



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

5TH GENERAL REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – SUBMISSIONS TO SCOTTISH MINISTERS

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Council Executive that the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's (LGBCS) has now submitted its final reports and recommendations on councillor numbers and wards to Scottish Ministers, and that any comments on the reports should be made within six weeks of 26 May 2016

B RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Executive considers whether to submit any comments on the report and recommendations submitted in respect of West Lothian

C SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Other consultations	None

D TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

As part of the 5th General Review of local government electoral arrangements in Scotland, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) submitted its reports and final recommendations on 26 May 2016

The recommendations for West Lothian remain as no change to councillor numbers, ward names or ward boundaries

D2 Previous Stages of the Review - Number of Councillors

The LGBCS initially proposed that the number of councillors in West Lothian increase from 33 to 34 and consulted with the council on this recommendation. The Council Executive on 15 April 2014 agreed that a formal response be sent to the commission in the following terms:

- That the council notes that no evidence has been provided by the commission in relation to the correlation of incidence of deprivation and elected member workload, is unconvinced by the proposal for the use of area deprivation as a basis for determination of the number of councillors, and agrees to write to the commission to ask them to share the evidence that underpins this proposal.
- That the council does not believe that in the current economic climate an increase in the number of councillors at individual council level is justified.
- That the council believes that the current council of 33 elected members remains an appropriate size for West Lothian.

Following on from the conclusion of the consultation with council's on council numbers, the LGBCS undertook a period of public consultation.

D3 Previous Stages of the Review - Ward Boundary Proposals

The LGBCS then developed proposals for no change to councillor numbers, ward boundaries or ward names.

In relation to councillor numbers, the LGBCS advised that their methodology for calculating councillor numbers proposed 34 councillors but during their consideration of ward designs they agreed 33 councillors because doing so allowed them to take better account of factors in the legislation.

The Council Executive agreed on 26 May 2015 to submit a response agreeing that there should be no change to councillor numbers, ward boundaries or ward names for West Lothian Council in respect of this review. Following on from the conclusion of the consultation with council's on ward boundaries, the LGBCS undertook a period of public consultation.

D4 Current Stage of the Review

The LGBCS has now submitted its final reports and recommendations to Scottish Ministers.

There is a six week period (starting on 26 May 2016) where comments on the reports can be submitted to The Scottish Government, Local Government Policy and Relationship Unit, Directorate for Local Government and Communities, Area 3(J), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

E. CONCLUSION

The LGBCS has submitted final reports and recommendations for the 5th Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements to Scottish Ministers. The proposals for West Lothian remain as no change to councillor numbers, ward boundaries or ward names

There is a six week period from 26 May 2016 where comments can on the report can be submitted to the Scottish Government

The Council Executive is asked to consider if comments should be submitted.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Meeting of the Partnership and Resources PDSP held on 16 August 2013 - Fifth Periodic Review of Electoral Arrangements in Scotland

Meeting of the Partnership and Resources PDSP held on 14 April 2014 - Fifth Periodic Review of Electoral Arrangements in Scotland

Meeting of the Council Executive held on 15 April 2014 - Fifth Periodic Review of Electoral Arrangements in Scotland

Meeting of the Partnership and Resources PDSP held on 24 April 2015 – 5th General Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements

Meeting of the Council Executive held on 26 May 2015 - 5th General Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Graham Hope, Chief Executive

Date of meeting: 21 June 2016