

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
The Resources Portfolio Holder (Cllr A Vincent) and the Corporate Director of Resources	Council	21 January 2016	15

Lancashire Electoral Review

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform the Council of the submission made on behalf of the Council in response to the consultation on the review of the electoral divisions for Lancashire County Council.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Effective changes to the pattern of electoral divisions in Lancashire.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the submissions made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, attached as Appendices 1 and 2, be noted.

4. Background

- 4.1 On 30 July 2015 the Council appointed a Group comprising the Resources Portfolio Holder (Cllr A Vincent), Councillors Ballard, Bridge, Collinson, Beavers and Lees to respond to the consultation process on the Lancashire Electoral Review and to submit comments and proposals on behalf of the Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- 4.2 The Group met on Tuesday 25 August to consider the Boundary Commission's invitation to local people for their help to draw up a new pattern of electoral divisions for Lancashire County Council. The Consultation Group submitted a response to that first stage of the review process prior to the specified deadline of 31 August 2015. A copy of that submission is attached as Appendix 1.

- 4.3** On 17 November 2015 the Boundary Commission published draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Lancashire County Council. Its main proposals were that the size of the County Council should remain at 84 Councillors representing 80 single member divisions and 2 two-member divisions (neither of which are in Wyre). There were also numerous proposals for specific changes to electoral divisions to meet the aims of the review, i.e. a pattern of divisions across Lancashire which delivers;
- Electoral equality – each local councillor represents a similar number of voters;
 - Community identity – reflects the identity and interests of local communities;
 - Effective and convenient local government – helping the council discharge its responsibilities effectively.
- 4.4** There was then a further eight-week public consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations, as a second stage of the review process, which closed on 11 January 2016. The Group submitted a further response to the draft recommendations, expanding upon and re-iterating the comments that it had made previously. A copy of that submission is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4.5** The Boundary Commission will publish its final recommendations on 5 April 2016, which will come into effect at the County Council elections in May 2017.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** This report is simply to inform the Council of the current position.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	The Local Government Boundary Commission is an independent body, responsible to Parliament, set up by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The review process is being carried out in accordance with statutory criteria.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None	-	-

List of appendices

Appendix 1: Wyre Response to first stage of Consultation

Appendix 2: Wyre response to second stage of Consultation

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Lancashire County Council Electoral Divisions Review Consultation response – Stage 1 - August 2015

The current and forecast (June 2021) electorate figures for Wyre show significant variances in five of the eight electoral divisions. The working group has made recommendations that help to address the issue of electoral equality, whilst maintaining easily identifiable boundaries that reflect community interests and identities. The proposals will result in all variances being 8% or under, whereas there were previously five of the eight divisions that had variances in excess of 10%, with one as high as 24%.

The working group recommends the continuation of single member divisions in all cases.

Proposed new divisions

Wyre Rural East

Polling district		Electorate June 2021
WZA	Bleasdale	115
WZC	Nether Wyresdale	568
WTA1	Barnacre-with-Bonds 1	434
WTA2	Barnacre-with-Bonds 2	1290
WUC1	Nateby 1	343
WUC2	Nateby 2	135
WUB	Garstang	3584
WVC	Kirkland	250
WSB	Claughton-on-Brock	528
WSC	Myerscough and Bilsborrow	1152
WSA	Catterall	1844
Total		10243

Lancashire variance: - 8%
 Wyre variance: - 5%

Wyre Rural West

Polling district		Electorate June 2021
WYA	Preesall North	3312
WYB	Preesall South	1506
WXA	Pilling	1707
WXB	Winmarleigh	313
WZB	Forton	993
WUA	Cabus	1431
WVE	Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	542
WVA	Great Eccleston	1198
WVB	Inskip-with-Sowerby	697
Total		11699

Lancashire variance: + 6%
 Wyre variance: + 8%

Commentary

No parishes have been split in Wyre Rural East or Wyre Rural West. Polling districts have been placed with other areas with which they have most in common.

Thornton and Hambleton

Polling district		Electorate June 2021
WWB	Stalmine-with-Staynall	1291
WWA	Hambleton	2367
WVD	Out Rawcliffe	521
WQ	Stanah	3798
WND	Marsh Mill 4	888
WNA	Marsh Mill 1	1441
WKC	Bourne 3	250
Total		10556

Lancashire variance: - 5%
 Wyre variance: - 2%

Commentary

The River Wyre runs through the middle of this Division but the Shard Bridge at Hambleton links them together very effectively.

Poulton-le-Fylde

Polling district		
WJA	Tithebarn 1	3077
WF	Breck	3097
WH1	Hardhorn with Highcross 1	1777
WH2	Hardhorn with Highcross 2	2213
WH3	Hardhorn with Highcross 3	1175
Total		11339

Lancashire variance: + 2%
Wyre variance: + 5%

Commentary

This division is essentially the same as previously, with only minor alterations.

Cleveleys East

Polling district		
WL	Cleveleys Park	3814
WP	Pheasant's Wood	1595
WKA	Bourne 1	2970
WKB	Bourne 2	1539
WMB	Jubilee 3	280
Total		10198

Lancashire variance: - 8%
Wyre variance: - 6%

Commentary

This division is essentially the same as previously, with only minor alterations.

Cleveleys South and Carleton

Polling district		
WNC	Marsh Mill 3	944
WNB	Marsh Mill 2	1663
WR	Victoria and Norcross	3612
WG	Carleton	3677
WJB	Tithebarn 2	348
Total		10244

Lancashire variance: - 8%
Wyre variance: - 5%

Fleetwood East

Polling district		Electorate June 2021
WC1	Pharos 1	1978
WC2	Pharos 2	1379
WAA	Mount 1	2927
WAB	Mount 2	923
WE1	Warren 1	2184
WE2	Warren 2	1307
Total		10698

Lancashire variance: - 3%
Wyre variance: - 1%

Fleetwood West and Cleveleys West

Polling district		Electorate June 2021
WD1	Rossall 1	1026
WD2	Rossall 2	1810
WD3	Rossall 3	1676
WMA1	Jubilee 1	2044
WMA2	Jubilee 2	1531
WB1	Park 1	2489
WB2	Park 2	937
Total		11513

Lancashire variance: + 4%
Wyre variance: + 7%

Commentary

Fleetwood does not merit two full divisions, so the working group have proposed that the area is added to by the most appropriate adjacent ward, which is Jubilee. Transport links from Jubilee are good both north and south by road and tramway, residents feeling equally linked to south Fleetwood and north Cleveleys.

Working group membership

Wyre Council's consultation response was prepared by a working group comprising the following councillors:

NAME

WARD

Howard Ballard	Bourne
Lorraine Beavers	Rossall
Simon Bridge	Hardhorn with Highcross
Alice Collinson	Garstang
Julie Robinson	Hambleton & Stalmine
Alan Vincent (Chairman)	Victoria & Norcross

26 August 2015

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Lancashire County Council Electoral Divisions Review Consultation response – Stage 2 - December 2015

Electoral Review of Lancashire: Draft Recommendations

1. Wyre Council is pleased to make the following comments in response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations that were published on 17 November 2015.
2. We wish to reiterate our original proposals, which were submitted as part of the consultation that commenced on 23 June 2015.
3. Wyre supports the Commission's draft recommendations for the following four divisions:
 - Cleveleys South and Carleton
 - Fleetwood East
 - Fleetwood West and Cleveleys West
 - Poulton-le-Fylde
4. Wyre supports the recommendation that Preesall North and Preesall South be included in the same division (Wyre Rural East), reflecting strong community links.
5. In Cleveleys East all of Bourne Ward is contained within the recommended division. We stand by our proposal that Bourne 1 and Bourne 2 are contained in Cleveleys East and that Bourne 3 is contained in Thornton and Hambleton.
6. The recommendations make no specific reference to Stanah or Marsh Mill. We assume that this is because they are not parishes but we think it would help clarify the recommendations to mention Marsh Mill in particular as only Marsh Mill 1 and Marsh Mill 4 are in Thornton and Hambleton, Marsh Mill 2 and Marsh Mill 3 being included (as we had recommended) in Cleveleys South and Carleton.

7. The recommendations for Wyre Rural Central (our 'Wyre Rural West') include Nateby and Myerscough & Bilsborrow, while we had proposed that these parishes be included in Wyre Rural East. Wyre stands by its original proposal.
8. The recommendations for Wyre Rural East include Cabus. Wyre stands by its original proposal that Cabus be included in Wyre Rural Central (West).
9. The proposals made in paragraphs 7 and 8 above, relating to Wyre Rural East and Wyre Rural Central, produce a much better balance numerically.
10. We are concerned that in the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations Wyre Rural East has a variance of nearly -10% while Wyre Rural Central has a variance of +7%. Wyre's proposed boundaries would result in both variances being closer to zero, which will reduce the likelihood of further adjustments being required in the future.

Councillor Alan Vincent
Chairman, Consultation Group
8 December 2015