

**To:** City Executive Board

**Date:** Date of the meeting: 14 August 2018

**Report of:** Electoral Registration Officer

**Title of Report:** City Ward Boundary Review 2018

| <b>Summary and recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <b>Purpose of report:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | To brief the City Executive Board on the ward boundary review and ask it to comment on the draft ward scheme as published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. |
| <b>Key decision:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Executive Board Member:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Corporate Priority:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | None                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Policy Framework:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | None                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Recommendations:</b> That the City Executive Board resolves to:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Propose</b> amendments to the new scheme of wards published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in East Oxford the boundaries moves from north of St Mary's Road to south of it, and from the east of Bullingdon Road to the west;</li> <li>• in Headington the boundary reverts to the City Council's original proposal so the boundary runs up the middle of Old Road. Holyoake Road simply reverts to Quarry and Risinghurst as it would not need to move to enable electoral equality reasons; and</li> <li>• to amend the proposed name of St. Clement's to Bannister</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| <b>Appendix</b> |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Appendix 1      | Risk Register |

## Introduction

1. At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 the City Executive Board agreed to recommend a scheme of wards to the Local Government Boundary Commission. The Commission has now published its draft ward scheme and invites comments on it.

## Stages of the review

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

| Stage       | Timing                                            | Function                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Preliminary | June–December 2017                                | Now complete.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Stage One   | 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan-2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> June-13 <sup>th</sup> August 2018 | The Commission has published a draft ward scheme for consultation.                                                                                                                         |
| Stage Three | 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 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.                                                                                                                                      |

4. The review is now in Stage Two. The consultation ends on 13th August. As the Board meets the day after the Commission has agreed to give the Council a one day extension.
5. The Commission has made various relatively minor amendments to the scheme as submitted by the City Council. Some are around the boundaries in the proposed wards in north Oxford and they bring those areas closer to the average ward size across the city.

Others include in east Oxford where they have made amendments to the proposed new wards of St. Clement's, Donnington and Bartlemas, again for electoral equality reasons.

## Cross-party working group

6. 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 Wilkinson

[since replaced by Councillor Gotch]). The Working Group met on 18<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 and has made various suggested amendments to the Commission's draft scheme.

It accepts the small changes as proposed by the Commission in the north of the city.

It had concerns about its change in east Oxford and in the eastern part of Old Road.

The Working proposes that:

- in East Oxford the boundaries moves from north of St Mary's Road to south of it, and from the east of Bullingdon Road to the west;
- in Headington the boundary reverts to the City Council's original proposal so the boundary runs up the middle of Old Road. Holyoake Road simply reverts to Quarry and Risinghurst as it would not need to move to enable electoral equality reasons.

Below are the Working Group's proposals in table form.

| <b>Street</b>                       | <b>LGBCE Proposal</b>  | <b>Counter-Proposal Option</b> | <b>No. of electors</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bullingdon Road                     | St Clements            | Donnington                     | 356                    |
| St Mary's Road (E of Bullingdon Rd) | Donnington             | St Clements                    | 157                    |
| St Mary's Road                      | Donnington             | St Clements                    |                        |
| Old Road (south side – 114-166)     | Quarry and Risinghurst | Churchill                      | 36                     |
| Holyoake Road                       | Headington             | Quarry and Risinghurst         |                        |
| Dorchester Close                    | Quarry and Risinghurst | Churchill                      | 48                     |
| Old Road (south side - 168-Dracena) | Quarry and Risinghurst | Churchill                      | 28                     |
| Upper Meadow                        | Quarry and Risinghurst | Churchill                      | 31                     |

The Working Group believes that these counter-proposals retain electoral equality and provide better and more legible boundaries than the Commission has proposed.

In the proposed St Clement's ward the electoral would be 5157 (6% variance) and Donnington (-2% variance).

The Working Group considered an alternative scheme from the Green Group for the area covered by proposed wards of St. Clement's, Donnington and Bartlemas. The Working Group did not adopt that scheme and the Green Group reserved the right to make a separate submission.

In Old Road, the Working Group considers the Council scheme to be more easily understandable. The Commission argued that it would need new parish wards because of the county division boundaries in the area. The Working Group thought this was a minor issue and indeed the county divisions may well be under a Commission review in the very near future so could change again.

The Working Group felt that the Commission could make minor amendments to parish ward boundaries in the area to reflect the new arrangements, moving the south side of Old Road and the other streets there from the Risinghurst South parish ward into the Wood Farm parish ward. Holyoake Road could then return to the proposed Quarry and Risinghurst ward.

The Working Group proposes to change the proposed name of St. Clement's and replace it with Bannister. This is because the new St. Clement's ward is significantly different from the current one. So to avoid confusion and to acknowledge the recently-deceased Sir Roger Bannister's historic race at the Iffley Road track (within the new ward) the new name of Bannister is proposed.

The Liberal Democrat and Green Groups support the proposals, as amended by the Working Group, except as they cover the new wards of St. Clement's, Donnington and Bartlemas wards.

### **Financial implications**

7. There are no financial implications.

### **Legal issues**

8. 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