

**Time** 10.00 am      **Public Meeting?** Yes      **Type of meeting** Advisory group  
**Venue** Online Meeting

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Alan Bolshaw (Lab)

### Labour

Cllr Ian Brookfield  
Cllr Craig Collingswood  
Cllr Celia Hibbert  
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE  
Cllr Stephen Simkins  
Cllr Paula Brookfield

### Conservative

Cllr Wendy Thompson  
Cllr Simon Bennett

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

## Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

**Contact** Kirsty Tuffin  
**Tel/Email** 01902 552873 or Email: [kirsty.tuffin@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.tuffin@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Address** Democratic Services, Civic Centre, First floor, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

**Website** <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk>  
**Email** [democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Tel** 01902 550320

Please take note of the protocol for filming, recording, and use of social media in meetings, copies of which are displayed in the meeting room.

Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

---

# Agenda

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
2	<b>Declarations of interest</b>
3	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> (Pages 3 - 6) [To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 September 2020 as a correct record].
4	<b>Matters arising</b> [To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting].
5	<b>Electoral Review: Update on Phase Two</b> (Pages 7 - 12) [To receive an update on the next steps of the electoral review].

## Attendance

### Members of the Governance Committee

Cllr Alan Bolshaw (Chair)  
Cllr Ian Brookfield  
Cllr Celia Hibbert  
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE  
Cllr Stephen Simkins  
Cllr Simon Bennett  
Cllr Paula Brookfield

### Employees

David Pattison	Director of Governance
Jas Kaur	Democratic Services Manager (Host)
Julia Cleary	Scrutiny and Systems Manager (Host)
Kirsty Tuffin	Democratic Services Officer

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*    *Title*

- 1 Apologies for absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Craig Collingswood and Councillor Wendy Thompson.
- 2 Declarations of interest**  
There were no declarations of interest made.
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting**  
That it be agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 March 2020 be approved as a correct record.
- 4 Matters arising**  
The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield, advised the Committee as per agenda item 6 of the minutes from the previous meeting, that due to the current crisis the Modernising the Political Structure report would go to Full Council for approval at a later date to come into force with effect from May 2021 alongside a full review of

the Council's Constitution. An update would be considered at a future Governance Committee meeting.

David Pattison, Director of Governance, advised the Committee, as per agenda item 5 of the minutes from the previous meeting, that the review by the Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) had still been underway. Phase one had been completed with the total number of 60 Councillors remaining the same. Phase 2 had been delayed until 10 November 2020 due to the current crisis and an update on the next steps would be considered at a future Governance Committee meeting. Consultations would commence 10 November and end in January 2021. LGBCE had agreed to let the Council submit the findings on 28 January 2021. The Committee were advised that the draft recommendation report would need to be submitted in March 2021 to LGBCE where a final decision would be made by September 2021, with implementation of any changes in May 2022.

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed that an update on Modernising the Political Structure be considered at a future Governance Committee, alongside a full review of the Council's Constitution.
2. That it be agreed that an update be provided on the next steps for the review by the Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

5 **Changes to the Constitution as a result of Covid-19 and other urgent changes**  
Councillor Paula Brookfield, Cabinet Member for Governance, presented the report on Changes to the Constitution as a result of Covid-19 and other urgent changes. The report outlined the changes made to the Constitution for approval by the Council.

The Committee were advised that prior to any changes being proposed to the Constitution, both the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition had been consulted on proposed changes. The proposed changes as detailed in section three of the report were outlined to the Committee.

The Committee were advised that the adoption of the anti-Semitism working definition had been delayed due to the COVID crisis and Members welcomed the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliances (IHRA) working definition. A full review of the Constitution would be considered at a future Governance Committee Meeting.

The Committee noted the changes authorised by the Monitoring Officer where required.

Councillor Sandra Samuels abstained from voting on the recommendations outlined within the report.

Resolved:

1. That Council be recommended to:
  - a. Approve the amendments to the Constitution.
  - b. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to implement the changes.
2. That it be noted, that amendments had been made by the Director of Governance as authorised by the Constitution.

- 6 **Any other business**  
There was no other business discussed.

This page is intentionally left blank

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Governance Committee</b> 20 November 2020
--	---

<b>Report title</b>	Electoral Review: update on phase two (warding patterns)	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet member for Governance	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison: Director of Governance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Electoral Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Laura Noonan	Electoral Services Manager
	Tel	01902 554949
	Email	<a href="mailto:Laura.Noonan@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Laura.Noonan@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

---

**Recommendations for decision:**

The Governance Committee is recommended to approve:

1. The proposed approach to preparing Council submission set out in the report for phase two of the electoral review that is currently being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).
2. That a full report containing the Councils draft submission be brought to Governance Committee on 12 March 2021 asking Governance Committee to recommend Council approve this to be submitted to the LGBCE on 2 April 2021.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposed approach to preparing the Council submission to the LGBCE's consultation on warding patterns and presents the key dates and governance arrangements for signing off the Council submission to the LGBCE.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 A delay has been agreed by LGBCE to phase two of the review. The public consultation on warding patterns will run from 19 January 2021 – 2 April 2021. Council officers met with the LGBCE on 3 November 2020, and the LGBCE has agreed to provide support to the officer team from the Council including information on the approaches that have worked in other authorities in recent months.
- 2.2 An officer group has been working up a proposal to narrow the electoral imbalance to meet with LGBCE criteria of each ward being within +/- 10% tolerance. This proposal is not intended to be submitted to the LGBCE, it is simply being prepared to help aid discussions and to show how the LGBCE might propose schemes based entirely on balancing the electorate. This will form part of a toolkit to assist each working group to conduct a warding pattern proposal. The toolkit is made up of pro-forma to ensure that every proposal put forwards meets the key LGBCE criteria, physical printed maps of Wolverhampton showing existing 20 wards, and a mapping tool to electronically plot any new proposals and calculate the proposed electorate and variance based on the 2026 forecasted electorate.

## **3.0 Proposed next steps**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Labour group and the Conservative group will work on respective proposals independently and remotely, with the support of officers to assist with the provision of maps and support with the mapping tool. This work can start immediately following the meeting on 25 November.
- 3.2 It had originally been intended that the initial prediction of what the LGBCE might have produced would then be presented to identified leads, i.e. the proposed working groups, from both parties on 13 November, along with a toolkit to help pull together their proposals. However, it became clear on the evening of Thursday 5 November that there are some problems with the in-house GIS tool and the way it pulls through the 2026 electoral predictions. Civica have now been contracted to provide this functionality through Xpress Maps online software, which will be ready by 20 November. The meeting with the leads from each working group will now be held at 10am on 25 November 2020. This meeting will be attended by the LGBCE too.
- 3.3 The LGBCE is holding a Community Briefing on Thursday 14 January 2021 at 6pm to formally open the public consultation on warding arrangements. The intention is to hold a virtual meeting which will be Live Streamed over Microsoft Teams. However, this situation will be kept under review and depending on public health guidance.



- 3.4 There will be regular meetings between both working groups and officers to keep up to date with proposals so that officers are equipped with the knowledge to draft the Council submission. An even-handed approach of support will be provided to each working group.
- 3.5 It is suggested that in early 2021 a meeting will be set up to review both of the schemes put forward to assess whether a joint cross-party Council submission can be put forward, or whether to put forward both proposals separately. This suggested meeting could be between the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition to identify any common ground or between the relevant parties' working groups. There would then be a Governance Committee to decide on the basis of the Council's submission before a decision is made by the Council in March 2021.
- 3.6 Once the first consultation on warding patterns has concluded on 2 April 2021 the LGBCE would produce its draft recommendations which would then be subject to a second consultation with the Council. This second consultation is currently due to take place between 28 June and 6 September 2021. With a final recommendation due to be reached in October 2021 and implementation due for May 2022.

#### 4.0 Governance Timescales

- 4.1 The key governance timescales/ key dates for this part of the warding patterns are presented in the table below.

Meeting	Date
Governance Committee meeting to agree approach	20 November 2020
Cross-party briefing on officer proposal/toolkit	25 November 2020
Public consultation event	14 January 2021
Deadline to share draft party proposals	31 January 2021
Draft recommendations presented to Leader and Leader of the Opposition	w/c 8 February 2021
Draft recommendations taken to Exec Team	22 February 2021
Draft recommendations taken to Governance Committee	12 March 2021
Take recommendations to Full Council	31 March 2021
Submit recommendations to the LGBCE	2 April 2021

## 4.2 The broader timeline at this stage is:

Activity	Date
LGBCE meet to sign off draft recommendations	15 June 2021
LGBCE publish draft recommendations and launch consultation	28 June 2021
End of consultation period	6 September 2021
LGBCE make final recommendations	19 October 2021
Order laid in Parliament	November 2021
Order made	Winter 2021
Polling district review following ward boundary changes	Winter 2021
Implementation of ward boundaries in all out elections	5 May 2022

**5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 The procurement of a mapping tool is expected to cost around £4,000 and it is anticipated that this will be funded from the £309,000 revenue budget set aside for Electoral Registration in 2020-21. [GE/10112020/H]

**6.0 Legal implications**

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [DP/11112020/A]

**7.0 Equalities implications**

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendations this report.

**8.0 Climate Change and Environmental implications**

8.1 There are no Climate Change or Environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**9.0 Human resources implications**

9.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**10.0 Corporate landlord implications**

10.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **11.0 Health and Wellbeing implications**

11.1 There are no Health and Wellbeing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **12.0 Covid implications**

12.1 Due to current lockdown restrictions, the working groups and officers will need to meet remotely to carry out this work.

## **13.0 Schedule of background papers**

13.1 None.

This page is intentionally left blank