

Decision Maker: **GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL**

Date: **16/21/22 May 2019**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **ELECTORAL REVIEW**

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review of Bromley's electoral arrangements, which have been in place since the last review in 1999. The first stage of the Review is for the Commission to determine the overall number of Councillors to be elected for the borough in future, before moving on to consider the detail of ward boundaries and the number of councillors representing each ward. As part of this preliminary stage, the Commission has invited the Council and any other interested parties to make submissions on Council size before the end of May 2019.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That General Purposes and Licensing Committee and the Executive approve the draft Electoral Review Council Size Submission for consideration by full Council.

That Council approves the Council Size Submission.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £350,650
 5. Source of funding: 2019/20 Revenue Budget
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Decision to be made by full Council
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Electorate of the borough
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Ward Councillor Views

2. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
3. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is currently focussed on ensuring that all Councils in London have had a recent review of their electoral arrangements. Bromley's arrangements were last reviewed in 1999, with the outcome implemented in the 2002 local elections. In conducting this review, the LGBCE will apply three statutory criteria -

- (i) electoral equality (a consistent number of electors per councillor);
- (ii) community identity (strong ward boundaries that reflect communities); and
- (iii) effective and convenient local government (coherent wards with good internal transport links).

3.2 The first stage of the Review is for the Commission to determine the overall number of Councillors to be elected for the borough in future. The LGBCE has outlined three areas that it will focus on -

- (i) the Council's governance arrangements and how it takes decisions across the broad range of its functions;
- (ii) the Council's scrutiny functions relating to its own decisions and its responsibilities to other bodies; and
- (iii) 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.

As part of this preliminary stage, the Commission has invited the Council and any other interested parties to make submissions on Council size before the end of May 2019.

3.3 The draft text of the Council's size submission is attached at [Appendix A](#). This sets out a conclusion that the Council size is broadly correct, but that, given that the Council is already towards the higher end of the elector/councillor ratio, a modest increase to 62 councillors is appropriate. This will enable the Council size to remain sustainable over the next twenty years given the projected increases in population and electorate, and the increasing demands on councillors.

3.4 The Commission is intending to make a decision on Council size on 18th June 2019. This will be followed by a period of public consultation on the warding pattern over the summer months leading towards the formulation of draft recommendations in October 2019. There will then be further public consultation on the draft recommendations before final recommendations are due to be announced in February 2020. The new arrangements will be implemented for the 2022 local elections.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children/Policy/Finance/Personnel/Legal/Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Electoral Review of the London Borough of Bromley - a guide for Councillors - LGBCE