

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Council – 25 January 2017
Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 25 January 2017

Subject: Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on its Electoral Review Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council

Report of: The Chief Executive

Summary

This report provides a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on its Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council.

Recommendations

The Constitutional and Nomination Committee is requested to recommend to the Council that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council are supported.

The Council is requested to formally adopt this position.

Wards Affected: All

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The future configuration of Council wards and the number of councillors representing Manchester is a key part of the city's governance arrangements and will influence where and how councillors fulfil their representative role and influence how public services are delivered.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	

A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	
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Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

Contact Officers:

Name: Sir Howard Bernstein
Position: Chief Executive
Telephone: 0161 234 3006
E-mail: h.bernstein@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Kate Brown
Position: Executive Office
Telephone: 0161 234 3201
E-mail: k.brown3@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Emma Burnett
Position: Head of Electoral Services Unit
Telephone: 0161 234 3146
Email: e.burnett@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

Electoral reviews: Technical guidance
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
April 2014

How to propose a pattern of wards
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Report to Council: 18 May 2016.
Draft submission on Council size for the Local Government Boundary Commission
for England's Electoral Review of Manchester City Council

Report to Council: 21 September 2016.
Draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on proposed Warding Patterns for Manchester

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) is currently undertaking a review of Manchester City Council's electoral arrangements and will make recommendations to Parliament on:

- The total number of councillors that should be elected to the authority in the future ('Council size').
- The boundaries, names and number of councillors to represent each ward.

1.2 The review began in January 2016 and will conclude with all out elections taking place in May 2018.

1.3 The review was triggered due to the number of wards across the city with electoral imbalances which are over the 10% tolerance from the average size, as set by the LGBCE, and specifically the size of Cheetham ward, which was more than 30% larger than the average ward electorate at the time.

2.0 Review process, timetable and progress to date

2.1 The key dates in the Electoral Review timetable are set out in Appendix 1.

2.2 Council Size Phase: January 2016 - July 2016

2.2.1 The first phase of the LGBCE's review process commenced in late 2015 and ended in July 2016.

2.2.2 In May 2016, Council approved the submission made to the LGBCE on the Council's size. This was based on evidence about the city, its governance and decision making arrangements, the representative role of councillors and also took into account electorate forecasts for 2022. The Council supported the Council size remaining at 96 Councillors.

2.2.3 In July 2016, the LGBCE recommended remaining at a Council size of 96 councillors, based in 32 wards served by three councillors each.

2.3 Warding Patterns Phase 1 - 26 July 2016 until 26 September 2016:

2.3.1 The first phase of the Warding Patterns consultation took place between July and September 2016. In this stage, the Commission started with a 'blank map' of the authority and asked the Council, councillors and local groups, stakeholders and residents to provide evidence about community interactions, geographical features and local circumstances to help draw up new ward boundaries, to accommodate the 96 councillors.

2.3.2 In September 2016, the Council approved its draft submission on Warding Patterns which was developed on the basis of 96 Councillors and 32 wards. The submission took into account the predicted distribution of an electorate of 417,015, across the city by 2022 by current polling district, five years from the

end of the Review as required by the legislative process. This used figures submitted by the Council and previously accepted by the LGBCE).

2.3.3 Given the electoral imbalances which currently exist and to take account of the future growth and development which will impact on size and distribution of the electorate across the city by 2022, the proposals focused on ensuring that arrangements were 'future proofed' to achieve electoral equality within this time frame, within the plus or minus 10% variance accepted by the LGBCE. In practice this meant that the proposals involved change to the all but one of the city's current 32 wards, with significant change to the city centre and its northern/eastern fringes where most of residential development has and will continue to take place.

2.4 Warding Patterns Phase 2 - 29 November until 23 January 2017 (following Council on 25 January 2017 for Manchester City Council):

2.4.1 The LGBCE published its Draft Recommendations for new electoral arrangements, including new wards, ward boundaries and ward names on 29 November 2016.

2.4.2 A second period of public consultation focusing on these Draft Recommendations was undertaken by the LGBCE between 29 November 2016 and 23 January 2017. Manchester City Council has been given permission to submit its response to this consultation following the Council meeting on 25 January 2017.

2.4.3 This consultation period provides the Council, councillors and local groups, stakeholders and residents the opportunity to comment on these draft recommendations, for consideration by the LGBCE prior to their finalisation of the scheme.

2.5 Final recommendations and conclusion of the Review

2.5.1 The LGBCE will finalise its proposals and publish final recommendations on 11 April 2017. Following this, the LGBCE will draft an Order to implement the recommendations which will be laid in Parliament in May 2017.

2.5.2 On 3 May 2018 all out elections will take place to implement the Council size and warding patterns determined by the Review process.

3.0 The Council's response to the LGBCE's consultation on its Draft Recommendations

3.1 The LGBCE's Draft Recommendations and the corresponding ward maps can be found in Appendices 2 and 3 of this report. The LGBCE has developed these Draft Recommendations taking into account the 16 consultation submissions it received, including the one city-wide proposal which was submitted by Manchester City Council. The LGBCE has also undertaken its own research and drawn on wider evidence including visits to the city to determine the most appropriate proposals for ward boundaries and ward

names. As a result the LGBCE Draft Recommendations have drawn on this range of factors, including consideration of the Council's submission.

- 3.2 The LGBCE's Draft Recommendations have proposed that Manchester should be represented by 96 councillors in 32 wards, which is the same number of Councillors and wards as there are now. However, with exception of Baguley ward, the proposed boundaries for all other wards will change. This is similar to the scale of change that was proposed in the Council's warding pattern submission. The ward names for the 32 wards included in the Council's submission have all been included in the LGBCE's Draft Recommendations.
- 3.3 Further detail for each area of Manchester can be found in the LGBCE's Draft Recommendations document pages 8 to 15 (Appendix 2). This also details how the proposals reflect the three statutory criteria of equality of representation; reflecting community interests and identities; and providing for effective and convenient local government. A summary of how the LGBCE Draft Recommendations compare to the Council's submission made in the first Warding Patterns consultation phase can be found in Appendix 4.

4.0 Contributing to the Manchester Strategy

- 4.1 The future configuration of the Council's wards and the number of councillors representing Manchester is a key part of the city's governance arrangements. The outcome of the Electoral Review will influence where and how councillors fulfil their representative role and influence the delivery of public services, following all out elections in 2018.

5.0 Key Policies and Considerations

5.1 (a) Equal Opportunities

- 5.1.1 The outcome of the Electoral Review will determine both the number of councillors in the city, the number, boundaries and names of the wards from which they can effectively represent Manchester's diverse communities.

5.2 (b) Risk Management

- 5.2.1 None

5.3 (c) Legal Considerations

- 5.3.1 The Electoral Review is a statutory process governed by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The LGBCE's final recommendations for Manchester will be laid in Parliament in May 2017.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Timetable for the Electoral Review
- Appendix 2 LGBCE Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council
- Appendix 3 LGBCE's draft recommendations ward boundaries
- Appendix 4 Comparison of the LGBCE Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council (published November 2016) compared to Manchester City Council's submission (approved by Council 21 September 2016)

Appendix 1 Timetable for the Electoral Review

Start of the preliminary phase of the consultation on Council size	January 2016
LGBCE briefing for all Members at Full Council	20 January 2016
Full Council consider draft Council Size proposal	18 May 2016
Initial information supplied to LGBCE including elector projections for 2022	By: 26 May 2016
Final submission on Council Size	By: 21 June 2016
LGBCE Council Size Meeting	19 July 2016
Warding Patterns Consultation Start	26 July 2016
Council submission on Warding Patterns	Between 26 July 2016 and 26 September 2016
Full Council consider draft Warding Patterns submission	21 September 2016
Warding Patterns Consultation End	26 September 2016
LGBCE Draft Recommendations published and consultation commences	29 November 2016
LGBCE consultation on Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council	Between 29 November 2016 and 23 January 2017
Full Council consider draft response to LGBCE's consultation on Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council	25 January 2017
Consultation closes	23 January 2017 (response to LGBCE from Manchester City Council to be accepted following Council meeting on 25 January 2017)
LGBCE Final Recommendations published	11 April 2017
Order Laid in Parliament	May 2017
Order Made	July 2017
Recommendations implemented	Normal election day in May 2018 (3 May 2018) all out elections