

Summary

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for South Derbyshire District Council

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We are conducting an electoral review of South Derbyshire to ensure that the authority has appropriate electoral arrangements that reflect its functions and political management structure.

The review aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same. The Boundary Committee for England commenced the review in 2009. However, on 1 April 2010, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England assumed the functions of the Boundary Committee and is now conducting the review. It therefore falls to us to complete the work of the Boundary Committee.

This review is being conducted in the stages shown in the table below.

Submissions received

The Boundary Committee received 26 representations including district-wide schemes from South Derbyshire District Council ('the Council') and the South Derbyshire Conservative Association which were identical. We also received district-wide proposals from the Labour Group on the council ('the Labour Group') and Mark Todd MP (South Derbyshire) that were almost identical. The Committee also received localised evidence of community identity from parish councils and local residents in the district. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Stage	Stage starts	Description
One	27 October 2009	Submission of proposals to the Boundary Committee on council size and warding arrangements for the authority and its analysis and deliberation
Two	19 January 2010	Boundary Committee's analysis and deliberation
Three	25 May 2010	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	20 July 2010	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

Electorate figures

South Derbyshire District Council submitted electorate forecasts for December 2013, a period five years on from the December 2008 electoral roll which is the basis for this review. These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 9% over this period. Although we have some concern that this level of growth appears somewhat high, we note that during the period 2004 – 2008 the electorate in South Derbyshire increased by approximately 6%. Given the number of projected development areas in the north of the district, we are satisfied that the Council's projections are the most accurate electorate figures that can be provided at this time.

Council size

The District currently has a council size of 36 members. The Boundary Committee received proposals for council sizes ranging from 36 to 39 members. The District Council and the local Conservative Association proposed a scheme based on 39 members, while the Labour

Group and Mark Todd MP proposed similar schemes based on 36 members. We are of the view that the Council's submission did not contain sufficient evidence to warrant an increase in the current number of 36 councillors. We therefore recommend a council size of 36 members as the basis of this review.

General analysis

Having considered the submissions received during Stage One, we have developed proposals which are based broadly on those of the Labour Group and Mark Todd MP. Given our decision on council size, we were unable to take account of much of the Council's warding proposals. However, we have had regard to their scheme where it is compatible with a 36-member council. Where we have moved away from the Labour Group's proposals, we have sought to reflect communication links, geographic factors and evidence of community identity received during Stage One.

What happens next?

There will now be a consultation period, during which we encourage comment on the draft recommendations on the proposed electoral arrangements for South Derbyshire District Council contained in the report. **We take this consultation very seriously and it is therefore important that all those interested in the review should let us have their views and evidence, whether or not they agree with these draft proposals.** We will take into account all submissions received by **19 July 2010**. Any received **after** this date may not be taken into account.

We would particularly welcome local views backed up by demonstrable evidence. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations. Express your views by writing directly to us at:

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The Local Government
Boundary Commission for
England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
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Further information

The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament in April 2010. It is independent of Government and political parties, and is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government areas.

The
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