

MINUTE EXTRACT

Cabinet Meeting24th June 2021

1. Title of Item/Report

Ward Boundary Review- Warding Patterns Consultation

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet noted the outcome of consultation held by the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) on warding patterns as part of the Stockton on Tees Electoral Review 2020 Ward Boundary Review.

Cabinet, at its meeting held on November 2020, noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission had responded to the Council Size submission on the Stockton on Tees Electoral Ward Boundary Review 2020 and had confirmed that they had approved our future Council Size of 56 Members; a decision which would then be applied when considering the next phase of the consultation. Phase 2 – Consultation on Warding Patterns had commenced with all elected members from 24th September – 29th October 2020 and the results from this consultation were noted by Council and submitted to The Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Draft recommendations had now been received from the Boundary Commission which confirmed that Stockton-on-Tees should be represented by 56 councillors, the same number as there were presently and that Stockton-on-Tees should have 26 wards, again the same number as at present.

The Boundary Commission had since commenced consultation on the draft recommendations illustrated with accompanying maps for a 10-week period, commencing from 11 May 2021 to 19 July 2021.

Consultation with elected members and political groups of the Council had commenced at the same time and the results from this consultation to date were summarised. Ward Members present at the meeting representing the Fairfield Ward affected significantly by the proposals, spoke out reiterating their objections outlined in the report. Cabinet were advised that the comments submitted as part of the report were for noting and subsequent consideration by Council; and would then be forwarded to the Boundary Commission on the basis that they represented the views of political parties as indicated.

The deadline for submission of comments as part of this consultation ends on 19th July 2021 and comments could be submitted direct to

LGBC via their website r.eviews@lgbce.org.uk.

The Commission's decision on council size would not be formalised until the Final Recommendations were agreed and would be published in October this year.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet note the comments received as part of the consultation on the Local Government Boundary Commission draft recommendations and they be submitted to Council and thereafter to the Local Government Boundary Commission by the 19th July 2021.