**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW PHASE TWO RESPONSE**

**EAST RIDING MEMBER WORKING GROUP SUBMISSION**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is currently undertaking a review into the electoral arrangements of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Any final approved recommendations will come into effect in time for the next ordinary day of election on Thursday 6 May 2027.

The review is in two phases:

* Phase One – size of the council (number of councillors)
* Phase Two – the warding pattern of the council (the number of electoral wards and their boundaries)

Phase One of the review is completed and the LGBCE has decided that the size of the council will remain the same with 67 councillors.

Phase Two of the review is currently being undertaken and the public consultation on the first part of phase two is currently open and closes on 9 September 2024. Following this, the LGBCE will publish draft recommendations as to the number and boundaries of the wards. A second phase of consultation will then take place on the draft recommendations, with final recommendations being published in March 2025.

**MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

The member working group, originally established to assist in undertaking the community governance review, remained in place to assist in developing submissions to the LGBCE on this review.

The member working group comprises Councillors:

* Cllr Hammond (chair), Conservative Group
* Cllr Astell, Liberal Democrat Group
* Cllr Gallant, Labour Group
* Cllr Jeffreys, Independent Group
* Cllr Norman, Yorkshire Group
* Cllr Bowtell, Reform UK Group

Also, when appropriate, the non-affiliated independent councillors attended meetings.

Having met over recent months to consider the possible warding pattern for the council, the working group has developed a number of guiding principles and a list of specific settlements/areas of the East Riding that require particular careful consideration and attention. In developing these principles, the Member Working Group has considered the future predicted electorates for the East Riding, together with other related data.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The guiding principles were considered and developed by the member working group over a number of meetings. The working group feels that the LGBCE should take into consideration these principles when reviewing the ward boundary arrangements in the East Riding to ensure that any changes reflect the local area and are not detrimental to current working arrangements. The guiding principles are as follows:

1. All wards should have two or three councillors; there should be no one-member wards.
2. Howden ward should be reviewed in light of only having one Councillor and the predicted increase in electorate.
3. The predicted electorates highlight some of the main areas requiring revision. Members are concerned however, with the sole focus being on predicted electorate numbers without any recognition or consideration of other socio-economic and deprivation data, where areas of high deprivation can place a higher demand on the ward workload of councillors. Each ward should reflect the local communities.
4. The mix of rural and urban settlements needs to be addressed. There are currently wards which included larger urban settlements along with rural areas where the communities in the smaller rural areas feel that the larger urban areas drew more of the time and attention of the ward councillors/the Council. There is general agreement that the main urban areas should be standalone wards similar to how Goole is currently warded, these included – Bridlington (Parish Area), Goole (Parish Area), Pocklington (Parish Area), Driffield (Parish Area), Brough (Parish Area), Beverley (New parish Area plus Molescroft Parish)
5. There is a disparity between the level of the population living in rural areas compared to the smaller number of wards with a solely rural focus and this needed to be redressed.
6. Some of the existing wards and their boundaries no longer appear to have a logical basis for their current ‘make-up’. As a result of the community governance review areas should be reviewed from a ward representation point of view to reflect these changes which will be coming into effect from the next ordinary day of election in May 2027, for example changes in the Beverley/Woodmansey area.
7. There is general agreement around the existing arrangements in Holderness remaining largely unchanged.
8. There is general agreement that if Wolds Weighton is to be split it should be done along an East to West divide to reflect the linkages with the York area in the west. This should include areas within Pocklington Provincial as the Pocklington urban area should be a standalone ward as highlighted above.
9. There is general agreement that the existing arrangements in the Goole and Snaith area should remain unchanged.
10. There is general agreement that the west of Hull villages area (with the exception of Cottingham) is satisfactory and should remain unchanged. Cottingham North and South require further attention and consideration as to whether it should comprise two wards or one ward given the predicted electorate to councillor ratios. Consideration should be given to linkages with the Skidby area and the changes in Dunswell area following the Community Governance Review.
11. The arrangements in Dale Ward area appear to be historic and would benefit from further consideration, this should include its linkages with areas within the South Hunsley Ward.

**Conclusion**

The above guiding principles have been agreed by the Member Working Group and signed off for submission to LGBCE in September 2024 on behalf of East Riding Council. They have been developed taking into account local knowledge and working arrangements in the area, following feedback from elected members and officers across the Council. As with the response to the first phase of public consultation the working group ask that the LGBCE take these principles into consideration when reviewing the ward boundary arrangements in the East Riding.