



General Purposes Committee
19 March 2019

**Report from the Chief Executive
and Returning Officer**

**Local Government Boundary Commission for England's
(LGBCE) draft recommendations for the new electoral
arrangements for Brent Council**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	Four: Appendix 1: Letter sent to the Chief Executive of London Borough of Brent; Appendix 2: Summary of the Brent report; Appendix 3: Draft recommendations report for London Borough of Brent Council; Appendix 4: Draft recommendations map for London Borough of Brent Council.
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Matt Willis, Principal Electoral Services Manager, Tel: 020 8937 1375, Matt.Willis@brent.gov.uk Thomas Cattermole, Head of Executive and Member Services, Tel: 020 8937 5446 Thomas.Cattermole@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek views and prompt a discussion about the LGBCE's draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Brent.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the General Purposes Committee and Members consider the draft recommendations made by the LGBCE.

2.2 That the General Purposes Committee and Members consider and comment on the draft warding pattern recommendations, and recommendations for ward names.

2.3 That any views expressed and comments made be submitted to the LGBCE by the Council.

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.
- 3.3 Between 28 August 2018 and 5 November 2018 the LGBCE consulted on ward patterns for a council size of 57 councillors.
- 3.4 The Returning Officer developed two ward pattern proposals for consideration, and these were considered by the General Purposes Committee held on 17 October and 31 October 2018. Executive and Member Services staff also met with Councillors to discuss the two proposals and to look at any amendments proposed by Councillors.
- 3.5 After much deliberation, the General Purposes committee, at its meeting on 31 October, agreed unanimously that the Council would not submit an agreed Council submission. The General Purposes committee agreed that the Council's Chief Executive would submit all working documents to the LGBCE. Accordingly, the Council's Chief Executive wrote to the LGBCE on 01 November 2018.
- 3.6 On 5 February, the LGBCE released their draft recommendations for the new electoral arrangements for Brent Council.
- 3.7 The consultation period on the draft recommendations opened on 5 February 2019 and will close on 15 April 2019.

4.0 LGBCE draft recommendations

- 4.1 The LGBCE conducted a review into the electoral arrangements of Brent Council as the last review was completed in 2000, and because there was electoral inequality between the different wards in Brent. Some councillors represent many more or fewer voters than others under the current ward structure.
- 4.2 The LGBCE's review aims to ensure that:
 - The wards in Brent are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively;
 - The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.
- 4.3 The draft recommendations were determined by the LGBCE taking into account the duty to reflect the three statutory criteria of:
 - Equality of representation;
 - Reflecting community interests and identities;
 - Providing for effective and convenient local government.

- 4.4 The headlines of the draft recommendations are that:
- Brent should be represented by 57 councillors, six fewer than there are now;
 - Brent should have 22 wards, one more than there now;
 - The boundaries of most wards should change; one (Kilburn) will stay the same.
- 4.5 The draft recommendations are for 13 three-councillor wards and nine two-councillor wards. These are:

Proposed Ward Name	Number of Councillors
Alperton	3
Barnhill	2
Brondesbury Park	2
Cricklewood	2
Dudden Hill	3
Gladstone	3
Harlesden & Kensal Green West	3
Kensal Green East & Kensal Rise	3
Kenton	3
Kilburn	3
Kingsbury	2
Northwick Park	2
Preston North	2
Preston South & Wembley Hill	3
Queensbury	3
Roundwood	3
Stonebridge	3
Sudbury	2
Tokyngton	2
Welsh Harp	3
Wembley Central	3
Wembley Park	2
Total 22	Total 57

Views are sought on the draft recommended names and boundaries for the new electoral arrangements.

- 4.6 Tables and maps on pages 40-53 of Appendix 3 (listed as pages 8-21 in the document content index) detail the draft recommendations and the LGBCE's justifications for each area of Brent.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

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 There are no direct equality implications from this report.

8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

8.1 The LGBCE consultation on the draft recommendations is open until 15 April 2019. Once the consultation closes, the LGBCE will consider all submissions and will then consider whether the draft recommendations should be altered. The final recommendations will be published on 2 July 2019.

8.2 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 that relate to this stage in the Electoral Review Process.

Report sign off:

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive