

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- **Carlisle City Council**

Date of Meeting:- 26 April 2011

Agenda Item No:-

Public

Title:- **UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION (LGBCE) CONSULTATION**

Report of:- **The Leader of the Council**

Report reference:- **CE.13/11**

Summary:-

The Executive, at their meeting on 14 March 2011, gave consideration to the attached report (CE.07/11) the purpose of which was to update Members on the recent consultations carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

Bearing in mind the current difficult economic climate and reduced income levels facing the authority, which had necessitated implementation of initiatives including the Transformation Programme and Shared Services and consequently reduced staffing levels, the Executive took the view that the City Council should give consideration to the total number of Members elected to serve the Council.

Recommendation:-

That the City Council agree that a significant reduction in the number of City Councillors is required and that the Local Government Boundary Commission be requested to commence an electoral review of the matter.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None



PORTFOLIO AREA: CROSS CUTTING

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2011

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION (LGBCE) CONSULTATION

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Report reference: CE.07/11

Summary: The purpose of this report is to update members of the Executive on the recent consultations carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Members will recall that these consultations ("Along The Right Lines" and "Striking The Right Balance") concluded at the end of December last year. The comments received by the LGBCE have been published on their website. At the request of members of the Executive, the Director of Reviews attended a meeting of Joint Management Team (JMT) to give an overview of the work of the LGBCE.

Recommendations: That Members note the content of this report and record any observations they wish to make.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

The Executive responded to the recent LGBCE consultations at the meeting on 22 December 2010 (report reference CE38/10).

The responses from all of the organisations, individuals and groups of individuals that responded are on the LGBCE website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/guidance-policy-and-publications/major-consultation-of-english-local-authorities>.

The responses are generally positive and supportive of the proposals contained within "along the Right Lines" and "Striking the Right Balance". All the indications are that the LGBCE will henceforth by conducting its business in accordance with the approach described in those documents.

The responses received from Cumbria were from the City Council's Executive and the Leader and Deputy Leader (joint response) of the County Council. The web form responses appear to be anonymous.

Members of the Executive suggested that the LGBCE were offered the opportunity to come to Carlisle and discuss their proposals with the Executive. The Commission responded positively and the Director of Reviews, Archie Gall and his colleague, Richard Buck, attended a recent meeting of Joint Management Team (JMT) to explain how the commission would respond to the consultation and answer questions from members of the Executive.

The strong and consistent message from the Commission is that any proposed changes must have clear evidence of public support and make sense in terms of effective and convenient local government. Where these criteria are met the Commission are ready to conduct reviews.

On the LGBCE website Max Caller, Chair of the LGBCE, says, "Thank you to all those local authorities, parish councils and other organisations who took the time to respond to the consultation. We'll consider all submissions carefully as we formulate new technical guidance for reviews so that we can ensure our review processes are fair, efficient and proportionate. The Commission has unique powers to help councils deliver effective local government. The response to this major consultation will help us use those powers to help councils face the challenges ahead."