

## **TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 08 NOVEMBER, 2011**

### **BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE - COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

#### **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To request the Committee to recommend the Terms of Reference for the Boundary Review Committee, as outlined in Annex 1, to Full Council for approval:

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members recommend to Council that:**

- 2.1 **The Terms of Reference of the Boundary Review Committee, as set out in Annex 1, be approved and reflected in the Council's Constitution.**
- 2.2 **The Terms of Reference of Licensing Committee be amended and the Constitution amended to reflect the delegated powers being transferred to the Boundary Review Committee, shown at paragraph 3.4 of the report.**

#### **3.0 SUMMARY**

- 3.1 A Boundary Review Committee was appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 26 May 2011.
- 3.2 The Committee requires a defined Terms of Reference that identifies any matters the Committee shall deal with. The proposed Terms of Reference are attached at Annex A.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the Boundary Review Committee have powers to deal with the following matters relating to **Boundary Reviews**:
- a) Duty to prepare information on and to provide consultation responses on behalf of the Council on Parliamentary Boundary Reviews
  - b) Duty to prepare information on and to provide consultation responses on behalf of the Council on Periodic and further Electoral Reviews
  - c) Duty to prepare information on and to provide consultation responses for the Council on Reviews of European Parliamentary electoral regions.
  - d) Duty to prepare information on and to provide consultation responses for the Council on all other electoral arrangement reviews

3.4 The following powers, which relate to **boundary matters**, are currently delegated to Licensing Committee. These powers would be more appropriately dealt with under the remit of the Boundary Review Committee. Those powers are as follows:

- a) Dealing with all matters relating to Community Governance Reviews
- b) Grouping parishes, dissolving groups and separating parishes from groups
- c) The duty to divide the constituency in to polling districts
- d) The power to divide electoral divisions into polling districts at local government elections.

If the recommendations are approved then the Terms of Reference of Licensing Committee in the Constitution would need to be amended to reflect the transfer of powers to the Boundary Review Committee.

#### **4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

4.1 None

#### **5.0 INFORMATION**

5.1 Following appointment at 26 May Annual Council the Boundary Review Committee requires approval of Terms of Reference which will define the powers, functions and duties of the Committee.

5.2 The proposals are that the Committee has powers to make recommendations to Council on all Parliamentary, European and periodic and further electoral reviews.

5.3 The proposals are that some powers currently delegated to Licensing Committee are more appropriately dealt with by the Boundary Review Committee as they relate to boundary matters. These are shown at paragraph 3.4 of the summary section of the report.

#### **6.0 OTHER INFORMATION**

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| <b>Equality &amp; Diversity</b>        | Any changes to the Constitution must comply with all the equality and diversity legislation and regulations.               |
| <b>Environmental Impact</b>            | None arising directly from this report.  |
| <b>Legal Comment</b>                   | The legal comment is set out within the main body of this report.  |
| <b>Links with Corporate Priorities</b> | The Council seeks to deliver its objectives of providing leadership, accountability and high standards in local democracy. |

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| <b>Opportunities &amp; Risks</b> | The opportunities and risks associated with this process have been assessed. Arrangements have been put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified. |
| <b>Financial Implications</b>    | The changes will be accommodated within existing budgets. .  |
| <b>Ward Implications</b>         | Borough wide   |

## 7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Council Constitution

Representation of the People Act (1983)

Local Government Act 1972

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act (2009)

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