population to electorate ratio.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The methodology adopted is as follows:

- For each of the five years between 2011 and 2015, derive a ratio by dividing the electorate (as at December to reflect the Council's annual return to LGBCE) by the population figure for residents aged 18 years and above.
- Calculate the average ratio over the five year period for each ward and the Borough.
- Identify the projected population figure in 2021 for residents aged 18 years and above in each ward and for the Borough.
- Apply the average ratio to the projected population figure within each ward and for the Borough to determine an electoral forecast at ward and borough level.
- Constrain the electoral forecast to the population projections above.
- For each of the five years between 2011 and 2015, derive a ratio by dividing the electorate within each polling district by the electorate within the relevant ward.
- Calculate the average ratio over the five year period for each polling district.
- Apply the average ratio for each polling district to the electoral forecast for the relevant ward to determine an electoral forecast at polling district level.
- Constrain the electoral forecast at polling district level to the electoral forecast above.

# Methodology statement for 2021 Electorate Forecast

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## GLA POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Although the GLA produce housing-linked variants which use planned development data as the basis for projecting growth we have taken the view that their trend-based variant represents a more realistic projection of population growth within Redbridge by 2021:

- The process used by the GLA to produce their trend-based variant is very similar to that used by ONS to produce sub-national population projections. The variant projects forward on the basis of recent trends in fertility, migration and mortality.
- In the last decade strong population growth independent of significant new housing development has occurred in Redbridge, where more births than deaths and high levels of international migration have been the key factors. *Mid-year estimate population data published by ONS for the period between 1st July 2005 and 30th June 2014 shows that the population of Redbridge grew by 44,000 people. 50% of this growth was attributed to natural change (births minus deaths) and 46% was attributed to international migration.*
- The trend-based variant projects the 18 plus population of Redbridge to be 240,000 in 2021, which is similar to the latest (2012 based) ONS sub-national population projection for the Borough. In contrast, the housing-linked variant projects the population for the same age group as a much lower figure of 225,000 in 2021.
- The trend-based variant projects growth in each ward, which is consistent with recent trends.

## PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS

The Council's Planning & Regeneration Service submits data on planned developments to the GLA on an annual basis. Although we have opted to use a trend-based projection rather than a housing-linked projection to underpin our forecast, our view is that the LGBCE criterion of considering the likely impact of housing and economic development has been met. The GLA include development data in the model for their trend-based projection, where it is used to allocate the Borough population between wards (*used with census origin-destination data to generate proxy migration components*).

Therefore, the extent of developments has already been factored into the population projection for each ward which underpins our electoral forecast. Further rationale is as follows:

- Although the status of planned developments can change, the extent of current planned development is expected to be modest in the next 5 years, which is similar to recent years. Large scale developments with the potential to significantly impact on population growth are not yet confirmed within the development plan and so, in line with LGBCE guidance, these have not been taken account of in producing this forecast at both ward and polling district level.
- Analysis of past development shows no correlation with changes in the electorate.

# Methodology statement for 2021 Electorate Forecast

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## INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION (IER)

We have considered IER when producing our forecast and have concluded that it should not be factored in for the following reasons:

- Guidance published by LGBCE acknowledges that the introduction of IER will present a discontinuity of data across which comparisons may not be valid – our forecast is based on published population and electorate data over a five-year period.
- At this stage of the IER process it is difficult to predict whether the electoral register will be down until publication in December 2015, which is the first time that the Council will have an exact figure of the number of registered electors.
- The published figure in December 2015 will only be a static point rather than a trend.
- Whilst the number of registered electors is anticipated to decrease once those who have not successfully registered are deleted from the register, based on previous trends, it is likely that if an election were to be called there would be an increase in applications for registration from voters – *there were just over 6,000 new applications made for the general election in May 2015.*

## ELECTORAL FORECAST

The Electoral Forecast for the London Borough of Redbridge in 2021 is as follows:

- The electorate is forecast to be 231,872.
- The average electorate per councillor will be 3,681.
- Nine wards are forecast to have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for the Borough.

This forecast has been agreed by the Electoral Review Corporate Panel (refer council size submission) although it should be noted that the Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors serving on the Panel do not agree with the forecast.

The forecast is subject to final decision by the Council's Cabinet/Executive, which will be made by 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the latest.