

From: Graham Gibbens, Chair of the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee
Ben Watts, County Returning Officer

To: Electoral and Boundary Review Committee – 30 July 2018

Subject: Canterbury City Council – Community Governance Review

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members about the community governance review undertaken by Canterbury City Council in 2017 and the proposal to make minor alterations to Canterbury City South and Canterbury South division boundaries in advance of the 2021 County Council election.

1. Introduction

- (1) Principal councils (district councils or unitary councils) have the power to carry out community governance reviews and put in place or make changes to local community (parish) governance arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. A review can consider a number of issues including the creation of a new parish, altering the boundary of an existing parish or grouping a number of parishes together in a grouped parish council.
- (2) Canterbury City Council conducted a Community Governance Review of the whole of the Canterbury district in 2017. The final recommendations were considered and approved at a meeting of its full council on 19 July 2018.
- (3) The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is responsible for making 'consequential changes' - any related alterations to district ward or county division boundaries following a parish boundary change as a result of a community governance review.
- (4) Canterbury City Council will be writing to ask the LGBCE to consider making changes to KCC division boundaries so that they are coterminous with the proposed new parish boundary for Lower Hardres/unparished Canterbury boundary; they will also be asking the LGBCE to review district ward boundaries affected by the Community Governance Review.
- (5) The affected KCC division boundaries in Canterbury are detailed on the attached map in Appendix 1. The hatched yellow area on the map is currently located in the KCC division of Canterbury South; it is proposed that it is moved to the KCC division of Canterbury City South. The change to KCC's boundary would not currently affect any electors or residential properties however it is part of the planned Mountfield Park Housing Development which is the blue highlighted area on the right hand side of the map.

- (6) The Chair wrote to the local Members Ida Linfield (Canterbury City South) & Michael Northey (Canterbury South) on 29 June regarding the proposal to make alterations to the division boundaries.
- (7) This Committee has responsibility for dealing with all matters relating to reviews of local government boundaries. Canterbury City Council has stated that for electoral purposes, it would be more effective and convenient if parish boundaries aligned with county division boundaries and has asked if a letter from Kent County Council confirming this Committee's approval of these changes could be sent to them as part of the evidence to be submitted to the LGBCE.
- (8) Once the LGBCE receives Canterbury City Council's submission, the Commission will discuss the related alterations. If agreed, the LGBCE would then make the related Alterations Order, inform Ordnance Survey and make changes to mapping. It is understood that the Alterations Order for the affected KCC boundaries would come into force on the day of the next County Council election in May 2021.

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to:

- (a) approve the alterations to the Canterbury South and Canterbury City South division boundaries as detailed in Paragraph 5 and Appendix 1;
- (b) agree that a letter be sent to Canterbury City Council to confirm the Committee's approval of these changes.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Map

Background Documents

Canterbury City Council (2018) '*Community Governance Review (01/04/2018)*', <https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/latest-consultations/community-governance-review/>

Canterbury City Council (2018) '*Council (19/07/2018)*', <https://democracy.canterbury.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=11636>

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (2016) '*About Community Governance Reviews (01/01/2016)*', <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/about-reviews/about-community-go>

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