

Electoral review March 2011

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Summary

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Rugby Borough Council

Who we are:

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas.

Electoral reviews:

The purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards – for a local authority.

Why Rugby?

We are conducting an electoral review of Rugby Borough Council to deliver improved levels of electoral equality for local voters.

Rugby currently has high levels of electoral inequality so that the value of your vote - in borough council elections - varies depending on where you live in Rugby.

Council size

We have decided to propose a council size of 42 members as part of our draft recommendations, a reduction of six from the current arrangements and in line with the proposal made by the council.

In proposing a council size of 42, the council took an evidence-based approach in its considerations and provided details of its governance structure and information on the roles, responsibilities and workload of its members.

Given the evidence provided, we consider that a council size of 42 will ensure that the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively and will provide a ward pattern that best reflects the community identities in Rugby.

Electoral arrangements

Our draft recommendations propose that Rugby's 42 councillors should represent 13 three-member and three single-member wards across Rugby.

Stage	Stage starts	Description
Council Size	20 July 2010	Submission of proposals for council size to the LGBCE
One	28 Sept 2010	Submission of proposals of warding arrangements to the LGBCE
Two	21 Dec 2010	LGBCE's analysis and deliberation
Three	29 March 2011	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	20 June 2011	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Submissions received

The Commission received eleven representations during Stage One, including a borough-wide scheme from Rugby Borough Council. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

General analysis

Having considered the submissions received during Stage One, we have developed proposals which are based broadly on those of the Council. The Council's proposals would provide good electoral equality and a clear warding pattern using man-made and natural boundaries. The Council's proposals were also supported by evidence of community identity. Where we have moved away from the Council's proposals, we have sought to use clearer ward boundaries that will result in good communication links across each ward.

Electorate figures

Rugby Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for May 2016, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2011. This is prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 8% over this period.

Although we had some concerns that this level of growth appeared somewhat high, the Council provided a robust methodology to support this increase. We are therefore content to accept the Council's electorate forecasts as the basis of our draft recommendations.

What happens next?

There will now be a consultation period, during which we encourage comment on the draft recommendations on the proposed electoral arrangements for Rugby Borough Council.

We take this consultation very seriously and it is therefore important that all those interested in the review should let us have their views and evidence, whether or not they agree with these draft proposals. We will take into account all submissions received by 20 June 2011.

We would particularly welcome local views backed up by evidence. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

Express your views by writing directly to us:

Review Officer
Rugby Review
The Local Government
Boundary Commission for
England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Or email:
reviews@lgbce.org.uk

The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament in April 2010. It is independent of government and political parties, and is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government areas.

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