

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

DATE	26th January 2022
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW**PURPOSE**

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| 1. | To inform the Council that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has decided to undertake an electoral review of Burnley Borough Council and to seek the Council's preference on when the review is implemented. |
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RECOMMENDATION

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| 2. | That the Council express a preference for the timing of the implementation of the electoral review which is either i) at the Council elections in May 2026 or ii) at the Council elections in May 2027. |
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

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| 3. | The LGBCE has invited the Council to put forward its view as to whether the review is implemented at the local elections in 2026 or 2027. The views of the Council will be notified to the LGBCE. |
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SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

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| 4. | The LGBCE is under a duty to undertake an electoral review of every principal authority in England from "time to time." |
| 5. | The purpose of an electoral review is to consider the number of councillors elected to the council, the names, number and boundaries of the wards, and the number of councillors to be elected to each ward. |
| 6. | The last electoral review of the Council took place in 2000. The LGBCE has decided that a review of the Council should take place in time to be implemented at the local elections in either May 2026 or May 2027. The LGBCE has invited the Council to express a preference for the timing of the implementation of the review. The review is an opportunity to examine how many councillors are needed to fulfil governance and representation requirements for the next 15 -20 years. |
| 7. | The electoral review process takes around 30 months from the start to implementation. There are distinct stages to the process, starting with a preliminary period which involves LGBCE gathering information and briefing officers, groups leaders, Full Council and other stakeholders on the detail of the review process. This takes around 6 months. There will be specific tasks which the Council will be required to undertake during this time. The second stage of the process is to consider proposals for the size of the Council. This will |

	involve the Council and political groups putting forward proposals for the size of the Council to LGBCE. The LGBCE will then make a decision of the total number of councillors. The next stage of the process is consultation on the warding patterns. This is a full public consultation on what the ward boundaries should be. LGBCE will make draft recommendations on which it will consult. It then makes a final recommendation. This process takes around 11 months. The final stage of the process is the laying of the Order in Parliament which is done in the autumn preceding the May election. The new electoral arrangements will be implemented at an “all out” election before the Council will return to its usual cycle of elections by thirds.
8.	Should the Council express a preference for the review to be implemented in May 2026, work on the review could potentially start in December 2023, or December 2024 if the later implementation date of May 2027 is chosen, However, the final start dates will be dictated by the wider programme of reviews taking place nationally.
9.	In advance of the review starting there are two matters which the Council may wish to consider. They are (i) the carrying out of a community governance review should it be considered that the boundaries of the parishes within the borough are not in the correct place and (ii) whether the Council wishes to change its electoral cycle from electing by thirds to electing on an “all out” basis. Electing on an all-out basis would allow a mixed pattern of wards to be implemented. A decision on these two matters is not needed now.
10.	Members will be kept updated on the process and will receive further reports and briefings on the local boundary review in due course.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11.	None arising directly from this report.
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POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12.	As set out in the report.
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DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13.	Group Leaders MSSWG
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