



General Purposes Committee
17 October 2018

Report from the Chief Executive

Electoral Boundary Review ward pattern proposals for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appendix A: Existing ward boundary map - Appendix B: Proposal 1 Full Borough map - Appendix C: Proposal 1 Individual ward maps - Appendix D: Proposal 1 Statistics - Appendix E: Proposal 2 Full Borough map - Appendix F: Proposal 2 Individual ward maps - Appendix G: Proposal 2 Statistics
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electoral Boundary Review Council size submission for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (Brent Full Council 9 July 2018) - LGBCE Electoral Reviews: Technical Guidance - LGBCE Electoral Figures
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose two patterns of wards for consideration by Members as part of the Electoral Review of Brent Council. The proposals meet the criteria that the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) set out in law when producing a new pattern of wards or electoral divisions.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the General Purposes Committee considers and comments on the draft warding pattern proposals, and proposals for ward names.

2.2 That the General Purposes Committee authorises the Chief Executive to make changes to the proposed ward patterns and names on behalf of the Council for further consideration by the General Purposes Committee on 31 October 2018 in view of a final submission to the LGBCE by 5 November 2018.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Council, at its meeting held on 9 July 2018, unanimously authorised the Chief Executive to make a submission on a future council size of 57 councillors to the LGBCE.

3.2 The LGBCE announced in August 2018 that it was minded to make a recommendation of a future council size of 57 councillors. This represents a reduction in Councillors from 63 to 57 (to be elected in May 2022).

3.3 In proposing a reduction in Councillors, the Council and Commission have taken into account the workload of Councillors, the changing way in which people access information and the governance arrangements of the Council.

3.4 As part of the next stage in the Electoral Review process, the LGBCE is now consulting widely on ward patterns for a council size of 57 councillors. The Council is not legally required to put forward a proposal however two proposals have been developed for consideration, based on a Council size of 57 Councillors.

3.5 In designing a pattern of electoral wards the Council has been mindful that the Commission must balance its three statutory criteria and has tried to create wards accordingly.

The three main elements of the criteria are as follows:

- **Delivering Electoral Equality for Local Voters** – Ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters so that the value of each vote is the same regardless of where a voter within the Borough lives. Based on the forecast electorate figures for 2024 published by the LGBCE, this would equate to a targeted average electorate of 4,311 per councillor.
- **Interests and Identities of Local Communities** – Establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, avoid splitting local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable. The Council has considered physical barriers marking the boundary between different communities such as major roads, rivers or railway lines.

- **Effective and Convenient Local Government** – Ensuring that the wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole, including both the council size decision and the warding arrangements, allow the local authority to conduct its business.

Electoral Forecasting

- 3.6 The Council has projected an electorate forecast for Brent for 2024. This work was led by the Council's GIS and Electoral Services teams. The Council used the electorate figures as of 2 July 2018 as a starting point, together with the identified residential developments up to 2024.
- 3.7 The primary factor that was taken into account when producing the two warding pattern proposals was electoral equality for voters. Under the current warding arrangements one ward has a variance of over 30% from the average and a further 9 wards have a variance of 10% or more.
- 3.8 Officers then divided the Borough, based on the LGBCE guidance, to build the new wards. The new warding patterns for both proposals achieve ward electorate sizes within 10% of the average size for a single ward (4,311 electors per Councillor) whilst still having regard to community identities. Both proposals meet the LGBCE criteria.
- 3.9 Wherever possible the boundaries for the proposed wards endeavour to use obvious natural barriers such as major roads, railway lines and water ways. This has not been possible on every occasion; in some instances major roads intersect well established communities.

Under both of the new proposals the highest variance is 8.60% and this is in a ward where there is little to no future development.

4. Proposed Warding Patterns

- 4.1 The warding patterns are based on a council size of 57 elected members.
- 4.2 In designing a ward pattern the case for all single member wards was considered against a mix of multi-member wards.
- 4.3 Proposal one is comprised of 19 wards in total with each ward being represented by 3 Councillors.**
- 4.4 Proposal two is comprised of 20 wards in total with 17 wards each being represented by 3 Councillors and 3 wards being represented by 2 Councillors.**
- 4.5 Community identities and interests:

We have also identified 5 areas that are known to have a particular community identity and have looked to either retain, reinforce or reflect these in our proposal. The communities in question are:

- Harlesden;

- Neasden;
- Queen's Park;
- Wembley Park;
- Willesden Green.

4.6 The guidance provided by the LGBCE sets out its approach to the naming of wards. It recommends that where wards remain largely unchanged the existing name should be retained unless a good reason is provided to justify the change. In designing the pattern of wards consideration has been given to ward names that reflect continuity of community identification in respect of the proposed wards as well as other factors such as local community landmarks and smaller area names. The Council has also given consideration to whether existing ward names are still relevant where community identities may have changed over time.

4.7 **The following ward proposals are the same for both proposals and are for 3 member wards.**

Ward 1 – Wembley Central ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Wembley Central ward but incorporates some of the current Alperton and Tokyngton wards. The community centre of the ward remains Wembley Central.

Ward 2 – Queensbury ward

The boundary for this ward remains unchanged from the current Queensbury ward. When forecasting the electorate for 2024, it was projected to be 12,906 which represents a marginal variance from the mean electorate. There is also an established local community identity in this area.

Ward 3 – Mapesbury ward

The ward takes in the entirety of the current Mapesbury ward but takes in some of the current Dudden Hill Ward. The community centre would incorporate parts of Willesden and Cricklewood.

Ward 4 – Sudbury ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Sudbury ward but takes in some of the current Wembley Central ward. The community centre of the ward remains Sudbury.

Ward 5 – Willesden Green ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Willesden Green ward as it is one of the established communities; for electoral equality it would take in some of Dudden Hill ward.

Ward 7 - Northwick Park ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Northwick Park ward but also incorporates some of the current Sudbury ward. The community centre remains Northwick Park.

Ward 8 – Queens Park ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Queens Park ward as it is one of the established communities; for electoral equality it takes in some of the current Kensal Green ward.

Ward 9 – Kilburn ward

The boundary for this proposed ward remains unchanged from the current Kilburn ward. When forecasting the electorate for 2024 was projected to be 12,581 which is a marginal variance from the mean electorate.

Ward 10 – Kingsbury ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Fryent ward but also encompasses some of the current Welsh Harp and Barnhill wards. The community centre for this ward would be Kingsbury hence the suggested a name change.

Ward 11 - Brondesbury Park

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Brondesbury Park ward but also incorporates some of the current Kensal Green ward. The community centre remains Brondesbury Park.

Ward 12 – Tokyngton ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Tokyngton ward but also incorporates some of the current Stonebridge ward. The current CST1 polling district has been moved into this ward as the North Circular Road forms the boundary for this proposed ward. The community centre remains Tokyngton.

Ward 13 – Kenton ward

The ward takes in the entirety of the current Kenton ward and also takes in some of the current Northwick Park and Barnhill wards. The new boundary for this ward runs along the two railway lines thus forming a natural ward boundary. The community centre remains Kenton.

Ward 14 – Dollis Hill ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Dollis Hill ward but would also incorporate some of the current Dudden Hill ward. The community centre remains Dollis Hill.

Ward 16 – Neasden ward

This ward is made up of the current Welsh Harp ward but also incorporates some of the current Barnhill and Dudden Hill wards. As this ward covers one of the established communities of Neasden a name change for the ward is proposed.

Ward 17 – Wembley Park ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Barnhill ward but also incorporates some of the current Tokyngton and Stonebridge wards. As this ward covers one of the established communities of Wembley Park a name change for the ward is proposed.

Ward 18 – Alperton ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Alperton ward but also incorporates some of the current Wembley Central ward. The community centre remains Alperton.

Ward 19 – Preston ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Preston ward but also incorporates some of the current Tokyngton ward. The community centre remains Preston.

4.8 **The following are for proposal 1 and are for 3 member wards**

Ward 6 – Stonebridge ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Stonebridge ward but also incorporates some of the current Tokyngton and Harlesden wards. The community centre remains Stonebridge.

Ward 15 – Harlesden ward

This ward is predominantly made up of the current Harlesden ward as it is one of the established communities for electoral equality it takes in some of the current Kensal Green and Willesden Green wards.

4.9 **The following are for Proposal 2 and are for 2 member wards**

Ward 6 – Stonebridge ward

This is predominantly made up of the current Stonebridge ward but also incorporates some of the current Tokyngton ward. The community centre remains Stonebridge.

Ward 15 – Harlesden ward

This ward is predominantly made up of a more concentrated area of the current Harlesden ward as it is one of the established communities for electoral equality it takes in some of the current Kensal Green ward.

Ward 20 – Church End ward

This ward is made up of the current Harlesden and Stonebridge wards in equal measure but also incorporates small parts of the current Kensal Green and Willesden Green wards. The community centre would focus around Church End which could suggest a name change.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report however it is estimated that if either proposal is agreed savings will be identified in the management and running of elections.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Recommendations are made within the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 which the LGBCE must adhere to.

7.0 Equality Implications

- 7.1 Recommendations have taken into consideration the diverse make-up of the borough and the need for councillors to reflect this diversity as they carry out their representational role.
- 7.2 For the above reasons, the introduction of one-member wards is not recommended in Brent to ensure that the diverse nature of representation in the borough is not impacted.

8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 8.1 All Councillors are encouraged to provide feedback on these proposals in order to finalise proposals in advance of the General Purposes meeting on 31 October 2018.
- 8.2 The LGBCE initial consultation on warding patterns is open until 5 November 2018. Once the consultation closes, the LGBCE consider all submissions and will then put forward a draft recommendation for the warding pattern for Brent. There is a further consultation period on those recommendations. Ward members have been informed of the initial consultation and how to participate.
- 8.3 External stakeholders, including youth groups, residents' associations, cultural groups, faith communities, neighbourhood forums and other community groups have also been informed of the consultation and how to participate.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 9.1 There are no direct human resources or property implications which relate to this this stage in the Electoral Review process.

Report sign off:

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive