

To: Electoral and Boundary Review Committee – 27 November 2012

By: Graham Gibbens, Chairman of the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee
Geoff Wild, Director of Governance and Law

Subject: Swale Electoral Boundary Review

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary This report provides information on the final recommendations which have been published for the Swale Electoral Boundary review.

1. (1) As has previously been reported to the Committee, the Local Government Electoral Boundary Commission (LGEBC) commenced an electoral review of Swale Borough Council wards in May 2011. A consultation on council size started on 23 August 2011, followed by information gathering with Swale Borough Council on proposed ward boundaries in November 2011.

(2) On 2 April 2012, the LGEBC published its draft recommendations and started a consultation that closed on 8 June 2012. Members of this Committee and local County Councillors were contacted and given the opportunity to comment on the proposals

(3) On 10 September 2012 LGBCE published its final recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Swale Borough Council. The Commission's final recommendations propose that Swale's 47 councillors should represent four three-member wards, fifteen two-member wards and five single-member wards across the borough.

(4) The Commission's final report makes some changes to its draft proposals as a result of the feedback gathered from local people and organisations. For example, renaming a couple of the proposed wards to better reflect community identities in the borough and a small boundary change between the proposed St Ann's ward and Priory ward in the Faversham area so that the new boundary delivers good transport links for each ward.

(5) The final recommendations and detailed maps are available on the Commission's website at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/kent/swale-electoral-review. A copy is also available in The Information Point, Sessions House and will be available at the meeting.

(6) The proposed new arrangements must now be implemented by Parliament. A draft order will be laid in Parliament in the next few months. The draft Order provides for the new electoral arrangements to come into force at the borough council elections in 2015.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is invited to note the final recommendations for the Electoral Boundary Review carried out in the Swale Borough Council area.

Peter Sass
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Background Documents: none