

LG BCE Review of Electoral Arrangements Warding Pattern Submission

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Recommendation on Council Size

- LGBCE have recommended retaining a Council size of 54 councillors
- They always reserve the right to adjust this number up or down by 1 or 2 if that number better fits their recommended warding pattern
- The current Borough electorate is 133,071 and is projected to increase to 146,815 by 2027
- Current 54 seat Council has a ratio of 2,464 electors per councillor
- Taking into account electorate growth up to 2027 this ratio increases to 2,719 electors per councillor for a 54 seat Council
- LGBCE now invites submissions for a suitable pattern of wards for the Borough based on 54 councillors and 146,815 electors

Warding Submission Timetable

	Date from:	Date to:
Consultation on warding arrangements	25 May 2021	2 August 2021
Consultation on draft recommendations	2 November 2021	10 January 2022
Publication of final recommendations	29 March 2022	

What LGBCE say about making Ward Boundary Proposals:

- They look for an explanation for warding proposals using evidence and examples.
- Three legal factors the Commission uses to draw new boundaries:
 - 1 Each councillor representing roughly the same number of voters as other councillors elsewhere in the authority.
 - 2 Wards should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable. Consider transport links, community groups and facilities, natural or physical boundaries, parishes and shared interests.
 - 3 New wards should promote effective and convenient local government. Consider the number of councillors for, the geographic size of, and the links between parts of the ward.
- The Commission gives equal weight to all submissions, regardless of whom they are from

What LGBCE can and cannot do as part of the Review

- Cannot change Borough or Parish boundaries or create new Parishes
- Cannot change or take into account Parliamentary boundaries
- Cannot choose between the 3 statutory criteria – they take a balanced view on submissions based on evidence
- Can recommend the creation of new Borough wards and polling districts
- Can recommend the creation of Parish wards, names of those wards and numbers of councillors elected to those wards

2027 Forecast Growth

- The final forecast figures from LGBCE shows an increase in electors across the Borough of 13,744, a 10% increase
- Significant housing growth in Lawley area, affecting current Horsehay & Lightmoor, Ketley & Overdale and Wrockwardine wards, leading to the Council requesting Review
- Significant housing growth is also forecast in the current Priorslee, Apley Castle and Newport South & East wards
- Some areas where growth is restricted or minimal – but overall the picture is one of significant growth

Warding Submission -Starting Point

- It is proposed that officers prepare broad outline proposals for consideration by councillors at the next meeting, breaking the Borough into the following areas
- North Telford, South Telford, Lawley & Central Telford, Rural, Wellington and Newport
- Councillors can then assess the electorate numbers for appropriate representation and electoral equality for each area based on the LG BCE statutory criteria

Recommendations

- That the Committee instruct officers to prepare outline proposals for a Borough warding pattern to fit a 54 seat Council, taking into account LGBCE statutory criteria and forecast electorate growth.
- That, because of the significant growth in Horsehay & Lightmoor and Ketley & Overdale wards, these areas are used as the starting point for the warding pattern submission

Next Steps

- Officers prepare outline proposals for each of the Borough areas for the next meeting on 21 June
- Proposals to be assessed at that meeting and, following consideration, further work to then be undertaken to prepare a draft submission

Questions?

