

From: Graham Gibbens, Chairman of the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee

Geoff Wild, Director of Governance and Law

To: Electoral and Boundary Review Committee – 25 July 2013

Subject: Electoral Review of Canterbury

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report informs the Committee of the consultation by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on proposals for the number of Councillors who should sit on Canterbury City Council.

1. (1) On 10 January 2013 Canterbury City Council passed a resolution to submit an expression of interest to the LGBCE to join the programme for an electoral review in the near future. The reasons given were that it had been over ten years since the last review and bearing in mind the future financial situation there was a general feeling amongst Members that the size of the Council would be too large for the demands made upon it. The current size of Canterbury City Council is 50 Councillors. The responses to the LGBCE's preliminary consultation with Canterbury City Council from the City Council and the Canterbury City Council Liberal Democrat Group are attached as **APPENDIX 1**.

(2) In response to this on 25 June 2013, the LGBCE started a consultation inviting proposals for the number of City Councillors who should represent Canterbury. (copy of the letter from the LGBCE to Mr Carmichael, Chief Executive of Canterbury City Council is attached as **APPENDIX 2**) The Commission is initially consulting on the number of 38 Councillors for Canterbury City Council. The consultation will close on 6 August 2013.

(3) The LGBCE intends to publicise the conclusions from the review in September 2013 and will then run a twelve week public consultation from 24 September until 16 December 2013. After this date the Commission will formulate their recommendations which they expect to publish in March 2014. This will be followed by a twelve week consultation. The Commission will then formulate their final recommendations which we expect to publish in late 2014.

Recommendation: The Committee is invited to consider whether it wishes to respond to the LGBCE consultation on the initial proposal to reduce the number of Councillors on Canterbury City Council from 50 to 38.

Background Documents

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Canterbury Review
<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/kent/canterbury-fer>

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