

## PART A

**Report to:** Council  
**Date of meeting:** 14 October 2015  
**Report of:** Head of Democracy and Governance  
**Title:** To Consider the Local Government Boundary Commission's Draft Proposals on Warding Patterns for Watford

### 1.0 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission published its draft proposals on warding patterns for Watford on 25 August 2015. A copy of that report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 All councillors were sent a copy and asked if they had any comments to refer them to members of the Boundary Review Group. The Group met on 9 September 2015 but was unable to make any recommendations from that meeting to Council

### 2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To make any recommendations it sees fit on the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposed warding patterns

**Contact Officer:**

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### 3.0 **DETAILED REPORT**

- 3.1 Council considered its initial submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission at its meeting on the 24 June 2015. Council will recall that the Boundary Review Group had been unable to establish a consensus and each of the Groups on the Council therefore put forward proposals for Council to consider. Attached at Appendix 2 is the agreed Council submission that was sent on 29 June 2015.
- 3.2 On 25 August the Local Government Boundary Commission published its draft proposals on warding patterns for Watford. All councillors were sent a copy. In addition to publishing its draft proposals it also published a revised date for submitting responses from 26 to 19 October 2015. A copy of the draft proposals are attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The Boundary Review Group was reconvened and met once on 9 September. No consensus was reached at that meeting. The Review Group agreed that as with the original submissions it should be left to each Group to put forward any proposed comments direct to Council.
- 3.4 Members are reminded that the criteria that the Commission uses to determine boundaries are:
- Delivering electoral equality, each councillor should represent as far as possible the same number of electors.
  - Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities, and
  - Promoting effective and efficient local government.

This latter criteria has been considered in their views on council size. Any response from the council will have to demonstrate that it has had regard to those criteria otherwise it is unlikely that the Commission will have regard to it.

- 3.4 Attached as Appendices 3, 4 and 5 are the respective proposals from each of the Groups.
- 3.5 Council is asked to agree a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission

### 4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

#### 4.1 **Financial**

- 4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no implications in this report

#### 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

- 4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that the Local Government Boundary Commission will make the final decision on Warding Patterns for Watford. It is due to publish its final warding patterns in December 2015.

#### 4.3 **Equalities**

- 4.3.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission's primary criteria for warding patterns is equality in voting.

#### 4.4 Potential Risks

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
The Commission ignores the Council's submission	2	2	4

#### 4.5 Staffing

4.5.1 N/A

#### 4.6 Accommodation

4.6.1 N/A

#### 4.7 Community Safety

4.7.1 N/A

#### 4.8 Sustainability

4.8.1 N/A

#### Appendices

Appendix 1 Local Government Boundary Commission's draft proposals on warding patterns

Appendix 2 The Council's submission on warding patterns to the Local Government Boundary Commission

Appendix 3 Liberal Democrat Proposals

Appendix 4 Labour Proposals

Appendix 5 Conservative Proposals

#### Background Papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.

#### File Reference

None