

**Report to** Council  
28 November 2017  
**Report of** Director of business services  
**Subject** Local Government Boundary Review

**Item**

**7**

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### **Purpose**

To consider arrangements for the electoral scheme for the council in respect to the periodic electoral review being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission of England (LGBCE).

### **Recommendation**

To approve the one the following proposals

- (1) To retain the current electoral arrangements for Norwich City Council with 39 city councillors representing 13 Wards and election by thirds

alternatively

- (2) To propose new electoral arrangements for Norwich City Council

### **Corporate and service priorities**

The report helps to meet the corporate priority value for money services

### **Financial implications**

None

**Ward/s:** All Wards

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Kendrick - Resources

### **Contact officers**

Anton Bull Director of business services 01603 212326

Stuart Guthrie Democratic and elections manager 01603 212055

### **Background documents**

None



# Report

## Introduction

1. This report sets out the council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission of England (LGBCE) invitation on 30 June 2017 to consider electoral arrangements for the city council.
2. The review was triggered to address poor levels of electoral equality in the city of Norwich. As of 1 December 2016, one ward (University) had a variance - 31% from the average ward number. Thorpe Hamlet had a variance of +18%.
3. The council ward arrangements will be considered by the LGBCE when the warding patterns consultation period commences on 30 January 2018. Final recommendations will be published on 2 October 2018 for parliamentary approval.
4. The LGBCE has asked the council to confirm its draft proposal for the council size by 7 December 2017.
5. At this stage council has been asked to recommend the council size (number of councillors) , number of wards and the electoral cycle which best reflect the governance arrangements in Norwich.
6. The last periodic review of electoral arrangements in Norwich conducted in 2001 and completed in 2002 reduced the number of councillors from 48 to 39.

## Current Governance Arrangements

7. There are currently 39 ward councillors in Norwich representing 13 wards.
8. The council operates under a Leader and Cabinet model with the following committees and number of councillors on each committee:
  - Council - 39
  - Cabinet – 8
  - Licensing – 13
  - Regulatory sub-committee – any 5 out of the 13 members of licensing
  - Licensing sub-committee – any 3 out of the 13 members of licensing
  - Planning applications – 12
  - Scrutiny – 13
  - Standards – 6
  - Mousehold Heath Conservators – 9
  - Norwich area museums – 6
  - Norwich Highways agency – 5
  - Twinning - 11
  - Sustainable Development panel – 8
  - Audit – 8

### Overview of recommended council size submission

9. The council's submission needs to address points raised in the LGBCE guidance which stresses the importance of submitting "well-reasoned proposals that are based on the individual characteristics and needs of each local authority and communities.
10. The council's submission needs to satisfy the LGBCE 's aims of being able to:-  
"recommend a council size that allows
  - the council to take decisions effectively;
  - manage the business and responsibilities of the council successfully;
  - provide effective community leadership and representation",

### Summary of recommended council submission

11. It is recommended that at the full council meeting on 28 November 2017 the council agree to;
  - retain its current practice of elections by thirds
  - as a consequence of the above, each ward will remain represented by three councillors
  - as a result to keep the number of councillors at 39
12. As can be seen from the number of committees above, this will allow the council to continue to deliver effective arrangements for the management and delivery of its business and responsibilities.
13. The alternative would be to reduce the number of councillors to 26 to represent the 13 wards. However, with only 26 councillors it would become extremely difficult to provide councillors to cover all of the committees listed above.
14. The current number of councillors has worked for the council since the last review. The current Leader and Cabinet model with the committees that support this have ensured good governance for the council and residents.

### Members Involvement

15. There was a LGBCE members briefing held on 16 October 2017. This followed meetings with officers and group leaders. This report will also allow members to discuss the submission at the full council meeting.

### Conclusion

16. Once a recommendation has been agreed by council, a formal submission will be given to the LGBCE on the agreed report.



## Integrated impact assessment



**NORWICH**  
City Council

The IIA should assess **the impact of the recommendation** being made by the report

Detailed guidance to help with the completion of the assessment can be found [here](#). Delete this row after completion

### Report author to complete

<b>Committee:</b>	Council
<b>Committee date:</b>	28 November 2017
<b>Director / Head of service</b>	Anton Bull Director of business services
<b>Report subject:</b>	Local Government Boundary Review
<b>Date assessed:</b>	16 November 2017
<b>Description:</b>	Local Government Boundary Review

	Impact			
<b>Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Finance (value for money)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>ICT services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Economic development</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Financial inclusion</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Safeguarding children and adults</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b><u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Human Rights Act 1998</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Health and well being</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



**Recommendations from impact assessment**

**Positive**

**Negative**

**Neutral**

**Issues**