



## **Electoral Review of Basingstoke and Deane: Final Recommendations**

**Melbourne Barrett, Chief Executive**

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<b>Report to</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Key Decision:</b>	n/a
<b>Appendix 1:</b>	<b>Local Government Boundary Commission for England Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements (summary report)</b>
<b>Appendix 2:</b>	
<b>Appendix 3:</b>	
<b>Papers relied on:</b>	<b>Council meeting 30 March 2017 Council meeting 27 July 2017</b>

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**Recommendation to Council:**

- **To note the contents of this report**

## Background, corporate objectives and priorities

This report accords with the Council Plan priorities and commitment to create an organisation capable of delivering change.

## Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
LGBCE	Local Government Boundary Commission for England

## Main considerations

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This information report updates members on the final recommendations of the Basingstoke and Deane electoral review 2017/18. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its final recommendations for the borough on 5 March 2019<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2 The final recommendations propose that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council should have 54 councillors. This is six fewer than the current number of councillors.
- 1.3 Those councillors should represent 18 three-member wards across the borough.
- 1.4 Publication of the final recommendations marks the end of the electoral review. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. The LGBCE will prepare a draft order to be laid in Parliament. This is the legal document which brings into force the final recommendations.
- 1.5 Subject to Parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force in an all-out election in May 2020.

### 2 Background to the review

- 2.1 The electoral review was prompted by an “electoral imbalance” in some of the boroughs wards where the ratio of councillors to voters in a particular ward is significantly higher or lower than the borough average (“at variance” from the borough average). Nine of the borough’s 29 wards<sup>2</sup> met the threshold for a review which is triggered where:

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/basingstoke-and-deane>

<sup>2</sup> Chineham; Grove; Kempshott; Oakley and North Waltham; Overton, Laverstoke and Steventon; Pamber and Silchester; Popley East; Rooksdown; and Sherborne St John

- 2.1.1 More than 30% of a council's wards / divisions having electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority; and / or
- 2.1.2 One or more wards/divisions with an electoral imbalance of more than 30%; and
- 2.1.3 The imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate within a reasonable period.
- 2.2 Representatives from the LGBCE presented a briefing to Council on 30 March 2017, outlining the review process, timescales, and the statutory criteria to which they must have regard when making their recommendations:
  - 2.2.1 The need to ensure equality of representation;
  - 2.2.2 The need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
  - 2.2.3 The need to secure effective and convenient local government.
- 2.3 The LGBCE also advised that where a council elects by thirds, there is a presumption in legislation that the council has a uniform pattern of three-member wards. The council informed the LGBCE of its decision, taken at Council on 27 July 2017, to remain electing by thirds.

### 3 Key issues

- 3.1 The LGBCE's final recommendations are that the council should be represented by 54 councillors, six fewer than currently. Those councillors should represent 18 three-member wards across the borough, a reduction of 11 wards from the 29 currently. The boundaries of all but two wards, Chineham and Norden, will change.
- 3.2 The LGBCE recommendations change the borough's ward pattern as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

BDBC number of wards and members	3 member wards		2 member wards		1 member wards		Total	
	Wards	Members	Wards	Members	Wards	Members	Wards	Members
Current	7	21	17	34	5	5	29	60
From May 2020	18	54	0	0	0	0	18	54

3.3 The new electoral arrangements will come into effect in the local elections in May 2020 in an all-out election. This will be preceded by a polling places review to be undertaken during 2019.

3.4 The May 2019 election will continue the cycle of elections by thirds.

## **Corporate implications**

### **4 Legal Implications**

4.1 These are contained in the body of the report.

### **5 Financial implications**

5.1 The review process has been managed within existing budgets and existing staff resource.

### **6 Risk management**

6.1 A risk assessment has been completed in accordance with the council's risk management process and has identified no significant (Red or Amber) residual risks that cannot be fully minimised by existing or planned controls or additional procedures.

### **7 Equalities implications**

7.1 There are no equalities issues arising from the review process described in this report.

### **8 Consultation and communication**

8.1 The LGBCE conducts the review process and invites submissions on council size, ward boundary proposals and invites comments on their draft proposals. Councils are consultees in the electoral review process.

8.2 Officers have undertaken communication throughout the process to residents, stakeholders and partners to ensure they are fully informed. Officers have also ensured that supporting data was available to support submissions and consultation responses.

### **9 HR implications**

9.1 No issues are identified within this report.

### **10 Conclusion**

10.1 The Basingstoke and Deane electoral review process commenced in April 2017. The publication of the LGBCE's final recommendations on 5 March 2019 marks the end of the review. Subject to Parliamentary scrutiny, these will take effect in an all-out election in May 2020.

**Date: 28 March 2019**  
**Decision taken by: Council**

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<b>Confidentiality</b>	It is considered that information contained within this report (and appendices) do not contain exempt information under the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and therefore can be made public.