

To: City Executive Board
Date: Date of the meeting: 27th November 2017
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 recommend a council size to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Key decision:	Yes
Executive Board Member:	Councillor Bob Price, Leader
Corporate Priority:	None
Policy Framework:	None
Recommendation: That the City Executive Board resolves to:	
Propose a council size of 48 councillors to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	City Boundary Working Group Submission on council size
Appendix 2	Risk Register

Introduction

1. The Boundary Commission for England has instigated a review of the City's ward boundaries. A review can be triggered when the electoral imbalance between wards is greater than 10%. This is now the case in Oxford, almost exclusively caused by the fall in registration rates following the introduction of individual electoral registration in 2014.

Stages of the review

The review is carried out in six stages:

Stage	Timing	Function
Preliminary	June–December 2017	Commission briefs interested parties about the review and ask the Council to make a recommendation on council size.
Stage One	9 th Jan-19 th March 2018	The Commission will publish a council size it is minded to recommend and invite ward proposals based on that council size.
Stage Two	8 th May-16 th July 2018	The Commission will publish a draft ward scheme for consultation.
Stage Three	4 th September 2018	The Commission will publish its final recommendations.
Stage Four	October-December 2018	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.

We are currently at the preliminary stage (deciding our recommended council size). This stage only involves the Commission and the Council and is not put out for general consultation.

Cross-party working group

2. A cross-party member working group has been set up in order to make recommendations to the Board. The Working Group has met several times and has come to an agreement on its recommended council size and the development of the Council's submission.
3. The Working Group recommends a council size of 48. It believes that the current council size is adequate to enable members to perform both their duties as members of the council and work within their wards.
4. The Working Group's draft submission to the Commission is attached as Appendix 1.

Financial implications

5. There are no financial implications.

Legal issues

6. There are no legal implications.
7. Level of risk

A completed Risk Register is attached at Appendix 2.

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Background Papers: None

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