

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Electoral Review Working Group/  
Catherine Meek  
Deputy Borough Secretary

**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875011

**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR DECISION**

#### **ELECTORAL MATTERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION** **ELECTORAL REVIEW, POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW AND** **PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

To advise the Council of:-

- The Electoral Review Working Group's proposed submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on warding arrangements for the Borough.
- The outcome of the polling District and Polling Place review.
- The commencement of the Parliamentary Boundary Review being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE).

##### **2 Recommendation**

The Council is requested to resolve:

- (a) That the draft Submission on proposed Warding Arrangements for the Borough as set out at Appendix A be approved and forwarded to the LGBCE.(To Follow).
- (b) That the outcome of the review of Polling District and Polling Places be noted and that:-
  - (1) with the exception of (2) below, existing Polling Districts and Polling Places be retained
  - (2) Upton Lea Community Centre be designated as the Polling Place for Polling District NB (Wexham Lea) with immediate effect.
- (c) That the commencement of the BCE's review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries be noted and that a cross party working group comprising the Leader and a nominee of each Group with relevant officers be established to consider and make recommendations to the Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 on the BCE's initial proposals.

### 3 **Other Implications**

#### (a) Financial

There are no financial or risk management implications as the report is administrative in nature.

#### (b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications associated with this report. Polling District and Polling Place Reviews are carried out under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

### 4 **Supporting Information**

#### **A ELECTORAL REVIEW – LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND**

- 4.1 At its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011 the Council was advised of the timetable for the Electoral review of Slough being carried out by the LGBCE as follows:

<b>Timetable</b>			
<b>Stage</b>	<b>Date start</b>	<b>Date finished</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Information gathering for warding arrangements	4 July 2011	4 October 2011	13 weeks
LGBCE analysis and deliberation	5 October	20 December	11 weeks
Draft recommendations published	20 December		8 weeks
Draft recommendations consultation	20 December 2011	13 February 2012	
LGBCE analysis and deliberation	14 February 2012	8 May 2012	13 weeks
Final recommendations published	8 May 2012		

- 4.2 The Council established a cross party working group comprising the Leader and a nominee of each Group with relevant officers to consider and make recommendations to the Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September on a warding pattern for the Borough.
- 4.3 The Working Group has met several times over the summer period. A copy of the Working Group's proposed submission to the LGBCE is attached at Appendix A for the Council's consideration.(To Follow)

#### **B POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW**

- 4.4 At its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011 the Council was advised that a review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places under Section 18C(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 needed to be completed by December 2011.

Polling districts and polling places for local government elections were not automatically part of the review however given that, in practice, polling districts and polling places for local government elections are based on UK parliamentary polling arrangements a review of local government polling arrangements was conducted simultaneously.

- 4.5 The Review was commenced formally by the publication of a notice stating that the local authority intended to commence a review and inviting representations. There is no requirement to change polling districts or places but any 'no change' decision must be fully justified.
- 4.6 A notice publicising the commencement of the Review was published on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 with representations invited up to the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011. A copy of the Notice was also sent to interested parties such as Members, Disability groups and other stakeholders. The Council agreed that any representations and recommendations would be considered by the cross party electoral review working for report to Council on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- 4.7 The working group was advised of the outcome of the review at its meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. There had been no responses to the consultation other than a request for the Polling place for Polling District NB to be altered from Lea Nursery to Upton Lea Community Centre, off Wexham Road. A site visit has been carried out and the building is considered to be suitable for the purpose and more convenient to voters than Lea Nursery. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the existing arrangements for Polling Districts and Polling Places be retained but that the polling place for Polling District NB be changed to Upton Lea Community Centre.
- 4.8 A map showing the location of the proposed new Polling Place is attached at Appendix B.
- 4.9 Since the meeting of the working group the Elections Office has been advised that St Ethelbert's School (a Voluntary Aided school) no longer wishes to be used as a polling place. It is currently a polling place for Polling District NC in Wexham Lea Ward. Alternative polling places are being investigated and will be reported to the Council meeting.

## **C PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

- 4.10 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published initial proposals for new constituency boundaries in England on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011. This publication marks the start of a 12 week period of consultation on the BCE's initial proposals ending on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.
- 4.11 The BCE's proposals are available for inspection at St Martin's Place and summaries of the proposals are available - a copy of the summary of the initial proposals for the South East is attached at Appendix C. The review concludes in 2013 and a timeline for the Review is attached at Appendix D.
- 4.12 It is proposed that the cross party electoral review working group comprising the Leader and a nominee of each Group with relevant officers be re-established to consider and make recommendations to the Council on the BCE's initial proposals for Slough Constituency.

5 **Appendices**

- A Draft Submission on proposed Warding Arrangements for the Borough (To Follow)
- B Map showing proposed polling place for Polling District NB
- C Parliamentary Boundary Review – Initial Proposals for the South East
- D Timeline for the Parliamentary Boundary Review

6 **Background Papers**

Local Government Boundary Commission for England– Electoral Reviews – Guidance

Agenda and Minutes – Council 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011

BCE Letter to Chief Executive – 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Circular EC19/2010 – Review of Polling Districts, polling places and polling stations