

ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Composition

The Working Group will comprise 9 Councillors with membership split across the two main political groups of 5:3. In addition, the Leaders of the minority Groups will be included on the Group – one in a voting capacity and the other with rights of attendance and speaking.

Officer support

Officers providing support to the Working Group and the Review overall include the Assistant Director Governance, the Head of Democratic & Electoral Services, the Planning Manager (Policy), and relevant officers from the Democratic Services, Communications, Finance and Legal Services teams.

Scope

The Working Group has been established to progress the review of Council size and warding arrangements being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) from 2021 onwards.

Procedures

The Panel will appoint a Chairman from amongst its membership. The Panel has no substantive decision-making powers but will make recommendations to Council. The quorum shall be 5 councillors.

Functions

1. To gather and analyse information that will be required for the review in accordance with the requirements of the LGBCE and submit it to the LGBCE;
2. To review any representations made, develop options and make a recommendation to Council using the guidance issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, relating to
 - the optimum number of councillors for Wokingham Borough Council, and other factors such as:
 - How the size of Wokingham Borough Council compares to our “Nearest Neighbours”
 - Governance arrangements and how the Council makes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities

- The Council's scrutiny functions relating to our own decision-making and our responsibilities to other bodies
- The representational role of councillors and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the Council on outside and partner bodies
- proposals for the warding of Wokingham Borough, including the names, number and boundaries of wards, and the number of Members to each, and which attempt to achieve equality of representation in each ward.