

Item 7 (a) – Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review

The attached report was considered by the Governance Committee, and the relevant minute extract is below:

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review (30 January 2024, Minute 10)

Members considered the report which set out that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England were undertaking an electoral review of the Sevenoaks District during 2024 and 2025. The review would evaluate the number of Councillors required and review the warding patterns within the District boundary. If there were any changes to the current arrangements recommended from the review they would be implemented at the next scheduled District Council elections in May 2027.

The Chairman moved that the recommendations within the report be agreed. Members discussed the Membership of the working group that would be politically balanced across the Council. Cllrs Horwood, Bayley, Clack, Manston were put forward for the working Group, with a Member from the Liberal Democrats Group to be confirmed as soon as possible. Cllrs Harrison and McArthur would be consultants from the North and South of the District. It was also discussed that a Member of the Independent Group be invited to join as a consultant Member.

In response to questions Members were advised that Town and Parish Councils would be consulted by the LGBCE as part of the process. Should it be necessary, community governance reviews of Town and Parish boundaries would be carried out at the end of the District Ward reviews.

Resolved: That

- a) the timetable for the electoral review being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was noted;
- b) The Working Group, be confirmed as Cllrs Horwood (Chairman), Bayley, Clack, Manston and a member from the Liberal Democrats Group (name tbc).