

REGULATORY & LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 3 February 2011

Agenda Item 4

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**REPORT OF JOHN BROWN – LAND AND PROPERTY MANAGER DEMOCRATIC AND
LEGAL SERVICES**

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF STAFFORDSHIRE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Electoral Review of Staffordshire that the Local Government Boundary Commission are carrying out.

2. Summary of Background Information

- 2.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission will be carrying out an Electoral Review of Staffordshire. This is due to the fact that since the last review (2002/2003) the Electorate in the Divisions of the County has changed to the extent that 42% of those Divisions now have electorates which vary by more than 10% from the average. The threshold for a review is 30% and the aim of the review will be to correct this so as to ensure that each County Councillor represents approximately the same number of electors as his or her colleagues.
- 2.2 The timetable for the review is as follows:-
- (a) Consultation of overall number of Councillors – 14 September to 25 October 2010.
 - (b) Recommendation published by Commission – November 2010.
 - (c) Consultation on possible Electoral Arrangements (number per Division, number of Divisions, boundaries of Divisions and names of Divisions) – 30 November 2010 to 21 February 2011.
 - (d) Publication of proposals – around May 2011.
 - (e) Consultation on proposals – May to August 2011.
 - (f) Publication of final recommendations – 20 October 2011.
- 2.3 The proposals should be in effect for the 2013 County Council Elections and the District Council has the opportunity of considering the proposals.
- 2.4 Members will recall that at the Council Meeting held on 12 October 2010 it was resolved that the proposal for the number of Staffordshire County Councillors to remain at 62 should be supported.

2.5 The key issue identified for consideration in the review are as follows:-

- (a) The average number of electors per County Councillor in the Lichfield District is lower than across the County as a whole.
- (b) The number of electors per Councillor in the Burntwood North, Burntwood South and Lichfield Rural South Divisions are significantly lower than the County average.
- (c) There is likely to be an increase in population due to new houses being built in the Fradley, Leomansley and Armitage areas of the District.

The following documents are attached for the information of Members:-

- (a) The County Divisions as they currently stand (APPENDIX A)
- (b) The proposed new divisions (APPENDIX B)
- (c) The current and proposed divisions overlaid for comparison (APPENDIX C)
- (d) The projected populations for each of the divisions and the polling districts that make them up (APPENDIX D)

2.6 The proposals for the area are as follows:-

- (a) Some of the urban areas of Burntwood that are current in the existing Lichfield Rural West Division are now included in the new Urban Burntwood Divisions (Lichfield 7 and 8).
- (b) The Lichfield District Council Ward at Kings Bromley (currently part of Lichfield Rural North Division) has been added to the remainder of the existing Lichfield Rural West Division to form the Lichfield 1 Division.
- (c) The remainder of the Lichfield Rural North Division forms Lichfield 2.
- (d) The existing Lichfield Rural East Division is unaltered to form Lichfield 5.
- (e) Part of the Lichfield District Council Ward of St Johns which is currently part of the Lichfield City South Division has been added to the current Lichfield Rural South Division to form Lichfield 6.
- (f) The remainder of the current Lichfield City South Division forms Lichfield 4.
- (j) The existing Lichfield City North Division is unaltered to form Lichfield 3.

2.7 Members are asked to consider the proposals put forward however in order to assist some comments are set out below.

2.8 The proposals identified as part of the Lichfield District St Johns Ward will become part of the proposed Lichfield 6 County Electoral Division which is effectively the current County Division of Lichfield Rural South. That part proposed to be removed splits an area within the Ward. Members may consider that it is not desirable to have a small part of one Ward in the City moved out of the City for the County Councillor representing that area. The figures indicate that it is not actually a requirement to hit the 10% plus target for the proposed Lichfield 4 Division and appears to have been done in order to increase the electors in the proposed Lichfield 6 County Electoral Division to make that fall within the 10% plus target.

An alternative option may be for the Lichfield 4 Division (essentially Lichfield City South) to remain and instead the electors in the Parishes of Weeford and Hints/Canwell be moved into the proposed new Lichfield 6 County Electoral Division which would keep that Division rural.

3. Recommendation

That Members consider the proposals put forward and determine a response to be submitted to Staffordshire County Council.

4. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in dealing with the report.