

Please quote:  
Your reference:  
Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Please ask for: [REDACTED]  
Telephone direct: 01424 451483  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Web: [www.hastings.gov.uk](http://www.hastings.gov.uk)



**Corporate Services**  
Aquila House, Breeds Place  
Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY

Review Officer (Hastings)  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for  
England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London SW1P 4QP

Dear Sir

**RE: New Electoral Arrangements for Hastings Borough Council**

I am writing in response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's draft recommendations for the electoral review of Hastings Borough Council which were published on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The draft recommendations were considered by Special Full Council on the 16th June 2016; the Council noted that the Commission's draft recommendations proposed:

- A Council size of 32 elected members (retaining 2 member wards)
- 16 wards, with revised warding patterns, which achieve good levels of electoral equality for the Borough

Accordingly, the Council agreed to accept the Commissions draft recommendations for Hastings Borough Council.

Please find attached a copy of the Special Full Council report and the associated minute from the meeting.

Should you require any additional information, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Christine Barkshire-Jones**  
Chief Legal Officer

**Documents:**

Report to Special Full Council and associated minutes 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016.  
Report to Cabinet and associated minute 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016.



**Report to: Cabinet**

**Date of Meeting: 6 June 2016**

**Report Title: The Boundary Review**

**Report By:** [REDACTED]

Director of Corporate Services and Governance

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### **Purpose of Report**

To consider the draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Hastings Borough Council.

This report informs Members that the Council has received the Draft Recommendations for the new electoral arrangements for Hastings Borough Council from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The recommendations are out for consultation until 16th June 2016.

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### **Recommendation(s)**

**That Council recommend that the following response be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on the new electoral arrangements "Hastings Borough Council (HBC) welcomes the publication of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations in respect of Hastings Borough Councils' (HBC) electoral arrangements which, in the main reflect the submitted HBC proposals and accepts the suggested amendments to the warding pattern proposals in respect of the Borough"**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

The LGBCE draft recommendations largely reflect the proposals that the Council submitted to the LGBCE in November 2015.

## Introduction

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has published its draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Hastings Borough Council (HBC) and East Sussex County Council (and all the other Districts and Borough within East Sussex). The consultation began on 15th March 2016 and ends on the 16th June 2016, and is open to anyone who wishes to comment on the proposals.
2. The Council and all other interested stakeholders now have the opportunity to respond to the draft recommendations. Appended to this report are the recommendations made in respect of HBC (Appendix 1), as well as those made in relation to ESCC (for HBC divisions – Appendix 2). Maps detailing the proposed new boundaries will be available at the meeting.

## Analysis

### Electorate figures

3. As required by the LGBCE and associated legislation, working in partnership with ESCC, the Council produced electorate forecasts for the 5 year period between 2016 -2021. These forecasts were broken down by ward level and projected an increase in the electorate in Hastings of 11.4% to 2021. The projected growth is particularly being driven by planned new developments in West St Leonards, Ashdown and Conquest and the Hollington and Maze Hill Areas. The Commission in its report states, "having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time". The figures have formed the basis of the LGBCE draft recommendations.

### Council Size

4. In November 2015, the Council submitted a proposal to maintain the current council size of 32 Members. The Commission, in its report states that "we considered that the Councils submission was supported by evidence to justify maintaining the current Council size. We are content that the council has sufficiently demonstrated that the authority can operate efficiently and effectively under this council size and ensure effective representation of local residents".

### Warding Patterns

5. As part of the Council's submission in November 2015 a warding pattern of 16, two member wards was proposed. The proposal was for wards that would be largely the same as the present wards, but with minor modifications on all wards, to achieve greater electoral equality across the borough.
6. The Commission, in its report, states "that the proposed patterns of wards put forward by the Council resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the district and generally uses clearly identifiable boundaries. Our draft recommendations are based on the Council's borough-wide proposals."

7. The tables on pages 8 -12 of the Commission's report detail the draft recommendations for each area of the borough taking account of all submissions received by the Commission, and includes their justification for selecting a certain ward pattern (see specifically Baird, St Helens, Hollington and Wishing Tree Wards)

### **Coterminosity**

8. Coterminosity occurs when district ward boundaries align with county division boundaries. This is also a consideration of achieving convenient and effective local government. The Council welcomes the achievement of coterminosity with ESCC between our proposed wards and the proposed county divisions.

### **Electoral Equality**

9. Table A1 of the Commission's report 'Draft recommendations for Hastings Borough Council' presents the electoral data for the borough both 2015 and 2021, based on the new proposed ward boundaries. This shows that electoral equality will be achieved across all of the boroughs wards.

### **Policy Implications**

10. Equalities and Community Cohesiveness - the electoral boundary review has been instigated due to there being electoral inequality across 7 of our wards; meaning that some members represent far fewer or far more electorate. The revised ward boundaries will help to reduce this inequality.
11. Organisational Consequences - once the new electoral arrangements have been finalised by the end of the year, the new warding patterns will be taken into account in the electoral role and borough elections in 2018, and considered with regards to impacts on the shape of Super Output Areas and associated deprivation statistics.
12. Local People's Views - as part of this part of the review process the LG BCE is undertaking widespread public consultation where local people's and organisations views will be sought.
13. Anti-Poverty - the boundary review has no direct impact on increasing poverty in the Borough, but will help to ensure that there is fair and equitable electorate to member ratio across all of the wards, and thus that some of the towns most deprived communities will continue to be well represented.

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### **Wards Affected**

All Wards

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### **Policy Implications**

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	Yes
Anti-Poverty	Yes

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### Additional Information

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) website link to current reviews <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews>

Appendix 1 Report - LGBCE - Draft recommendations - New electoral arrangements for Hastings Borough Council, March 2016

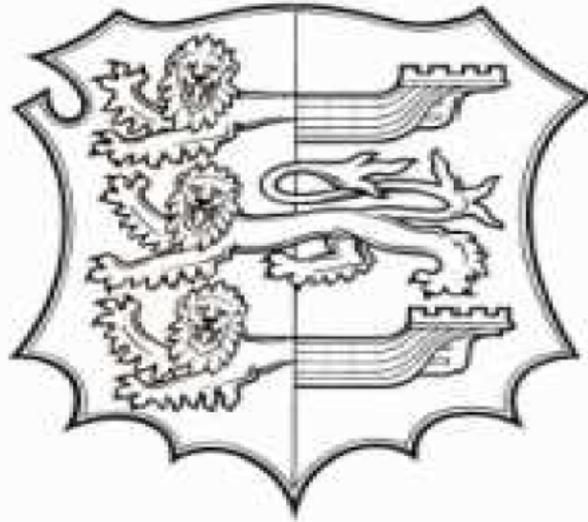
Appendix 2 – LGBCE – draft recommendations for ward boundaries – map

Appendix 3 Report - LGBCE - Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for East Sussex County Council, March 2016.

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### Officer to Contact

[REDACTED]



# Special Council Meeting

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**15 June 2016**

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## HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Council Chamber, Upper Ground Floor, Aquila House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY, on Wednesday, 15th June, 2016 at 6.00 pm at which meeting the business specified below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Legal Officer

Aquila House  
Breeds Place  
Hastings

7 June 2016

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### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Reports of Committees
  - (a) To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of any items considered while the public were excluded by the relevant committee because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of "exempt" information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the minutes of the relevant committee
  - (b) To receive and consider the recommendations and any decisions of the following committees: -

Minute No.	Subject	Cabinet Member / Chair
<b>CABINET – 6 JUNE 2016</b>		
7 (C)	Boundary Review	Cartwright

(C) – Council Decision

Note: Nothing contained in this agenda or in the attached reports and minutes of committees constitutes an offer or acceptance of an offer or an undertaking or contract by the Borough Council

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# Agenda Item 3

## CABINET

6 JUNE 2016

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward (until 6.49pm), Cartwright, Poole, Atkins, Davies, Fitzgerald and Lee

### MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

#### 7. **BOUNDARY REVIEW**

The Sustainability Policy Officer presented the report of the Director of Corporate Services and Governance on the boundary review. The report considered a draft response to a consultation by the Local Government Commission for England (LGBCE) on the new electoral arrangements for Hastings Borough Council.

The council had responded to a first stage consultation by the LGBCE in relation to proposed changes to the warding patterns of the borough ward boundaries. The LGBCE had now published its draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Hastings Borough Council and East Sussex County Council, and the other districts and boroughs throughout East Sussex. The draft recommendations were subject to a public consultation until 16 June 2016.

It was noted that the LGBCE's draft recommendations in the main reflected the proposals for warding patterns previously submitted by Hastings Borough Council.

Cabinet thanked all members and officers who had contributed to the review process.

Councillor Cartwright proposed approval of the recommendations to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance's report, which was seconded by Councillor Lee.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Council recommend that the following response be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on the new electoral arrangements "Hastings Borough Council (HBC) welcomes the publication of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations in respect of Hastings Borough Councils' (HBC) electoral arrangements which, in the main reflect the submitted HBC proposals and accepts the suggested amendments to the warding pattern proposals in respect of the Borough"**

The reason for this decision was:

The LGBCE draft recommendations largely reflect the proposals that the council submitted to the LGBCE in November 2015.

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## FULL COUNCIL

15 JUNE 2016

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Judy Rogers) in the Chair, Councillors Sinden, Batsford, Cartwright, Chowney, Clark, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Howard, Poole, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Street, Turner, Webb, Wincott, Beaver, Charman, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins, Edwards, Clarke, Dowling, Bacon, Patmore and Rankin

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Dowling and Westley

### 13. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

The Mayor referred members to minute 7 of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 June 2016, which was a matter for Council decision. Cabinet had recommended a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) consultation, as part of the boundary review, in respect of the new electoral arrangements for the Borough.

Members thanked all those who had contributed to the review process for their efforts.

Councillor Cartwright proposed approval of the recommendations in the minute, which was seconded by Councillor Street.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Hastings Borough Council (HBC) welcomes the publication of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations in respect of Hastings Borough Councils' (HBC) electoral arrangements which, in the main, reflect the submitted HBC proposals and accepts the suggested amendments to the warding patter proposals in respect of the Borough**

The reason for this decision was:

The LGBCE draft recommendations largely reflect the proposals that the council submitted to the LGBCE in November 2015.

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at. 6.07 pm)