

To: City Executive Board

Date: Date of the meeting: 29 November 2018

Report of: Electoral Registration Officer

Title of Report: City Ward Boundary Review 2018

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To brief the City Executive Board on the ward boundary review and ask it to comment on the amended draft ward scheme as published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in November 2018.
Key decision:	Yes
Executive Board Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council
Corporate Priority:	None
Policy Framework:	None
Recommendations: That the City Executive Board resolves to:	
Propose amendments to and comments on the new scheme of wards published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as follows:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Council prefers the scheme as originally proposed and published by the Commission on 5th June; 2. the Council does not support the current scheme; 3. that, if the original scheme is not re-adopted, then it proposes that the two new wards of St. Mary's and St. Clement's in the Commission's current proposals be accepted with some minor amendments, with the boundaries for Cowley, Temple Cowley, Rose Hill & Iffley and Littlemore from the original scheme, with a small adjustment in the boundary between Cowley and Temple Cowley wards to take account of concerns in the Florence Park area; and 4. a re-designed Donnington ward, running along the southern boundaries of the new St. Mary's and St. Clement's wards, from Weirs Lane in the west to Bartlemas Close in the east. 	

Appendix	
Appendix 1	Risk Register
Appendix 2	Letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England dated 6 th November 2018.
Appendix 3	Spreadsheet showing the breakdown of the proposals, street-by-street

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 14th August 2018 the City Executive Board agreed to recommend a series of amendments to the draft ward scheme as published by the Local Government Boundary Commission at Stage Two of the review.
2. The Commission has now taken the unusual step of re-publishing part of its draft scheme, following submissions made during the Stage Two consultation period.

Stages of the review

3. The review is carried out under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and is split into six stages.
4. The revised timetable is shown below:

Stage	Timing	Function
Preliminary	June–December 2017	Now complete.
Stage One	9 th Jan-2 nd April 2018	The Commission published a council size it was minded to recommend and invited ward proposals based on that council size. Now complete.
Stage Two	5 th June-13 th August 2018	The Commission published a draft ward scheme for consultation.
Stage Two (extended)	6 th November-4 th December 2018	The Commission has published revisions to sevens wards and a further short consultation period.
Stage Three	5 th February 2019	The Commission will publish its final recommendations.
Stage Four	February-May 2019	The Commission's draft order giving effect to its recommendations is laid in both houses of parliament. Parliament can either accept or reject the recommendations. It cannot modify them.
Stage Five	May 2020	The new electoral arrangements will come in to force.

5. The review is now in an extended Stage Two. The consultation ends on 4th December 2018.
6. The Commission has made various major amendments to its draft scheme. Attached as Appendix 2 is the letter from the Commission giving details of its proposed changes. It has acted after it received more than 150 representations to its draft scheme, none of which were supportive of it.
7. A significant number of submissions related to three issues: the proposals for Bartlemas, Donnington and St. Clements' wards; the proposed boundary in the Florence Park area between Cowley and Temple Cowley wards; and the proposal to rename St. Clement's ward as Bannister.
8. The Council's submission to Stage Two agreed that the boundary between Cowley and Temple Cowley wards should be amended and the Commission has accepted this.
9. Taking into account the submissions, the Commission has:
 - completely re-drawn the boundaries in the three wards in the St. Clement's/Cowley Road/Iffley Road triangle, with consequential changes to the wards below them – Rose Hill, Cowley, Temple Cowley and Littlemore;
 - moved Iffley village from the Rose Hill ward to a new Donnington ward;
 - amended the boundary between the Cowley and Temple Cowley wards to take into account comments about the splitting up of streets that consider themselves as park of Florence Park area;
 - amended the boundary between Littlemore and Rose Hill wards.

Cross-party working group

10. As the Board knows a cross-party member working group has been set up in order to make recommendations. The Working Group is made up of members of all groups on the Council (Councillors Hollingsworth, Tanner, Simmons and Gotch). The Working Group met on 12th November 2018 and has made various suggested amendments to the Commission's draft scheme.
11. The Working Group felt the whole redesign of the three wards (St. Clement's, St. Mary's and Donnington & Iffley) was predicated on including Iffley village in Donnington & Iffley. The Working Group considered this proposal unacceptable. It felt that there are no links between Iffley and the rest of its new ward. Iffley has been linked with Rose Hill electorally for many decades and, over that time, many links have been developed between the two areas. Add from Ed Turner
12. Therefore the Working Group could not endorse the Commission's current proposals.
13. It proposes the following, that:
 - a) the Council prefers the scheme as originally proposed and published by the Commission in June 2018;
 - b) the Council does not support the current scheme;

- c) that, if the original scheme is not re-adopted, then it proposes that the two new wards of St. Mary's and St. Clement's be accepted with some minor amendments, with the boundaries for Cowley, Temple Cowley, Rose Hill & Iffley and Littlemore from the original scheme, with a small adjustment in the boundary between Cowley and Temple Cowley wards to take account of concerns in the Florence Park area (as detailed in Appendix 3);
- d) This will leave a re-designed Donnington ward, running along the southern boundaries of the new St. Mary's and St. Clement's wards, from Weirs Lane in the west to Bartlemas Close in the east (as detailed in Appendix 3);.

If agreed the ward figures are as follows:

New ward	No. of electors	Ave. no of electors	Variation (must be within +/- 10%)	Variance (number)
Cowley	5200	4834	107.57%	366
Donnington	4783	4834	98.95%	-51
Littlemore	4967	4834	102.75%	133
Rose Hill	4879	4834	100.93%	45
St Clements	4456	4834	92.18%	-378
St. Mary's	5028	4834	104.02%	194
Temple Cowley	4453	4834	92.12%	-381

Further details on the allocations of streets to each wards are shown in Appendix 3.

Maps showing the schemes will be circulated nearer the time and at the meeting.

Financial implications

14. There are no financial implications.

Legal issues

15. There are no specific legal implications insofar as the Council is concerned as it is a consultee.

Level of risk

A completed Risk Register is attached at Appendix 1.

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Background Papers: None