

<b>REPORT TO</b>	<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>
<b>CABINET</b>	<b>5 September 2012</b>

Report template revised June 2008



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>ITEM</b>
<b>BOUNDARY REVIEW</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Martin O'Loughlin</b>	<b>8</b>

## **SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

To inform Cabinet of the forth coming Boundary Review and to propose that the Council create a Boundary Review Committee to develop proposals for submission to the Boundary Commission and to respond to submissions and representations from the Boundary Commission.

The report links to the Council's corporate priorities of being an efficient, effective and exceptional council and developing strong and healthy communities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Council note the forthcoming Boundary Review to be undertaken by The Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
2. That the Council create a Boundary Committee to develop proposals for submission to the Boundary Committee and to respond to submissions from the Boundary Committee within the terms of reference set out in the report.
3. That the Membership of the Committee be as follows:

- (a) **Conservative (6)**
- (b) **Labour (3)**

## **DETAILS AND REASONING**

Each year, The Local Government Boundary Commission for England audits the levels of electoral imbalances arising in each English local authority area in order to establish whether there is a need for an electoral review. Imbalances can arise from changing demographics and new developments, and movement of electors between local authority areas, as well as within individual areas.

There are two elements the Commission takes into account when assessing the need for an electoral review. Both relate to the level of electoral representation within a local authority area. Electoral inequality exists when voters are either over-represented or under-represented by their local councillor(s) in relation to average levels of representation for the authority as a whole.

Under the criteria adopted by the Commission, if either of the following conditions are found to exist, then consideration is given to the need for a review:

- Any local authority with a division or ward that has an electoral variance in excess of 30%. This means a division or ward having at least 30% more (or less) electors in it than the average for the authority as a whole; and/or
- Any local authority where more than 30% of the divisions or wards have an electoral variance in excess of 10% from the average for that authority.

On the basis of the latest data available, our authority appears to meet the selection criteria, with 9 of our 27 wards (33%) having an electoral variance in excess of 10%.

The Commission has therefore provisionally identified a start date for a review of early in 2013 but prior to this there will be a six week preliminary period when the Commission will meet with the Council to agree the precise nature of the review. At present it is expected that these meetings will take place in October.

Members will recall the presentation at a Learning Hour in November 2011 when the implications of the Boundary Review were explained in detail.

### **NEXT STEP**

It is for important for the Council to ensure that the recommendations of the Boundary Commission meet our requirements – the Council therefore needs to be in a position to indicate to the Commission its preferred outcomes of the review.

In order to achieve this it is recommended that a Boundary Committee be established to provide a vehicle to put initial proposals to the Commission and to quickly respond to proposals and requests from the Commission during the period of the Review and to make recommendations to Council on its preferred options and on any formal proposals of the Boundary Commission.

### **BOUNDARY COMMITTEE**

It is proposed that the Boundary Committee would make proposals and representations to The Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the future electoral arrangements for the council.

Its term of reference would be to make recommendations on proposals and representations to the Commission on:

1. The total number of councillors to be elected to the council.
2. The number of councillors to be elected from each ward.
3. The number of wards.
4. The boundaries of the wards.
5. The names of wards.

### **WIDER IMPLICATIONS**

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment which has been carried out forms part of the background papers to the report.

<b>FINANCIAL</b>	
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<b>LEGAL</b>	There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
<b>RISK</b>	The full risk assessment forms part of the background papers to this report. The main points for consideration are summarised here:-  Failing to provide a mechanism for making authoritative representations to The Boundary Commission may minimise the likelihood of achieving the best outcome for South Ribble
<b>THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY</b>	The purpose of this Review is to improve equality of representation.

<b>OTHER (see below)</b>	
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<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Risk Assessment  
Letter from Commission