



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date **Thursday, 18 February 2021**
Venue **Remote Meeting**

Time **6.00 pm**

Enquiries Regarding this Agenda

Democratic Services	Josef Galkowski	01952 388356
Media Enquiries	Corporate Communications	01952 382406
Lead Officer	Anthea Lowe, Associate Director: Policy & Governance	01952 383200

Committee Membership:

Councillors K T Blundell, C Cassar (Chair), N A Dugmore,
E J Greenaway, V J Holt (Vice-Chair), A D McClements and
R A Overton

AGENDA

1. **Appointment of the Chair**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** 3 - 4
To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.
5. **Terms of Reference** 5 - 8
6. **Borough Electoral Review**
To receive a presentation from the Associate Director: Policy & Governance in relation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of electoral arrangements.

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BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Monday, 27 January 2020 at 6.00 pm in Meeting Rooms G3/G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Present: Councillors K T Blundell, N A Dugmore, E J Greenaway, V J Holt (Vice-Chair), A D McClements, R A Overton and B J Thompson

In Attendance:

J Eatough, Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning,
J Galkowski, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer

Apologies: Councillors C Cassar

BRC8 Declarations of Interest

None.

BRC9 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

BRC10 Request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to Undertake a Review of Electoral Arrangements

The Director for Governance presented a report to the Boundary Review Committee which requested permission for Officers at the Council to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to undertake a review of the electoral arrangements of Telford and Wrekin borough. Likewise Members were asked to consider whether such a request should include a review of the parish arrangements alongside the review of the borough arrangements.

Since the last review of the electoral arrangements in 2014, the population of the borough had significantly increased especially in the areas of Lawley and Newport, by 24.8% and 10.4% respectively. Many areas were also expected to receive further housing development through the Local Plan and private investment. It was considered that this could produce disproportionate representation and reduced access to democracy in some areas. The Council did not meet some of the criteria for a review to be undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, however a review could still be requested provided a strong enough case was made. Officers believed a reasonable argument for a review could be made on the premise that community cohesion could be enhanced, particularly noticeable in the example of Lawley where extensive development had created a recognisable and identifiable community.

Members welcomed the report and expressed their support for what they had heard. However, they were keen to emphasize that any review of the electoral arrangements within Telford and Wrekin should require parish and town council involvement in the process, as well as the Boundary Review Committee. This was to ensure that local level voices were heard, as previous experience had led Members to feel that the Commission did not apply sufficient weight to local issues such as identity.

Members queried what financial assets the Council held to support a review if it took place, to which the Director of Governance responded that it was anticipated a Project Officer would be necessary to oversee the process and that funding was available for this. The Committee also believed that if the request was declined by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, then the Council should undertake a borough-wide community governance review of the electoral arrangements in Telford and Wrekin.

RESOLVED – that authority be delegated to the Director of Governance, in consultation with the Chair of the Boundary Review Committee, to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England asking it to commence a review of electoral arrangements for the Borough of Telford and Wrekin, including a request for a review of the parish electoral arrangements.

The meeting ended at 6.26 pm

Chairman:

Date: 18 February 2021

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE – 18 FEBRUARY 2021

REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

For the Boundary Review Committee to review its Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee review and agree the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	The Committee is part of the Council's decision making framework and therefore contributes to all of the Council's priorities.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	If the Committee recommends any changes to the Terms of Reference; they will proceed to Council Constitution Committee and then, if approved, onto full Council at the earliest opportunity.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes/No	
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes/No	The Constitution requires that the Terms of Reference be reviewed on an annual basis. The Council is required to comply with the Constitution.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	There are no other specific impacts arising from this report.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Constitution requires that Full Council should agree at its Annual Meeting the Terms of Reference for each of its Committees to enable the Council to efficiently conduct its business.
- 4.2 At the Annual Meeting on 21 May 2020, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference.
- 4.3 The Terms of Reference forms part of the Constitution and was approved by Full Council in that context on 14 July 2016.
- 4.4 No changes to the Terms of Reference are suggested.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 Council – 14 July 2016 and 21 May 2020

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Constitution – www.telford.gov.uk/constitution

Report prepared by Josef Galkowski, Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer. 01952 388356.

Boundary Review Committee - Terms of Reference and Procedure

The Committee has the responsibility and delegated powers to act on behalf of the Council in respect of the following electoral arrangements for the Borough.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Boundary Reviews

1. Duty to prepare information on and to recommend consultation responses to Council on Parliamentary Boundary Reviews.
2. Duty to prepare information on and to recommend consultation responses to Council on Periodic and further Electoral Reviews.
3. Duty to prepare information on and to recommend consultation responses to Council on Reviews of European Parliamentary electoral regions.
4. Duty to prepare information on and recommend consultation responses to Council on all other electoral arrangement reviews.

Community Governance Reviews

5. Dealing with all matters relating to Community Governance Reviews.

Parishes

6. Grouping parishes, dissolving groups and separating parishes from groups.

Polling Districts

7. Duty to divide the constituency into polling districts.
8. The power to divide electoral divisions into polling districts at local government elections.

Elections

9. As set out in Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000/2853 (as amended).

General

10. Annually at the first meeting after the Annual Council Meeting consider its terms of reference.

PROCEDURE

As a general rule the [Council Procedure Rules](#) govern the way that committees operate but these, with the exception of paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules, may be varied or suspended at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee in the interests of efficient and effective management of the committee.

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