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| COUNCIL | AGENDA ITEM No. 13(c) |
| 8 OCTOBER 2014 | PUBLIC REPORT |

SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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| RECOMMENDATIONS |
| FROM: Kim Sawyer, Director of Governance |
| It is recommended that the Council approve the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (attached at Appendix 1) for revised ward boundaries on behalf of the Peterborough City Council. |

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is responsible for conducting electoral reviews for principal councils. Electoral reviews consider whether the boundaries of wards or divisions within a local authority need to be altered. The LGBCE conducts these reviews to ensure fairer representation at local government elections, in particular taking into account the number of councillors, the number of wards or divisions and whether the wards or divisions should be represented by a single councillor, or jointly by two or three councillors.
- 1.2 The LGBCE initiated a review of Peterborough City Council in 2013. An Electoral Review Group (ERG) of members has been meeting to review the number of councillors representing Peterborough City Council and the ward boundaries within the City's area.
- 1.3 In April 2014 the Council submitted its proposals for ward boundaries for Peterborough. These proposals were amended by the ERG following the proposals of the LGBCE who did not agree the original submission.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The first stage of the ERG began in September 2013 when the LGBCE consulted the public on increasing the number of councillors representing Peterborough City Council. The LGBCE announced in January 2014 that it considered 60 councillors was the appropriate number of members to represent the citizens of Peterborough. This is an increase from the current membership of 57 councillors.
- 2.2 The LGBCE began a public consultation on the warding arrangements for the City's area, which ran from the 14 January to the 1 April 2014. The Council submitted its proposals following the recommendations of the ERG.
- 2.3 The LGBCE did not agree with the Council's proposals, primarily because a single member ward was proposed for Barnack against the presumption that there should be three member wards within Peterborough.

- 2.4 The ERG met to consider the LGBCE's proposals and has concluded that the Council's earlier recommendations still provide the most suitable arrangements for warding the Peterborough area. It therefore met with a representative of the LGBCE so that it could understand how it might improve its earlier submission to provide better supporting evidence of those matters that the LGBCE take into account in deciding warding arrangements.

3. NEXT STAGES

- 3.1 The LGBCE consultation on its proposals will close on the 6 October. The Council has secured the permission of the LGBCE to submit these proposals following the Council meeting on the 8 October.
- 3.2 Once the LGBCE has considered all the representations submitted in response to the consultation it will publish its final recommendations for ward boundaries in early 2015.
- 3.3 A statutory instrument confirming the warding arrangements will be laid before Parliament which will confirm the date of the elections of all councillors to the new wards.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Finance

- 4.1.1 There are no expected financial implications arising from the changes to ward boundaries, other than the increase in member allowances from the additional number of members.
- 4.1.2 Once the LGBCE has finalised its recommendations the Council will be in a position to consider whether there are any further financial obligations arising from the revised boundaries.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 Section 56 of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 requires that from time to time the LGBCE reviews and makes recommendations about the electoral arrangements for a principal council. Peterborough City Council is a principal council.
- 4.2.2 Schedule 2 of the 2009 Act sets out the statutory criteria which the LGBCE, and therefore the Council's submission, has to have regard to. These are
- the need to secure equality of representation.
 - the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
 - the need to secure effective and convenient local government.
- 4.2.3 The LGBCE begins its consideration with a presumption that local authorities which elect by thirds, as at Peterborough City Council, will operate under a uniform pattern of three member wards. The LGBCE will depart from that presumption where the recommended pattern would not meet the statutory criteria above.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 Notes and agenda of the ERG.□
- 5.2 LGBCE Electoral reviews technical guidance July 2012

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