

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part	One
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Date of meeting :	21 March 2018	Paper number :	EDC 018/023
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Title of paper	Local Government Boundary Commission for England – consultation on draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements (Dartford Borough Council area)
Presented by	Ian Piper, Interim Chief Executive
Sub-committee	Not applicable

Purpose of Paper and Executive Summary	
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is consulting on changes to electoral arrangements in the Dartford Borough Council area. This paper updates the Board on the proposals and requests the Board agreement on the EDC's response.	
EDC business plan and KPIs	No specific impact on business plan targets or KPIs
Recommendation	FOR DECISION The Board is asked to NOTE the proposed changes and AGREE that the EDC should respond to the consultation in support of those changes that are relevant to the Ebbsfleet area
Annexes	Annex A: LGBCE summary of recommended new arrangements
Delegation	Not applicable

Financial impact	Not applicable
Legal impact	Not applicable
Stakeholder impact	Not applicable
Sponsor impact	Not applicable

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Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. The stated main role of the organisation is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities.
- 1.2 The LGBCE is currently reviewing electoral arrangements in Dartford as the borough currently has high levels of electoral inequality; the LGBCE states that some councillors represent fewer – or many more – voters than others.

LGBCE Draft Recommendations

- 2.1 In January the LGBCE published draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in Dartford. The summary report is at **Annex A**, with the full report available at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/kent/dartford>
- 2.2 The proposal is that the number of councillors in Dartford should be reduced from 44 to 42, and that these councillors should represent 7 three-councillor wards, 8 two-councillor wards and 5 one-councillor wards across the Council area. This includes changes to ward boundaries and the creation of new wards. The LGBCE's timetable for implementation of the recommendations is for new arrangements to be implemented in time for the May 2019 local elections (subject to Parliamentary approval). The deadline for responses to the consultation is 9 April.

Relevance to the EDC and Proposed Response

- 3.1 The proposals include changes to the two wards in the Dartford area in which the EDC has planning powers for parts of the wards – (1) Swanscombe and (2) Greenhithe. Under the new arrangements there would be three rather than two wards in the area; Swanscombe, Greenhithe & Knockall and Ebbsfleet.
- 3.2 The proposals also recommend revised parish council arrangements for the existing Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council. The LGBCE is proposing that under the new arrangements the Town Council should comprise 20 councillors (as at present), representing the following three wards:
- Ebbsfleet Ward – 7 councillors
 - Greenhithe & Knockhall – 7 councillors
 - Swanscombe – 6 councillors
- 3.3 It is recommended that the EDC responds to the consultation in support of the changes that are relevant to Ebbsfleet as the new arrangements would help to resolve issues of electoral inequality, particularly given the amount of housing development taking place in the area.