

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW PANEL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2018**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Daniel Anderson (Deputy Leader of the Council), Chris Bond, Nesil Caliskan (Leader of the Council), Ergin Erbil, Elaine Hayward, Joanne Laban, Edward Smith, Claire Stewart and Glynis Vince

OFFICERS: Jeremy Chambers (Director of Law and Governance)
Lee-Marie Grant, Head of Electoral Services
Stacey Gilmour, Governance & Scrutiny Secretary

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Caliskan welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Claire Johnson, Head of Governance & Scrutiny and Robert Flynn, Information & Research Manager.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest registered in respect to any items on the agenda.

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**COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND - TO FOLLOW**

RECEIVED a report from Jeremy Chambers, Director of Law and Governance.

NOTED the key points as follows:

- (i) The deadline for the Council size submission to The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is 2nd November 2018.
- (ii) Members are asked to agree the principles of the draft Council submission to be referred for recommendation to Full Council at its meeting on 30th October 2018. The Boundary Commission will then meet on the 20th November 2018 to make its decision on the council size.

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- (iii) There is a list of key information requirements as prescribed by the Boundary Commission, the areas prescribed have been covered within the submission to the Boundary, these are: Governance arrangements, scrutiny functions and representational role of councillors in the local community.
- (iv) The Council submission does not have to be supported by both groups, but goes through the usual channels of decision making, with referral from the Electoral Review Panel, to full council. However, having viewed other councils' submissions, where there has been a single council size proposal with cross party support this has been accepted by the Commission.
- (v) The date of the Projected Electorate for 2024 has been fixed by the Boundary Commission and they will not move on this date. The next review of Enfield would be in approximately twenty years. The Commission have said however that if the population/demographics of the borough change considerably in this time, Enfield Council can request another review sooner than anticipated.
- (vi) Electoral Services in forecasting the electorate for 2024 have used the Boundary Commission's forecasting tool. This is shown at Table A in the report. It was noted however that it is not a legal requirement to use this toolkit and, as the Boundary Commission's projected registered growth does not consider additional factors, such as Enfield's increasing housing growth which will have an impact on voter registration, Electoral Services have generated their own project forecast on the growth of the registered electorate for 2024.
- (vii) The Electoral Services forecast includes the projected housing growth across the borough over the next five years as well as the increasing outreach activities to register potential electors in the borough. This is shown at Table B in the report.
- (viii) The Electoral Services projected forecast does not include potential electors. Enfield currently has 3929 pending electors where Electoral Services are awaiting a completed Electoral Registration form. Pending (e.g. potential) electors are generated because of an addition to the Household Enquiry Form or an unsolicited enquiry. Subsequent reminder forms will be sent to these potential electors.
- (ix) Members are being asked to recommend which forecast is used for the purposes of the Council submission and, based on the electorate figures and the information in the submission, decide on the optimum council size.

Discussions took place and the following comments were made:

- Figures from the Boundary Commission's projected forecast and the Electoral Services projected forecast were not greatly different and it was therefore felt that the outcome would probably be the same.
- Based on the above and looking at the table at point 8.1 of the report; Recent Submissions by London Boroughs to the LGBC, it was felt that the figures could support a council size between the range of 56 and 63 councillors.

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- Once the Council size was agreed by the Boundary Commission, the second stage of the review would commence, which would be to look at ward boundaries, the number of wards as well as the numbers of councillors per ward. This part of the review would involve various public consultation.
- The report did not consider other communication methods that councillors use when engaging with their residents. There has been a huge increase in online activity since Enfield's last review in 2000 and it was important to acknowledge this in the report. Area Forums which were once supported heavily by Officers have now been councillor led since 2014 which has also resulted in an increase in work load. Again, this needed to be evidenced in the report.

The Chair and Leader of the Council, Councillor Caliskan proposed a Council size of 63 councillors as the information and figures provided strongly supported this. She felt it would be odd to reduce the number of councillors when the borough is increasing in size.

Councillor Anderson, Deputy Leader of the Council seconded this proposal as he felt that given the projected growth in the borough it would be foolhardy to reduce councillor numbers.

Councillor Laban, Opposition Leader also backed the proposal to retain a Council size 63 as based on the figures provided this compared strongly with other London boroughs.

Following discussions, the committee took a vote and all Members **agreed** the following:

- (i) that the Electoral Services Projected Forecast be used for the purposes of the Council submission;
- (ii) A Council size submission of 63 be referred for recommendation to Full Council at its meeting on 30th October 2018.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

789 NEXT STEPS OF THE REVIEW

NOTED that once formally agreed at the meeting of Full Council on 30th October 2018, the Council Size Submission will be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on 2nd November 2018.

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MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2018 subject to the following amendments:

- (i) To note apologies from Councillor Daniel Anderson.
- (ii) To amend the attendance details for Councillor Glynis Vince.

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DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED that the dates of future meetings would be advised.