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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2024

AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

MEMBERS: Councillors H. D. N. Rone-Clarke (Chairman), J. Robinson (Vice-Chairman), S. R. Colella, E. M. S. Gray, C.A. Hotham, H. J. Jones and R. Lambert

AGENDA

1. **To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitutes**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.
3. **To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee held on 7th December 2023 (Pages 5 - 10)**
4. **Polling Places Alterations 2024 (Pages 11 - 16)**
5. **Possible Community Governance Review - Finstall Parish (Pages 17 - 24)**
6. **Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Worcestershire County Divisions Review (Pages 25 - 28)**

7. **To consider any urgent business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chairman considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting**

Sue Hanley
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

15th February 2024

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jess Bayley-Hill**

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

7TH DECEMBER 2023, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors H. D. N. Rone-Clarke (Chairman), J. Robinson (Vice-Chairman), S. R. Colella, C.A. Hotham, K.J. May and S. T. Nock

Officers: Mrs C. Felton, Mr D Whitney, Ms J. Bayley-Hill and Ms M Bassett.

12/23

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Lambert and H. Jones. Councillor K. May was substitute for Councillor Lambert and Councillor S.T. Nock was substitute for Councillor Jones.

13/23

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/23

TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st September 2023 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

15/23

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND PRELIMINARY STAGE BOUNDARY REVIEW FOR BROMSGROVE - COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION

The Chairman agreed to this item being considered first.

The Committee considered a report which set out the stages for a review of the electoral boundaries in Bromsgrove, which would be carried out by the Local Government Boundaries Commission for England (LGBCE). There had been an update to the timetable to take into account the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2024. The planned dates were now:

- Consultation on ward patterns 30th July – 30th September 2024
- LGBCE to meet on 17th December 2024 to decide its draft recommendations
- Consultation on draft recommendations between 14th January and 24th March 2025

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- Publication of the LGBCE final recommendations on 24th June 2025
- Order to be laid in summer of 2025
- Implementation in May 2027.

If the Council wished to make a submission on council size, it should do this by 23rd February 2024 and the Committee was asked to decide whether the Council should make a submission and if so, what the indicative number of Councillors should be.

Officers had prepared an initial draft submission using the template provided by the LGBCE. The draft contained contextual information to aid discussion by the Committee.

The following were the main points discussed by the Committee during consideration of the report:

- it was suggested that reference on page 58 to 'require opposition members to be appointed as Chairmen of the Audit, Standards, and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Board' should be amended to acknowledge that this would be impractical if the Council was made up of only one political group
- further to a query, officers would check the ONS data available following the 2021 census to ensure that data quoted in the submission was as up to date as possible
- members queried whether the Council should aim to have an odd or even number of Councillors. It was acknowledged that for practical reasons many Councils preferred to have an odd number of Councillors. This tended to enable a majority administration to be formed in the event of an election outcome leading to political groups of the same size. However, the view was expressed that whilst this was a reasonable consideration, it should not be given more weight than improving the ratio of electorate to councillors across the District
- Members asked for details of the range between the lowest number of electors per Councillor currently and the highest
- It was noted that the previous review of Council size had reduced it from 39 to 31 Councillors and removed multi member wards. With this background Members agreed that there should not be any further reduction in the number of Councillors.
- The view was expressed that the estimated increase in electorate due to proposed development used in the previous review had not materialised, which meant there was an uneven distribution of the electorate across the District currently. Members were reminded that the review was carried out in stages. The LGBCE was looking at the total number of Councillors for the projected electorate as a whole at this initial stage and the Council should focus on that. There would be an opportunity to examine the distribution of wards at the next stage of the review

- The Committee was also reminded that the LGBCE guidance stated submissions should include challenges specific to the District, and examples suggested included an ageing population and increasing complexity of Councillor case work and decisions. It was suggested that this would mitigate against reducing the number of Councillors further.
- A member commented that the final number should take into consideration the need to attract a diverse range of councillors and keep individual workloads to a manageable level
- Whilst the projected increase in the number of electors indicated an additional councillor might be required, as developers might decide to 'landbank' land earmarked for development, it was possible that the number would not be reached in the timescale for the current review (2027) and at this stage an increase in the number of councillors was not justified
- It was suggested that the Committee could recommend the number of Councillors stay the same for the current review and suggest a further review in 8 years' time, by which time it would be known whether or not proposed developments would have been built out. However, it was noted that the timing of reviews was at the discretion of the LGBCE who responded to changes in electoral equality.

Having considered the views put forward, the Committee agreed that the Council put forward a council size of 31 to the LGBCE.

RECOMMENDED that the Council puts forward a council size of 31 in its submission to the LGBCE.

16/23

STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2023

The Committee considered a report which set out the results of the consultation and the findings of the Electoral Services team to the formal review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. The consultation had run between 2nd October to 13th November and all submissions and summaries had been recorded in the appendix to the report.

Members had previously supported a light touch approach to the review, since there would be a need for a further exercise following the County Council electoral boundaries review, which was due to be finalised in the summer of 2024, and again after the review of the District Council electoral boundaries.

Most of the submissions received had expressed satisfaction with the current polling districts and the polling stations within those. It would not be necessary to republish the electoral register unless the Committee considered there should be changes to the polling districts. If there were any changes, these would be in place for the PCC elections on 2nd May 2024 and before that if there was a by election. It was noted that the ARO was asked to comment in response to the consultation and the

interim ARO, Mrs Hanley, had supported the suggestions from the committee and officers.

Details were set out in the report of the 3 areas where requests for change were received:

Polling District COA Cofton Hackett

Proposals had been received to move from the 'old' to the new village hall because of access issues. Following a visit to the new hall, officers supported this proposal and the Committee endorsed the change.

Polling District ALB Beoley

A complaint had been received about election posters being displayed at a property adjacent to the village hall on polling day. This was not relating to the polling place, so no change was proposed and the Committee agreed to this.

Polling Districts ASA (Aston Fields North), ASB (Aston Fields South), SSA (Slideslow South) and SSB (Slideslow North) – St Godwald's Church Hall A submission had been received objecting to the use of St Godwald's church hall as the polling place for two District Wards.

The Committee had previously agreed to trial an alternative polling place from Finstall First School. Due to Covid the first opportunity to use St Godwald's Church Hall as a polling place for Aston Fields and Slideslow was in May 2023. At the election, polling staff handed a short questionnaire to voters at random regarding the polling place and future options for polling. Of the 146 responses received, 87% were happy with the polling place and over 49% would use it in the future, although some issues were raised about parking. Over a third (37%) would like to see the polling place return to Finstall First School.

A member expressed the view that the polling station should move back to Finstall First school because of the parking issues at St Godwald's. He pointed out that whilst the use of school premises at short notice could cause issues, the dates for the majority of elections were known in advance so officers could plan with the school in good time to minimise disruption. Officers reported that whilst concerns had been raised about the use of the First School as a polling station, Government policy was that schools could be used as they were publicly funded community facilities. However, the District and County Councils tried to avoid the use of schools as far as possible because of potential disruption. Officers were investigating the Salvation Army Hall as an alternative polling venue in Aston Fields for electors in that area, which could relieve some of the pressure on parking at St Godwald's. They would report back at a future meeting once they had more details.

Whilst noting the concerns expressed about the use of St Godwald's and the parking issues, members generally considered the accommodation

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was suitable and the suggestion to revert to Finstall First School was not supported by the Committee.

A member asked whether health and safety checks of polling stations were carried out routinely. The Electoral Services Manager responded that these were being carried out prompted by actions taken during the Covid pandemic, to review how the polling stations worked, and following the Elections Act 2022 which required accessibility to all polling stations to be reviewed. Health and Safety officers were working through all the polling stations. This was supplemented by forms completed by polling station staff and Inspectors at each election.

In response to a query from a member, Officers would check accessibility at the Hopwood Polling station and report back to the next meeting.

A member queried the fire egress risk referred to in relation to the portable building at King George's Close, how this was being addressed and any implications for future use of this facility. Arising from this, the Committee asked the Electoral Services Manager to check whether the risk was site specific or related to the use of portable buildings generally and what risk assessment/mitigation measures could be put in place.

A member referred to Lowes Hill ward and how some electors in All Saints Place had to go to Barnsley Hall to vote whilst others went to All Saints Church. The Electoral Services Manager suggested that this could be addressed when the ward boundaries stage of the District electoral boundaries review was carried out and this approach was supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED that

- a) that the final proposals in respect of Polling Districts and Polling Places, as contained in Appendix 1 (as amended), be approved; and
- b) that the decisions of the Committee in respect of a) above take effect from the date of poll any election/referendum held or on publication of the revised Register of Electors.

17/23

CHANGES TO POSTAL AND PROXY VOTING - BRIEFING NOTE

The Committee noted the content of the briefing note relating to changes to postal and proxy voting.

The meeting closed at 7.14 p.m.

Chairman

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ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

23 February 2024

Polling Places Alterations 2024

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillors May, Leader, and Hotham, Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Claire Felton
Report Author	Job Title: Electoral Services Manager, Darren Whitney Contact email: darren.whitney@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881650	
Wards Affected		Aston Fields, Catshill North, Cofton, Lickey Hills
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		N/A
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RESOLUTIONS

- 1.1 that if the Committee decide to change a polling place within the report a short consultation takes place; and
- 1.2 that the changes take effect for polls from 2 May 2024.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report sets out where changes to polling places may need to be considered in advance of the May Elections 2024.
- 2.2 As a result of the statutory polling places review held last year and some requests from polling places the Committee are asked to consider a number of changes to polling places before the May elections.
- 2.3 There are three polling places to consider which relate to polling districts ASA/ASB, CAN and COB/LHA which are set out below section 6 below.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Subject to the Committee's final decisions, there may be some minor financial implications for the Council which arise directly from this review.
- 3.2 Depending on the outcome of the review there may be additional costs or savings regarding polling stations that are to be used in future elections which will be met by existing budgets.
- 3.3 There are no scheduled local elections in 2024 so costs for Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May will be attributable to Central Government.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 a) Authority to set Polling District boundaries and to designate polling places rests with the Council (Statutory elements of the Council's Constitution under the Local Government Act 2000). Bromsgrove District Council has delegated full relevant powers to this Electoral Matters Committee.

b) Decisions about the situation of Polling Stations within designated Polling Places are for the (Acting) Returning Officer. Arrangements must comply with relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Acts and Regulations, the Equality Act 2010 and the Elections Act 2022.
- 4.2 "Relevant authorities" (such as Bromsgrove District Council) must

"a) seek to ensure that all the electors in the Constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances";
and

"b) seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled and, when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons. If it is necessary to use a place where the access is not ideal, then every reasonable adjustment must be undertaken to provide access for all electors."
- 4.3 The Elections Act 2022 has placed new considerations for Local Authorities in regard to polling places. Key considerations are accessibility and checking voter's ID to ensure polling stations have suitable space to allow polling station staff to check documents and

provide a privacy screen or separate area for confidential conversations.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 This report deals with statutory functions but relates to the strategic purpose of an effective and sustainable council.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 It is preferable that choice of polling place location can help minimise unnecessary additional journeys by motorised vehicles.
- 5.3 Emissions and carbon footprint should be reduced as far as possible.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Accessibility for members of minority or disadvantaged groups is a key issue in the selection of suitable Polling Stations. The (Acting) Returning Officer will have a general responsibility to provide equipment to support people with a range of disabilities in the polling station.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 Polling District **ASA (Aston Fields North), ASB (Aston Fields South)** – At the meeting of this Committee on 7 December 2023 it was resolved to continue the use of St Godwold's Church Hall as the polling place, although it was noted that officers were investigating the use of the Salvation Army Hall on Carlyle Road. Officers have now visited the hall and confirm it suitable as a venue. The owners are agreeable to it being used as a polling station in the future.
- 6.3 Polling District **CAN (Woodrow)** – All of the suitable rooms at Catshill Methodist Church have been booked for May and the owners are not willing to move these bookings. Officers have approached Catshill Village Hall who are keen to accommodate polling. The Village Hall is a good venue which has been used in the past for polling. The one drawback is that it has limited parking, however parking is available on the opposite side of the road.

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6.4 Polling Districts **COB/LHA (Lickey/Licky Monument)** – The current polling place of the Trinity Centre (Lickey Parish Hall) serves polling districts in both Cofton and Lickey Hills District Wards. Due to a nursery held within the hall the Centre does not want polling to take place there. Officers are still in discussions with the Centre but wanted to raise the issue with the Committee. It should be noted that the Centre is a long standing polling place and electors are very familiar with it.

6.5 There are a number of options for consideration:

The first, Holy Trinity Church, which was suggested by the Centre as an alternative. This is located on the opposite side of the road to the Centre. Officers have visited the church and although the church is a reasonable space for polling, access and parking are problematic especially at night. A full health and safety audit has not yet taken place. Additional payments would be required for heating and lighting for the church making it a relatively expensive venue.

The second and third options are currently being investigated by officers. These are both further up Rose Hill from the Trinity Centre. One is making use of the NASUWT Education Centre and the other is The Old Rose and Crown Hotel.

There is a fourth option of using the Lickey Hills Primary School as this sits within polling district COB and is closest to polling district LHA.

6.6 In terms of the use of schools for polling: Government Departments have always advocated, via legislation and guidance, the use of schools as polling stations and this has been further emphasised in recent draft guidance to Returning Officers (ROs) released on 31 October in a section on public buildings that:

“Schools which receive public funding are included in this and should also be made available to ROs free of charge. However, we also appreciate that over recent years schools have been more reluctant to offer rooms to ROs for the purposes of running polls.

If the polling day is known well in advance of the election, schools can decide in liaison with the local authority to set those days as inset days to avoid disruption.”

However, in this instance consideration would need to be given regarding the timescales involved for the use of Lickey Hills Primary School.

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- 6.7 There is not a great amount of time to hold a review for these requests as poll cards for the PCC election on 2 May are due to be sent out on 25 March. It is therefore proposed that each request is considered and the Committee decide whether a consultation is required.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Any changes agreed must be likely to be sustainable for a reasonable number of years, as frequent changes of Polling Station are not helpful for electors and undermine their knowledge of, and confidence in, electoral systems.
- 7.2 Choice of Polling Place / Polling Station should not give rise to significant grounds of complaint which might put election results at risk of challenge.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Relevant statutory provisions

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Hotham	14 February 2024
Head of Service	Claire Felton	13 February 2024
Financial Services		
Legal Services		

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

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Possible Community Governance Review – Finstall Parish

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillors May, Leader, and Hotham, Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Claire Felton
Report Author	Job Title: Electoral Services Manager, Darren Whitney Contact email: darren.whitney@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881650	
Wards Affected		Tardebigge, Aston Fields
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		N/A
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RESOLUTIONS

- 1.1 **Members of the Committee are asked to note the report; and**
- 1.2 **decide whether to hold a Community Governance Review on Finstall Parish Council in regard to the areas within the report and Appendix 1.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report sets out a request for a possible County Boundary Review (CGR) in Finstall Parish.
- 2.2 The Parish Council would like move their parish boundary to correct some anomalies with regard to the current boundaries.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Subject to the Committee’s final decisions, there may be some minor financial implications for a consultation exercise which would be found under existing budgets.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A CGR must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Part 4) and the associated Dept. of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) Regulations 2008 and the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The authority must have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State (s100 (4) of the 2007 Act) and must give consideration to the views of local people in reaching its decision.

4.2 The Terms of Reference of the Review are set out in Appendix 1 and a map of the proposed parish in Appendix 2.

4.3 Section 93 of the 2007 Act sets out the council's duties in undertaking a community governance review. In relation to deciding what recommendations to make, it provides that the council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

- a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- b) is effective and convenient.

Section 93 (6) provides that the council must "take into account" any representations received in connection with the review as one element of these considerations.

4.4 Section 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 states that there is a duty on principal councils to promote understanding among local people, which extends to parish councils

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

5.1 This report deals with statutory functions but relates to the strategic purpose of an effective and sustainable council.

Climate Change Implications

5.2 It is preferable that choice of polling place location can help minimise unnecessary additional journeys by motorised vehicles.

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5.3 Emissions and carbon footprint should be reduced as far as possible.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.1 In conducting a review the Council will ensure that electoral equality is taken into consideration.

Operational Implications

6.2 There are two ways for a CGR to be triggered. A local authority can choose when to carry out a review, either for a specific area or district-wide, or electors of an area can submit a petition signed by a proportion of electors.

6.3 In this case Fininstall Parish Council are asking Bromsgrove District Council if they will review the parish boundaries of Fininstall Parish.

6.4 Officers met with the clerk and members of the parish council in January to discuss a potential CGR.

6.5 At it's meeting on the 6 February the parish council agreed to the following suggestions in regard to boundary changes (Appendix 1):

a) Field View House: to support re-drawing of the parish boundary so that it runs alongside the railway line to the south of Field View House, thereby placing Field View House to the north of the parish boundary and to support the same for the district and county boundaries.

b) Rutherford Road area (otherwise known as Hazelcroft): to seek to move the parish boundary northwards to run alongside the railway line, to incorporate Hazelcroft within Fininstall parish.

6.6 The first change relates to an area in Tardebigge Ward, this would mean a recommendation to change the ward boundary in the current Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review for Bromsgrove. It also would require changing the division boundary under the current LGBCE review of Worcestershire. The Parish have already submitted a response to the Worcestershire review.

The change affects 21 electors who have no contact with the rest of Fininstall Parish.

6.7 The second change relates to a whole polling district (TAE – Gambolds) which already sits within the Tardebigge Ward and the Bromsgrove East County Division. The area is currently unparished so would just be a matter of moving the parish boundary to incorporate that polling district.

6.8 If the committee decides to hold a CGR officers will draw up a timetable and terms of reference to be agreed by the Committee. If the committee decides not to hold a CGR the Parish will still have the option to draw up a petition which the Authority will have to hold a CGR.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The Act requires that the CGR must be completed within 12 months of the start of the review.

4.3 Amendments to the timetable for a review are not anticipated, however in the event that meeting dates have to be amended, it would be requested that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with members of the Committee to make minor changes to the Terms of Reference, including the timetable. Any such changes would be publicised.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1 (map of the area)
- DCLG Guidance
- Relevant Statutory provisions

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Hotham	14 February 2024
Head of Service		
Financial Services		
Legal Services		

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Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Worcestershire County Divisions Review

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillors May, Leader, and Hotham, Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Claire Felton
Report Author	Job Title: Electoral Services Manager, Darren Whitney Contact email: darren.whitney@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881650	
Wards Affected		All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		Via Members Newsletter
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		N/A
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RESOLUTIONS

- 1.1 **Members of the Committee are asked to note the contents of the report; and**
- 1.2 **decide if a submission to the LGBCE be made from the Authority.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report highlights the progress of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s (LGBCE) review for Worcestershire County Council Divisions.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 No direct costs from this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The LGBCE is a statutory body accountable to Parliament that conducts reviews of local authority electoral arrangements in England. Its statutory obligations are set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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- 4.2 One of the objectives of the LGBCE is to provide electoral arrangements for English principal local authorities that are fair and deliver electoral equality for voters.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 This report deals with statutory functions but relates to the strategic purpose of an effective and sustainable council.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 None in this report.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 The LGBCE have published it's draft proposals for the new electoral county divisions in Worcestershire, consultation on these is open until 18 March 2024.

- 6.3 Details of the review can be found on the LGBCE website:.
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/worcestershire>

- 6.4 For the Bromsgrove District area the LGBCE are recommending eight divisions, seven of which are single member and one which will have two members.

- 6.5 Individuals and political parties can make submissions to the consultation. The Authority can also make it's own submission however as the LGBCE is currently reviewing the District Wards officers feel unless there are anomalies to raise such as the change requested by Finstall Parish Council that no submission be made.

- 6.6 The LGBCE will publish their final recommendations on 2 July 2024 and the new arrangements will be in place for the County Elections in May 2025.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 None with in this report.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

- LGBCE Website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/worcestershire>
- Relevant Statutory provisions

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

23 February 2024

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Hotham	14 February 2024
Head of Service		
Financial Services		
Legal Services		