



Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Electoral Review of Melton Borough Council's boundaries - Council Size Submission Proposal

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Lead Member/Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Margaret Glancy - Portfolio Holder for Governance, Environment and Regulatory Services (Deputy Leader)

Corporate Priority:	All
Relevant Ward Member(s):	All
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	N/A
Exempt Information:	No

1 Summary

- 1.1 To inform Members of the proposed Council size submission proposal in relation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review of Melton Borough Council's Ward Boundaries.
- 1.2 The proposal is that the Council size remains unchanged.

2 Recommendations

That Council:

- 2.1 Approves that the Council Size Submission Proposal, at Appendix A, is submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as the agreed position of the Council by 8 April 2024.

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| 2.2 | Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to make amendments to the Submission document in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Governance, Environment and Regulatory Services, following consultation with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. |
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3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure there is an agreed position on the size of the Council and that the LGBCE is aware of this position.

4 Background

- 4.1 The LGBCE informed the Council that it will conduct an electoral review of Melton Borough Council's ward boundaries.
- 4.2 Prior to the review of the ward boundaries, the LGBCE will make a decision on how many Councillors the Council should have. They invited the Council to make a proposal for how many Members the Council believes there should be in the future.
- 4.3 The deadline for the submission of the proposal is 8 April 2024.

5 Main Considerations

- 5.1 Council size is the starting point in any electoral review since it determines the average number of electors per councillor to be achieved across all wards or divisions of the authority. The LGBCE cannot consider the patterns of wards or divisions without knowing the optimum number of electors per councillor, which is derived from dividing the electorate by the number of councillors to be elected to the authority.
- 5.2 Broadly speaking, the LGBCE will take a view on the right council size for an authority by considering three areas:
- a) the governance arrangements of the council, how it takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities, and whether there are any planned changes to those arrangements;
 - b) the council's scrutiny functions relating to its own decision making and the council's responsibilities to outside bodies, and whether any changes to them are being considered; and
 - c) the representational role of councillors in the local community and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the council on local partner organisations.
- 5.3 Regardless of whether a change is proposed or not the Council's submission must be justified and supported by evidence.
- 5.4 After consideration of the evidence submitted by an authority the LGBCE will announce the council size which they believe to provide the appropriate basis for the preparation of warding proposals.

6 Options Considered

- 6.1 During the development of the proposal, the following options were considered:
- a) Council size remaining the same.
 - b) A reduction in the size of the Council.

c) An increase in the size of the Council.

6.2 Details of the options considered are contained in the Council Size Submission Document at Appendix A.

7 Consultation

7.1 In order to prepare the Council Size Submission Proposal, additional information on the role of Councillors as community leaders and on Councillors' casework and workload was required. As a result, Members were surveyed on these aspects between 1 December 2023 and 22 December 2023 and their responses have informed the contents of the submission.

7.2 A draft copy of the Council Size Submission Proposal was presented to the Constitutional Review Working Group for review and comments on 4 January 2024.

8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

8.1 Once approved, the Council Size Submission proposal is submitted to the LGBCE as the agreed position of the Council for consideration by 8 April 2024.

9 Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services

10 Legal and Governance Implications

10.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 gives the LGBCE the power to review the electoral arrangements of all, or any, principal councils in England.

10.2 It is the Commission's responsibility to determine the appropriate number of councillors for each authority.

10.3 Political (or other) groups may present their own submissions to the LGBCE either alongside or as an alternative to the council's formal submission.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Deputy Monitoring Officer

11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

11.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

12 Data Protection Implications (Mandatory)

12.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks or issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

13 Community Safety Implications

13.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

14 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

14.1 There are no environmental or climate change implications arising from this report.

15 Other Implications (where significant)

15.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

16 Risk & Mitigation

Risk No	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk
1	Failure to meet the deadlines for submission of the Council's representations on Council size and warding arrangements.	Low	Critical	Medium Risk

		Impact / Consequences			
		Negligible	Marginal	Critical	Catastrophic
Likelihood	Score/ definition	1	2	3	4
	6 Very High				
	5 High				
	4 Significant				
	3 Low			1	
	2 Very Low				
	1 Almost impossible				

Risk No	Mitigation
1	A timetable and project plan has been prepared to incorporate all work required and relevant deadlines.

17 Background Papers

17.1 [Technical Guidance, June 2023](#)

18 Appendices

18.1 Appendix A – Council Size Submission Proposal Document