

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2022

UPDATE ON BOROUGH BOUNDARY REVIEW

REPORT OF ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members of the Boundary Review Committee on the work undertaken since the last meeting on 28 February 2022 and, to provide feedback on possible alternative warding arrangements to those proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Boundary Review Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the alternative proposals for ward boundaries within the Borough; and
2.2 Agrees those proposals that should be taken forward for public engagement before the Committee next meets.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>The proposals will contribute to the following priority – a community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	<i>Comments are due to be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England by 9 May 2022.</i>	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	<i>There are no direct financial impacts arising out of this report. Any work associated with the review will be met from within existing resources.</i>

LEGAL ISSUES	No	<i>There are no direct legal impacts arising out of this report. Any advice needed on specific matters following conclusion of the review will be provided as necessary. AL 21/03/2022</i>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	<i>All wards are impacted by the proposals put forward by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.</i>

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

4.1 Members of the Committee are well-versed in the background to the Borough boundary review so there is no need for it to be repeated in detail within this report. However, the key milestones are set out below with those that have already been completed shown shaded grey:-

April 2021	Council submission on councillor numbers submitted
August 2021	Council submission on initial warding patterns made
December 2021	LGBCE published their proposals on warding arrangements
Ongoing until May 2022	LGBCE seeking views on initial warding arrangements. Deadline of 9 May 2022 for submission of comments.
August 2022	LGBCE will publish final recommendations.
Autumn 2022	Order laid in Parliament
May 2023	New electoral arrangements based upon final recommendations will be implemented.

4.2 At the last meeting of the Committee, the initial proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) were considered. The Committee felt that, on the whole, the majority of those proposals were reasonable and represented community identities well. However, there were a small number of wards where it was felt that further work was needed in order to truly recognise how our communities identify with each other and to ensure efficient and effective local government. Those wards were:-

- Apley Castle;

- Leegomery;
- Oakengates and Ketley Bank;
- Brookside;
- Madeley and Sutton Hill; and
- Lawley

4.2 It was felt that the proposals made by the LGBCE would result in fragmented communities with some being placed together within one ward in a manner that did not recognise the day to day routines of residents living within the ward nor recognising the facilities and centres that residents within those areas used. The Committee asked officers to consider the comments made and present alternative arrangements to the Committee at its next meeting.

4.3 Taking each ward in turn, the proposals are briefly set out below, although further detail will be provided at the meeting:-

Apley Castle

It is proposed that the current Apley Castle boundaries are used as the blueprint for this Ward with a small area moving in to the current Hadley & Leegomery Ward in order to provide electoral equality and to preserve the strong community identity currently experienced amongst residents within the ward. The small area proposed to join Hadley & Leegomery is the area around Berberis Drive which is on the opposite side of Leegate Avenue to the majority of the Apley Castle.

Leegomery

The LGBCE had proposed joining Leegomery to Apley Castle and creating a separate Hadley and Trench Lock Ward. It is proposed that this recommendation is reversed and the two areas are recombined with the addition of the areas mentioned above under the Apley Castly heading. It is felt that this better reflects community identities and preserves the existing relationships between these areas, with residents within both Hadley and Leegomery using the same facilities and community assets.

Oakengates and Ketley Bank

The proposals from the LGBCE had joined Ketley and Ketley Bank into a 2 member Ketley ward. The committee was clear that this erroneously assumed some connection between these two distinct areas within the Borough, with little to no synergy between these communities. It is clear that Ketley Bank is aligned to Oakengates, with Oakengates town providing the main retail centre for Ketley Bank, pedestrian footways leading from Ketley Bank away from Ketley and towards Oakengates and residents within Oakengates and Ketley Bank sharing outdoor green spaces. The only thing in common between Ketley and Ketley Bank is the common name.

Alternative proposals result in Oakengates and Ketley Bank being joined, once again, into one ward with part of the WOB polling district around Ketley Park Road being moved into Ketley in order to maintain electoral equality. It is also proposed that Wrockwardine Wood be retained within Oakengates and Ketley Bank given that the communities within Wrockwardine Wood look to Oakengates as its main centre.

Brookside

The LGBCE proposed that the properties around Lake End Drive be taken out of Brookside and placed into The Nedge with Brookside then following the boundary of the ring road. The counter-proposal to this is maintain Lake End Drive within Brookside. It is geographically detached from all other residential areas within The Nedge and those living in that area are more likely to look to the facilities in Brookside (shops and community centre) than elsewhere.

Madeley and Sutton Hill

The LGBCE proposals split these two communities from each other which the Committee felt, strongly, was not appropriate. There are a number of synergies between these areas, with both represented by one parish council. These areas have high levels of deprivation and benefit from the multiplicity of representation both at Borough and parish level, having more than one voice advocating for these communities. There is a strong historic connection between these two areas with many residents having family living across both communities. The proposal for Committee consideration is that these two communities are reconnected into one ward. This has no practical impact upon electoral equality or effective and efficient local government but has a vastly positive impact upon community identity.

Lawley

The LGBCE created a small Lawley Ward which included some areas that would, ordinarily, be recognised as Dawley Bank. The counter proposals remedy this and ensure that the ward includes areas locally considered as Lawley whilst recognising that some other areas should properly fall into Horsehay. The difficulties with the Lawley area are that the number of electors projected by the LGBCE are significantly higher than those projected by the Council based upon census and planned development data. This skews the figures with one part of the Lawley area being projected, by the LGBCE, to carry the vast majority of proposed development. More detail will be provided on this at the meeting by way of verbal update.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None.

6. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

[Boundary Review Committee – 28 February 2022](#)

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

LGBCE proposals available at [Telford and Wrekin | LGBCE Site](#)

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