



**Cabinet recommendations for consideration by Council
at the Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 25 February 2015**

Cabinet – 12 February 2015

75 East Sussex Electoral Review

The Cabinet considered Report No 24/15 which sought Cabinet's views on the Council's participation in a proposed electoral review across East Sussex.

East Sussex County Council had been notified by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) that it was to be subject to an electoral review prior to the next County Council elections in May 2017. Hastings Borough Council and Wealden District Council had also been notified that they would be required to undergo an electoral review as they had also triggered the criteria. If the Council, together with Rother District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council, agreed to request an electoral review, it was possible that all six authorities could benefit from undergoing a review simultaneously.

There were two primary reasons why authorities would become subject to an electoral review namely:

Electoral inequality – where (through development, movement of people etc.) some councillors represented significantly more, or significantly fewer, electors than other councillors. In such circumstance, the LGBCE intervened and required an electoral review when there were 'significant' levels of electoral inequality between wards or electoral divisions; and

On request – where authorities approached the Commission because they believed that a review would help them deliver more effective local government.

East Sussex County Council met the LGBCE intervention criteria. Wealden District Council and Hastings Borough Council also met the criteria for electoral review and Rother District Council had requested a review. The decision of Eastbourne Borough Council was not yet known. The LGBCE would therefore be seeking to carry out electoral reviews of at least four of the County's local authorities over the next two years. It was likely that the Council might trigger

the criteria in the next few years.

The borough and district councils which did not currently meet the criteria for intervention would have an active role to play in the County Council review. Electorate data and forecasts would be required across the county and elected Members would wish to be involved in drawing up boundaries in their area. There were advantages in respect of the County Council and the district and borough councils being reviewed together, further details of which were set out in paragraph 2.5 of the Report.

In light of the Council having 29% of wards with a variance of over 10%, it would take very little development or movement of people to trigger a review of its boundaries. The Report therefore suggested that it seemed appropriate for the Council to voluntarily agree to take part in the review process, the next steps for which were set out in paragraph 3 of the Report.

Resolved:

- 75.1** That the proposed electoral review of East Sussex County Council, as detailed in Report No 24/15, be noted;
- 75.2** That the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's proposal to carry out an electoral review of Hastings Borough Council and Wealden District Council be noted; and
- 75.3** That Rother District Council's and Eastbourne Borough Council's position as to requesting the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to undertake an electoral review of their councils, as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the Report, be noted.

It was further

Recommended:

- 75.4** That the Council undertake an electoral review of its own ward boundaries as part of the wider review of all East Sussex authorities; ADCS (to note)
- 75.5** That a countywide project team of officers be established to work with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and oversee the review; and ADCS (to note)
- 75.6** That a project manager be appointed and be funded in equal shares by all councils involved in the review. ADCS (to note)

Reasons for the Decisions:

To ensure that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England timetable is met and to achieve economies of scale by working together with neighbouring authorities.

† *The Recommendations, and not the Resolutions, in the above Minute are for consideration by Council.*

Councillors are requested to bring with them to the meeting Report No 24/15 which was circulated with the agenda papers for the meeting of the Cabinet on 12 February 2015. If you require a further copy of the document please contact Trevor Hayward, Committee Officer, on e-mail trevor.hayward@lewes.gov.uk or telephone 01273 471600.

76 Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Allowances Scheme

The Cabinet considered Report No 25/15 relating to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in respect of Members’ Allowances.

Councils were required to establish and maintain an IRP, the purpose of which was to make recommendations to the local authority about the allowances to be paid to its councillors. Regulation 19.1 of the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 required the Council to have regard to the recommendations made to it by an IRP before it agreed or amended its Members’ Allowances Scheme.

When Council had considered the previous full report of the IRP in November 2010, the agreed basic allowance, special responsibility allowances and the dependent carers’ allowance rates were subject to index linking, an arrangement which should not be relied upon for more than four years. A full review of the Scheme was therefore anticipated for 2014.

The IRP had subsequently been appointed by the Cabinet and Council and had met on 11 and 12 December 2014. A copy of its report was set out at Appendix A to Report No 25/15.

Notification of the review had been given to each Town and Parish Council within the District. No specific matters were raised in response thereto and, as such, the Panel was not requested to review and/or make recommendations on the current allowances of any such Town or Parish Council.

Resolved:

76.1 That the report and recommendations of the Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel, together with the financial appraisal of the Head of Finance, as set out in Report No 25/15, be noted.

It was further

Recommended:

76.2 That the report of the Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel, together with the financial appraisal of the Head of Finance, as set out

ADCS
(to

in Report No 25/15, be noted, and the recommendations set out therein, be agreed.

note)

Reason for the Decisions:

To comply with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

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