

## **County Council – Thursday 12 October 2023**

### **Staffordshire Electoral Review – Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission’s Proposals for Staffordshire**

#### **Recommendations of the Leader of the Council**

I recommend that County Council:

- a. Note the progress made to date on the County’s Electoral Review.
- b. Support the response to the LGBCE for Staffordshire’s boundary changes.
- c. That the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services be authorised to finalise the proposals prior to submitting to the Boundary Commission.

#### **Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services**

##### **Background**

1. In March 2022, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) initiated an Electoral Review of Staffordshire. The rationale for undertaking an Electoral Review is both due to our changing population which has led to electoral inequality, and the length of time since our last review.
2. The last Electoral Review was undertaken between 2010-12 and resulted in Staffordshire maintaining the existing council size of 62 Members, with division boundaries being altered to address voter inequality and reflecting the identities and interests of local communities.
3. There are several key stages to an Electoral Review:
  - a. Stage 1 – which considers the Council Size i.e. number of Councillors
  - b. Stage 2.1 – which considers division arrangements
  - c. Stage 2.2 – the consultation of draft proposals made by the LGBCE
4. In March 2023, Council approved and submitted its response to the first LGBCE consultation.
5. The Commission has published proposals for changes to Staffordshire. The LGBCE have largely accepted what SCC approved at Council in March and submitted during the last consultation. The key proposals from the commission include:

- a. LGBCE have agreed to 62 Councillors (as is)
  - b. All of the proposed divisions will be represented by one councillor
  - c. Reduction of -1 member in Tamworth
  - d. Increase of +1 member in East Staffordshire
  - e. Major boundary changes to Stafford
  - f. Moderate changes to Cannock
  - g. Minor changes to East Staffs, Newcastle and Staffordshire Moorlands
6. A public consultation on the proposals will run from 8 August 2023 to 16 October 2023. Once the LGBCE have considered all responses to the consultation, they aim to publish final recommendations in January 2024. They will then lay a draft order in both houses of Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements are scheduled to come into effect at SCC elections in 2025.
7. Proposals have been taken through Staffordshire County Council's Governance process for final approval at Full Council on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023, ahead of submission to the LGBCE by the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee have provided scrutiny and oversight of the process.
8. Broadly speaking, the Council is satisfied with the proposals set out by the LGBCE. The attached response sets out where the Council would like to comment on the proposals.
9. This is a consultation led and conducted by the LGBCE. The County Council and other interested parties, including members of the public are invited to submit their response to the Commission's proposals.

## **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – SCC Response to LGBCE Proposals.

Please note that the attached still requires minor edits prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 deadline.

## **Contact Details**

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