Electoral Review

Parish Conference

14 November 2017
Electoral Review – The Process

Initial Proceedings
• **September 2016** – Full Council resolves to request Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for an electoral review.
• **November 2016** – LGBCE confirmed an electoral review would be undertaken.
• **February 2017** – LGBCE briefed all Members and Parish Councils about electoral review process.

Stage 1 – Council Size
• Examination of future council size of RBWM.

Stage 2 – Warding Patterns
• Examination of internal Borough ward boundaries.
Stage 1 – Council Size

Stage 1 – Number of Councillors needed from 2019

- Council submission based on evidence covering:
  - Decision-making
  - Scrutiny and partnerships
  - Representational requirements

- Cross-party working group established to determine future number of councillors. (Six Conservatives & 1 Opposition)
- Working Group met three times from February until June 2017.
- Decided on a recommendation of 43 councillors (plus or minus 1).
- Stage 1 report endorsed at Full Council on 27 June 2017.
- At the end of July 2017, the following documents were submitted to the LGBCE:
  - Stage 1 report on future council size
  - Electorate forecasts for 2023 by current polling district
  - Electoral register as at 1 July 2017
  - Stakeholder database for consultation.
Stage 2 – Warding Patterns
Public consultation on warding patterns

• 19 September 2017 – LGBCE confirmed that it was “minded to recommend a future council size of 43 members from 2019”.

• From 26 September until 4 December 2017 – Public consultation on warding patterns; LGBCE inviting comments and/or patterns of wards that can accommodate 43 members.

• LGBCE consulted directly with key stakeholders (e.g Parish Councils, political groups, elected members, community groups etc).

• Press releases and posters displayed to raise awareness amongst the public and encourage engagement.

• Submissions to reflect community identity and electoral equality.
• RBWM will be making a council submission in December 2017.
RBWM’s Approach to Stage 2

• Working Group re-established to decide on warding patterns and supported by Officers. 3 meetings of the Working Group between September and November 2017.
• Consulted directly with ALL members in October 2017.
• A pattern of wards based on collective community identity and electoral equality.

Electoral equality
Local government electorate for 2023 estimated to be 118,838. (On average each councillor will represent 2,764 electors. (Based on 43 members).
Tolerance of 10% for new warding patterns.

Community identity
As minimal disruption to existing arrangements as possible (Borough & Parish).
Summary of Proposed Changes

• Retain existing Parliamentary boundary between Maidenhead and Windsor.

Maidenhead
• 22 members
• A pattern of 11 two-member wards

Windsor
• 21 members
• A pattern of 3 two-member wards and 5 three-member wards.

Stage 2 report to be submitted to Full Council on 12 December and sent to LGBCE for consideration on 15 December.
**Next Steps**

6 February 2018 – LGBCE to publish its Draft Recommendations

6 February – 16 April 2018 – 2\(^{nd}\) Phase of Public Consultation on Draft Recommendations
- Opportunity for counter-proposals to be put forward to LGBCE.

5 June 2018 – LGBCE to publish its Final Recommendations

**Summer 2018**
- LGBCE to commence proceedings to lay Statutory Order before Parliament.
- RBWM to commence a full Polling District and Polling Places Review.
- RBWM to commence Community Governance Reviews (if and where appropriate)

**March 2019** – Electoral Register to be re-published under new ward boundaries.