

REPORT TO:	GENERAL PURPOSES & AUDIT COMMITTEE 29th November 2016
AGENDA ITEM:	5
SUBJECT:	Boundary Review Consultation Response from Croydon Council
LEAD OFFICER:	Sarah Ireland, Director of Strategy Communities and Commissioning
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Simon Hall Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON	
<p>The Boundary Review responds to Croydon's plans for growth and the resulting expected increase in the adult population and impact on the borough's electoral arrangements. It addresses electoral inequality that exists between different parts of the borough. In addition plans for greater local devolution will enable Croydon's communities to have bigger say in identifying and responding to local priorities.</p> <p>The Council has requested a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to address current and forecast variations in electoral equality. The review will ensure that electoral equality is achieved for the medium term based on forecasts for 2022, which will take into account the significant demographic change as a result of planned regeneration and development, in particular in and around the Town Centre.</p>	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: There are no direct costs arising from this report.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1 The Committee is asked to agree the Council's ward pattern for 2022 as set out in the Appendix, under the delegation given by the Council meeting on the 17 th October 2016, and
1.2 Delegate to the Executive Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chair of the General Purposes and Audit Committee, the final warding submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England based upon the warding pattern set out in the Appendix.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report follows the report presented at the General Purposes & Audit Committee on the 29th June 2016. This report responds to the LGBCE consultation launched on the 27th September 2016, the first part of an electoral review which will re-draw ward boundaries across the borough.
- 2.2 As part of the consultation process, the Boundary Commission now needs information from people and groups across Croydon to help it to produce a new pattern of wards to accommodate 70 ward councillors.
- 2.3 In consideration of the Boundary Commission's three statutory criteria, an evidence base has been used as the rationale for the ward proposals and elector number representation for wards across the borough of Croydon. The statutory criteria are:
1. They deliver electoral equality where each borough councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the borough;
 2. That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities;
 3. That the electoral arrangement should provide for effective and convenient local government.
- 2.4 Following submission of the consultation response document the LGBCE will consider this and any other submissions before making a 'minded to' decision on future ward boundaries, based on the electoral forecast and strength of the evidence presented. This will be subject to the remaining process outlined in the timetable below.

Stages that remain in the process	When
Commission consult on warding patterns following confirmation of 70 councillor positions for Croydon	27 Sep – 05 Dec 16
Stage 2: Council to prepare and agree warding submission	Sep-Dec 16
Commission publish draft recommendations	Feb 17
Commission publish final recommendations	June 17
Order laid	May 17
Implementation for local elections (Polling district and station review)	By May 18

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 As outlined above, the review is in two stages: stage one identifies the number of councillors required by the Council to maintain effective governance, scrutiny and representation as presented to Council on 23 May and detailed in the LGBCE guidance. The recommended number for Croydon is 70. (<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/policy-and-publications/guidance>)
- 3.2 This report looks at the second stage. There are a number of factors which are likely to increase councillor workloads over the next six years, in particular:
- The rapid change taking place through major regeneration and development, notably that of the Metropolitan Town Centre and surrounding area which will result in around 7,000 new homes by 2022 [equivalent to a three seat ward in its own right];
 - An increasing and more transient population, particularly in the north of the borough;
 - An increase in devolved powers to the Council and a changing role of the Council (e.g., outcome based commissioning jointly with the Clinical Commissioning Group, lead for a four borough waste and street cleaning contract, lead role on Growth Zone and infrastructure development);
 - A decision to devolve more decisions to local ward councillors in consultation with local communities through a new area forum model which builds on the success of community ward budgets;
 - Severe financial pressures and increased demand for services which is likely to lead to an increase in councillor caseload.
- 3.3 Natural population growth together with that due to migration and new development will see the local government electorate increase from 264,126 in 2016 to a forecast 281,944 by 2022. This is equivalent to 4,028 electors for each councillor and represents an increase of 6.75%. Details of the electoral forecast methodology formed part of Appendix 1 of the original June 2016 submission document. The forecast is based on the GLA ward population forecasts and takes into account planned housing development and activity to maintain current electoral registration rates and address areas and groups where electoral registration has traditionally been low.
- 3.4 Following the June 2016 Croydon submission, the summary provided in Appendix 1 sets out the Councils warding proposals in response to the LGBCE consultation that is open until the 5th December 2016. The attached report sets out recommendations for the future ward configuration for the borough that has been informed through consideration of a range of essential local community, geographical and future development characteristics. In determining the appropriate warding pattern, the Council has explored how three interdependent

models for describing the borough and its communities can inform the electoral pattern:

- Croydon's Sixteen Places
- Impact of the built and natural environment
- Community organisations

- 3.5 In combination, these models encapsulate the LGBCE's second criteria of community identity and interest, whilst also supporting the third criteria in demonstrating effective and convenient local government. Review against these three models has enabled the Council to consider a range of markers which identify the communities within Croydon and the Council has been minded to reflect these in its warding proposals. These include community facilities, major roads, rail and tram infrastructure, green spaces, town and district centres, residents associations and community groups.
- 3.6 Proposals for 2022 ward boundaries draws upon the LGBCE statutory criteria and examination of the changing face of Croydon. This includes trends and developments for the future. The ward boundaries in Croydon need to change in order to be equipped for the issues of now and challenges for the future. Based on this evidence base, the following wards are proposed in Table 1 with 70 councillors against 27 new wards.
- 3.7 Single-member wards are not preferred given the lack of resilience if a ward member is unavailable. Given population density and the geographic concentration of communities within the borough, the Council is of the view that there are no circumstances which warrant a single-member ward.

Table 1 – Composition of new wards with councillor ratios

Areas / Places	New ward	Number of Councillors	Polling districts	Electorate Size 2022	Variance from electoral ideal	
Addiscombe	Addiscombe East	3	AD1 (p), AD2, AD6 (p), AS1 (p), AS2, AS4, AS5, AS6	12,533	3.72%	
	Addiscombe West	3	AD1 (p), AD3, AD4, AD5, AD6 (p), WS3 (p), WS6	11,629	-3.77%	
Central	Town Centre	2	FA1, FA2	8,447	4.85%	
	North Croydon	3	BG4 (p), BM5 (p), SE1 (p), SE3, SE4, SE5, SE6, SE7	11,726	-2.96%	
	West Croydon	3	BG1, BG2, BG3, BG4 (p), BG5 (p), BG6, BG7 (p), WT6 (p)	11,579	-4.18%	
	Waddon and Old Town	3	BG5 (p), BG7 (p), FA3, FA4 (p), WA1, WA2, WA3, WA4, WA5 (p), WA6 (p)	12,746	5.48%	
	South Croydon	3	CR1, CR2 (p), CR4, CR5 (p), FA4 (p), PU6 (p), WA5 (p), WA6 (p)	11,884	-1.65%	
	Coombe	2	CR2 (p), CR3 (p), FA5, FA6, FA7	8,201	1.80%	
Coulsdon	Coulsdon	3	CE1, CE2 (p), CE7, CW1 (p), CW2 (p), CW3, CW4, CW5, CW6, KE1 (p)	12,108	0.20%	
Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood / Norbury	Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood	3	NY1 (p), SN1 (p), SN2 (p), UN1, UN2, UN3, UN4 (p), UN5, UN6 (p)	12,317	1.93%	
	Norbury	3	BM1 (p), NY1 (p), NY2, NY3, NY4, NY5, NY6, NY7, UN4 (p)	11,955	-1.07%	
Kenley and Old Coulsdon	Kenley	3	KE1 (p), KE2, KE3, KE4, KE5, KE6, KE7, PU4 (p), PU5 (p)	11,738	-2.86%	
	Old Coulsdon and Hartley	2	CE1, CE2 (p), CE3, CE4, CE5, CE6	8,495	5.45%	
New Addington	New Addington North	2	FW1, FW2, FW3, FW4	7,563	-6.12%	
	New Addington South	2	NA1, NA2, NA3, NA4	7,612	-5.51%	
Purley	Purley	3	CR5 (p), CW1 (p), CW2 (p), KE1 (p), PU1, PU2, PU3, PU4 (p), PU5 (p), PU6 (p), WA6 (p)	12,474	3.23%	
Sanderstead and Croham Hurst	Sanderstead and Riddlesdown	2	PU5 (p), SA1 (p), SA3 (p), SA4, SA5	8,183	1.57%	
	Croham Hurst	2	CR3 (p), CR6, SA1 (p), SA2, SA3 (p), SB2, SB3 (p)	7,718	-4.20%	
Selsdon	Addington	2	HE1 (p), HE3, HE4, HE5, HE6, HE7	7,985	-0.88%	
	Selsdon	2	SB1, SB3 (p), SB4, SB5, SB6	8,071	0.19%	
Shirley	Monks Orchard	2	AS1 (p), AS3, HE1 (p), SH1, SH2, SH3 (p)	8,537	5.97%	
	Shirley	2	HE1 (p), HE2, SH3 (p), SH4, SH5, SH6	8,632	7.15%	
South Norwood	Woodside and South Norwood East	3	SN4 (p), SN6, WS1, WS2, WS3 (p), WS4, WS5	11,880	-1.69%	
	South Norwood West	3	SN1 (p), SN2 (p), SN3, SN4 (p), SN5, SE1 (p), SE2, TH3 (p), TH6 (p)	12,012	-0.60%	
Thomton Heath	Thomton Heath North	3	TH1, TH2, TH3 (p), TH4, TH5 (p), TH6 (p), UN4 (p), UN6 (p), UN7	12,326	2.00%	
	Thomton Heath South	3	BM1 (p), BM2, BM3, BM4, BM5 (p), BM6, TH5 (p), TH6 (p)	11,884	-1.65%	
	West Thomton	3	WT1, WT2, WT3, WT4, WT5, WT6 (p)	11,709	-3.10%	

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

Approved by Lisa Taylor, Assistant Director Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer.

5. COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

5.1 The Council Solicitor comments that when conducting electoral reviews the LGBCE electoral reviews must adhere to the requirements of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). This consolidates and amends provisions previously contained in the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Act 1992 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

5.2 The 2009 Act enables the LGBCE to make recommendations for the following aspects of local authority electoral arrangements:

1. The total number of councillors to be elected to the council (known as 'council size');
 2. The number and boundaries of wards/divisions;
 3. The number of councillors to be elected for each ward/division; and
 4. The name of any ward/division.
- 5.3 Schedule 2 of the 2009 Act sets out statutory criteria to which the LGBCE must have regard in conducting electoral reviews which in broad terms is the need to:
1. Secure equality of representation;
 2. Reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
 3. Secure effective and convenient local government.

Approved by: Jacqueline Harris-Baker, Acting Borough Solicitor and Acting Monitoring Officer.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 6.1 There are no HR issues arising from this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT

- 7.1 The framework for carrying out the boundary review is set by the Boundary Commission for England and the purpose of the review is to ensure electoral equality in terms of representation for all Croydon residents, a fundamental democratic principle. The submission is recommending that the Council maintains the current number of Councillors (70).
- 7.2 The submission will be available to all residents through the Council's web site with links to the Boundary Commission website through which community groups and individual residents will be able to make their own formal submissions on future warding arrangements should they wish or to comment on the Boundary commission's recommendations.
- 7.3 This (second) stage of the review will seek to make adjustments to ward boundaries that reflect local communities and ensure that the numbers of electors in each ward are approximately equal in terms of the elector / councillor ratio. Following the Boundary Commission Review the Council will need to consider changes to Polling Districts and Stations which will address more specific access issues. In addition analysis has identified that electoral registration is lower in certain areas and groups and specific activity will be carried out to address this going forward to ensure that all groups are encouraged to register and take part in the electoral process.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no direct environmental impacts arising from this report but the review will result in changes to current wards and boundaries. New warding arrangements will be informed by location of geographical features and barriers and 'natural local communities.'

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 9.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

10. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FoI) / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 Only summary electoral information is provided to the Commission for the purpose of the review – individual elector details are not disclosed.
- 10.2 Once agreed the Council's submission and forecast will be fully accessible through the Council's website and also available through the LGBCE web site where visitors will be able to make submissions or comment on draft proposals.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Sarah Ireland
Post title: Director of Strategy, Communities & Commissioning
Telephone no: X62070

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

LGBCE presentation and briefing to Council, 23rd May 2016
GPAC report and submission, 29th June 2016

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Summary of warding proposals