



**Cabinet**

**Tuesday, 14 June 2022**

**Local Government Boundary Commission for England –  
Final Recommendation for Rushcliffe**

## **Report of the Chief Executive**

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough Wide Leadership,  
Councillor S J Robinson**

### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has recently published its final recommendations for new wards and boundaries in Rushcliffe. This report is presented at Appendix One.
- 1.2. The new wards and boundaries are the result of periodic review to ensure electoral equality across the Borough.

### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet notes the report of the LGBCE setting out the new ward boundaries for the Borough of Rushcliffe.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

This is the end result of the recent consultation that has taken place over the last 18 months.

### **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1. The Council is participating in a periodic review requested by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). In March 2021, Council approved the Review of Council Size before its submission to the LGBCE.
- 4.2. The LGBCE decided that Rushcliffe should retain 44 Councillors and undertook its first stage of consultation between 11 May and 19 July. They asked for feedback on where the Borough's ward boundaries should be drawn.
- 4.3. The second stage of the consultation commenced on 5 October, with the publication of Draft Recommendations setting out where the LGBCE considers the Borough's ward boundaries should be drawn and how many Councillors should be elected by each ward.

- 4.4. Council approved the Borough Council's submission to the second stage of the consultation in December 2021.
- 4.5. In March 2022, the LGBCE launched a further consultation exercise specifically focused on the eastern side of the Borough. Due to the swift turnaround time on this stage of the consultation, the Council's submission was signed off by Group Leaders (25 March 2022).
- 4.6. The LGBCE final recommendations for Rushcliffe were published on 31 May 2022 and are at Appendix One. Work will now commence internally to reconfigure the Borough's ward boundaries in time for the publication of the Register of Electors in December 2022, in advance of the May 2023 Borough Council Elections.
- 4.7. To summarise the main recommendations:
- The residents of Rushcliffe should be represented by 44 Councillors
  - Rushcliffe should have 24 wards
  - The boundaries of most wards should change to reflect change within the Borough and to ensure electoral equality as far as is possible within the statutory criteria for a review
  - Rushcliffe will have six three-councillor wards, eight two-councillor wards and 10 single Councillor wards
  - The number of wards with an electoral variance over 10% from the average number of electors per Councillor for the Borough will drop from 14 in 2020 to two in 2027 under the new proposals
  - The number of wards with an electoral variance over 20% from the average number of electors per Councillor for the Borough will drop from seven in 2020 to none in 2027 under the new proposals
  - In addition to changes recommended to the parishes of Bingham and Radcliffe-on-Trent in their earlier report, the LGBCE have now included changes to the parish of Cropwell Butler.

## **5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection**

- 5.1. The LGBCE regularly reviews the number of Councillors representing residents of a geographical area (in this case the Borough of Rushcliffe) to ensure electoral equality. In addition, ward boundaries and names are reviewed to ensure that changes within the Borough (such as new housing developments, changes to infrastructure and population growth) are taken into account.
- 5.2. The Council has participated fully in all stages of the review process and will now look to implement changes on a local level in time for the Register of Electors to be published in December 2022.
- 5.3. As the result of not participating in the review would be electoral inequality, the Council does not see this as a viable alternative. As such no alternatives were considered or rejected.

## 6. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to ensure electoral representation is fair and equitable restricts the Council's ability to deliver services reflective of local need, demand and choice. Disproportionate electorate to Councillor numbers reduces capacity to ensure understanding of local representation and ensure it properly reflects community identity.

## 7. Implications

### 7.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications related to the recommendations of this report.

### 7.2. Legal Implications

If approved by the Commission, the electoral arrangements for Rushcliffe will be laid by draft order before Parliament in Summer 2022. If made, the order will come into force in 2023. Until such date, the existing ward boundaries and Councillor numbers will continue in their current format.

### 7.3. Equalities Implications

Adequate representation of the electorate is one of the primary drivers behind this review. A sense of 'community identity' is one of the LGBCE's key considerations when proposing a change of ward boundary.

### 7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no Section 17 implications related to the recommendations of this report.

## 8. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Fair, equitable, and responsive democratic representation is a key element of quality of life for our residents.
Efficient Services	By ensuring that each Councillor represents a fairly equal number of electors, each Councillor will have the best opportunity to deliver efficient and effective representation for their ward.
Sustainable Growth	Whilst the Borough is expanding it is important to maintain fair, equitable, and responsive democratic representation
The Environment	

## 9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet notes the report of the LGBCE setting out the new ward boundaries for the Borough of Rushcliffe.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Charlotte Caven-Atack Service Manager – Corporate Services 0115 914 8278 <a href="mailto:ccaven-atack@rushcliffe.gov.uk">ccaven-atack@rushcliffe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Report to Council 2 December 2021 ‘Electoral Review of Rushcliffe – Draft Recommendations’  Report to Council 4 March 2021 ‘Electoral Review of Rushcliffe’
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix One – LGBCE Final Recommendations for Rushcliffe