

Electoral Review of Bassetlaw – Parish Council ‘DROP IN’ – 11th April

Dear Clerk / Chairman

You will be aware from previous correspondence that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking an Electoral Review of Bassetlaw District.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that electoral equality is maintained across the district. This means that, as far as is practicable, that each District Councillor represents the same number of electors. The Commission also look at Ward boundaries to try and ensure they reflect a natural community.

The changes from the review will come into force with the District Council elections in 2027.

The starting point of the review was for the Commission to consider how many District Councillors there should be. The Commission have agreed that 48 Councillors should be retained. They have also agreed with the electorate forecast which has been projected to 2030 on a Ward by Ward basis.

The Commission have launched the first phase of consultation seeking views on future Wards. This closes on Monday 29th April. They held an online briefing session on the 28th February to which all Parishes were invited. The Commission will consider the initial feedback and then publish draft ward proposals and undertake a further phase of consultation between the 30th July and 7th October. The publication of final recommendations will be 4th February 2025. Any individual, group is entitled to respond to the consultation. More information can be found at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/bassetlaw> The review consultation is handled by the Commission, not the Council. The final decision is subject to Parliamentary approval, anticipated Spring/Summer 2025

It is possible that the review will impact on which Wards parishes will be located in and could result in Parishes being split between Wards. The Commission have no powers to alter Parish Council boundaries. That lies with the District Council through a process called a Community Governance Review. These reviews can also look at the number of Parish Councillors, merging Parishes, name changes etc. It is highly likely that a Community Governance Review will be required after the Electoral Review to deal with subsequent issues.

We are holding a ‘drop in’ session on Wednesday 11th April between 4pm - 8pm at Retford Town Hall. No appointment is necessary. This will enable you to find out more about the Electoral Review process and discuss potential options that you may have for your area. If you have any queries please contact me Stephen.brown@bassetlaw.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Stephen B. Brown

Head of Corporate Services