

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Governance Committee

Tuesday 17 July 2018

Electoral Review 2018

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services – *LDS/142*

1. Purpose

To recommend to Full Council the Crawley Borough Council response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's (LGBCE) draft recommendations for electoral arrangements for the Borough.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the views of the Electoral Review Working Group on the draft recommendations.
- 2.2 That Full Council be recommended to support the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a mixed pattern of 2 and 3 Councillor wards with the alterations to Ifield Ward, Langley Green and Manor Royal Ward and Northgate and West Green Ward as set out in Appendix A.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council's view on the Local Government Boundary Commission's draft recommendations are submitted to the Commission.

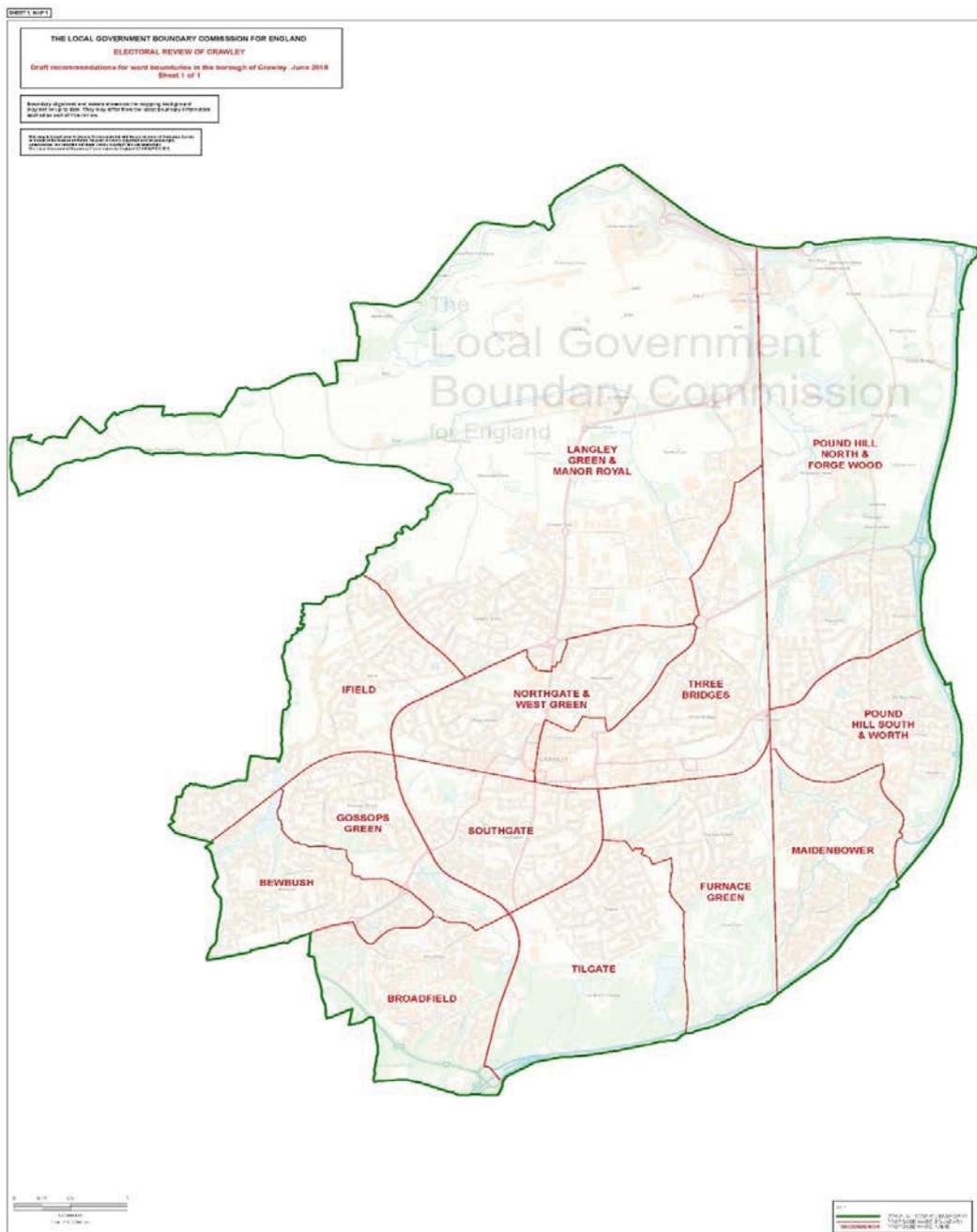
4. Background

- 4.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) are conducting an electoral review of Crawley Borough Council with the new arrangements being implemented at elections in May 2019. The LGBCE is conducting the review in four stages and has now reached the third stage. The four stages are:
 1. The number of Councillors - the LGBCE announced on 30th January that it was minded to recommend that Crawley is served by 36 Councillors.
 2. An initial consultation on a pattern of Wards for Crawley - closed on 9th April. Full Council approved the Council's preferred scheme at its meeting held on 4th April 2018.
 3. Consultation on draft recommendation - closing on 13th August.
 4. Publication of final recommendations – in October 2018
- 4.2 In developing their draft recommendations for Crawley, the Commission must find the best balance of the three statutory criteria:
 - delivering electoral equality where each Borough Councillor represents roughly the same number of electors.

- as far as possible, reflecting the interests and identities of local communities.
- providing for effective and convenient local government.

4.3 The LGBCE considered all the representations received in the initial consultation and on 5th June published draft recommendations which

- Propose that Crawley is represented by 36 Councillors.
- Recognise that Crawley has a strong neighbourhood principle that clearly guides its community identity.
- Propose that Crawley should have 13 wards made up of 10 three councillor wards and 3 two councillor wards.
- Proposes a pattern of wards following the scheme adopted by Full Council on 4th April 2018 with alterations to 3 wards- Langley Green and Manor Royal Ward, Northgate and West Green Ward, and Three Bridges Ward as set out in the map below



- 4.4 The Electoral Review Working Group has considered the draft recommendations and has recommended a response to the draft recommendation which is set out in Appendix A.
- 4.5 The Working Group welcomed the LGBCE draft recommendations for a mixed pattern of wards that closely followed the council's proposal. It was noted that the Tinsley Lane area had been included in Three Bridges Ward and that as a result the Windmill Court and Longmere Road area had been included in the Langley Green and Manor Royal Ward to ensure adequate levels of electoral equality and that this was a solution that had not been previously supported by the Council.
- 4.6 On balance the Working Group considered it preferable to achieve the necessary electoral equality by including The Orchards development in Langley Green and Manor Royal Ward instead. The Orchards have been included in the existing Langley Green Ward since it was built. While the Working Group would have preferred that the development was included in Ifield Ward it would be a less disruptive solution than moving Windmill Court and Longmere Road which had always been included in West Green Ward and is separated from Langley Green by crossing a dual carriageway, whereas The Orchards is separated by just a single lane road (Ifield Avenue).
- 4.7 The Working Group also noted that the LGBCE draft recommendations included Burbeach Close, Bewbush in Gossops Green Ward and it was recommended that representations be made to the Commission to include it in Bewbush Ward
- 4.8 An alternative proposal has been developed by Councillor Crow, Leader of the Conservative Group, and this is included in Appendix B.

5. Implications

- 5.1 The Electoral Review is a statutory process which is governed by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The LGBCE is an independent body established by Parliament under the same Act. The LGBCE is responsible for undertaking this Review following statutory considerations. The submission follows the guidance provided by the Commission. The LGBCE's final recommendations will be laid in Parliament in November 2018.

6. Background Papers

[LGBCE - New Electoral Arrangements for Crawley Borough Council - Draft Recommendations June 2018](#)

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