

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Portfolio Holder for Governance and Customer and Executive Manager - Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

To: Council – 27 February 2019

(Author: Rhonda Booth - Democratic Services Manager)

Subject An Invitation to Boundary Commission

Purpose: To request the Local Boundary Commission for England to undertake a review of the council's electoral arrangements.

Recommendation(s):

That Council invites the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to consider whether it wishes to undertake a review of the Council's electoral arrangements

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England was established by Parliament under the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Independent of central and local government and political parties, it is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Commission's objectives are:
- To provide boundary arrangements for English local authorities that are fair and deliver electoral equality for voters; and
 - To keep the map of English local government in good repair and to work with local authorities to help them deliver effective and convenient local government to citizens.
- 1.2 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for conducting reviews of local authority electoral arrangements. This is through an electoral review.
- 1.3 The main aim of an electoral review is to try and ensure 'electoral equality' which means that all Councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. This is achieved through an examination of a council's electoral arrangements. This means that the total number of councillors elected to the local authority; the number and boundaries of wards or divisions for the purposes of the election of councillors; the number of councillors for a ward or division of a local authority; and the name of any ward or division.
- 1.4 The Boundary Commission for England last completed a review on 11 July 2006. Whilst an initial review by officers of elector numbers to wards/ward members has not indicated any substantial elector inequality, given the time since the last review and the manifesto commitment it is appropriate to consider whether a review should be conducted.
- 1.5 This report therefore requests agreement from Council to invite the Boundary Commission to consider whether a review the authority's electoral arrangements is appropriate at this

time.

2.0 **OPTIONS**

2.1 To invite the Boundary Commission for England to conduct a review of South Holland District Council's electoral arrangements.

2.2 Do nothing.

3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

3.1 To ensure effective and convenient local government.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 Should the Boundary Commission agree to undertake a review this will ensure that there continues to be elector equality throughout the district ensuring effective governance.

4.2 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.2.1 In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

5.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

5.1 All wards would be affected.

6.0 **ACRONYMS**

6.1 None

Background papers:- n/a

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post: Rhonda Booth Democratic Services Manager
Telephone Number 01775 764705
Email: rbooth@sholland.gov.uk

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No