

<b>Item No.</b> 6.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 14 March 2018	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Changes to Community Council Boundaries	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All wards	
<b>From:</b>		Constitutional Steering Panel	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly amend article 8 of the council's constitution to establish five community councils composed with wards as set out in paragraph 12 and Appendix 1, to take effect after the council election in May 2018.
2. Following the election, that members be invited to make proposals for changes to community council boundaries to be considered at council assembly in November 2018.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Community council areas are defined in article 8 of the council's constitution. Each ward falls within a community council area and the members from those wards make up the community council. Council assembly has agreed that there are five community council areas.
4. Article 8 of the constitution sets out composition of community councils. The current composition is set out below.

<b>Name of community council</b>	<b>Members from electoral wards serving on Community councils</b>
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	Grange, Livesey (north of Old Kent Road), Riverside, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey and Surrey Docks wards.
Borough, Bankside and Walworth	Cathedrals, Chaucer, East Walworth, Faraday and Newington wards.
Camberwell	Brunswick Park, Camberwell Green and South Camberwell wards.
Dulwich	College, East Dulwich and Village wards.
Peckham and Nunhead	Livesey (south of Old Kent Road), Nunhead, Peckham, Peckham Rye and The Lane wards.

5. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has reviewed ward boundaries in Southwark, and these new boundaries will come into force in May 2018 at the time of local government election.
6. At the annual meeting of council assembly on 21 May 2018, members will be asked to establish community councils and elect chairs for those committees. As the council will then be formed on new ward boundaries, a constitutional amendment will be required to change the composition of the new community council areas. The approval of community council composition (electoral wards serving on community councils) is a matter reserved for decision by council assembly. In Southwark, the constitutional steering panel (CSP) must consider any changes to the constitution before the decision is referred to council assembly.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. After the election, a new council will have been elected and the new members will then want to take a view on the shape and composition of community councils using the new ward boundaries. The new council may also want to consider if any other changes are appropriate. Any proposals are then subject to a vote at council assembly as this is a matter reserved for the full council.
8. In order to give members of the newly elected council adequate time to consider community council composition and to properly input their views into any proposals, officers propose that the decision on final composition be delayed until November 2018.
9. However, to ensure that there is not a gap in community representation, and a smooth transition into a new council, it is recommended that community councils are established which match the new ward boundaries to the existing boundaries as closely as possible. To do this, officers propose that boundaries be redrawn using the following criteria:
  - To retain the five community council areas
  - To keep boundaries as close to current boundaries
  - To reflect the borough's communities as far as possible
10. These criteria should ensure no substantial additional financial pressures on the council by increasing number of community council areas. It will also ensure that there are areas which make sense to the public by matching the new boundaries as close to the current boundaries as far as possible. The current and proposed new boundaries are demonstrated in Appendix 2.
11. Proposed option for consideration

<b>Name of community council</b>	<b>Members from electoral wards serving on Community councils</b>
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	London Bridge & West Bermondsey, North Bermondsey, South Bermondsey, Old Kent Road (North), Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks wards.
Borough, Bankside and Walworth	Borough & Bankside, St George's, Chaucer, Newington, North Walworth and Faraday wards.
Camberwell	Camberwell Green, St Giles and Champion Hill wards.
Dulwich	Goose Green, Dulwich Village, Dulwich Hill and Dulwich Wood wards.
Peckham and Nunhead	Old Kent Road (South), Peckham, Rye Lane, Nunhead & Queen's Road and Peckham Rye wards.

12. As this measure does result in a discrepancy in number of members in each area, and also results in the split down the Old Kent Road that the current composition has, it is proposed that this is an interim measure until November 2018, by which time members will have had the opportunity to bring forward their considered proposals to be in place for the remainder of the term.
13. After the May 2018 elections, CSP could recommend options for council assembly to consider at the November 2018 meeting.
14. Community councils have both executive and non-executive powers and are considered area committees. As regards its executive functions, these are enabled by section 9E of the Local Government Act 2000 together with s102 of the Local

Government Act 1972. The definition of an area committee in these provisions is:

- a) the committee is established to discharge functions in respect of part of the area of the authority, and
  - b) the members of the committee or sub-committee who are members of the authority are elected for electoral divisions or wards which fall wholly or partly within that part.
15. As regards its non-executive functions (in accordance with regulation 16A of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990) the Council needs to ensure in addition to the above requirements that
- i) the area of the part of the authority for which the area committee is responsible does not exceed two-fifths of the total area of the authority, and that
  - ii) the population of that part, as estimated by the authority, does not exceed two-fifths of the total population of the area of the authority as so estimated.
16. Officers have considered these proposals in relation to the statutory requirements, and are satisfied that they are consistent with them.

### **Community impact statement**

17. The roles and functions of community councils include the promotion of involvement of local people in the democratic process. Community councils take decisions on local matters including environmental improvement and community safety as well as consultation on a wide range of policies and strategies that affect the area.
18. An explicit objective within community council is that they be used to actively engage as widely as possible with, and bring together, Southwark's diverse local communities on issues of shared mutual interest.
19. The changes to current boundaries will still enable all Southwark residents to be able to participate in a community council, although it will mean that for some people that this will be a different one.
20. In fulfilling the above objectives that community councils have of bringing together and involving Southwark's diverse local communities, consideration has also been given to the council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 which requires the council to have due regard when taking decisions to the need to:
- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct
  - b) Advance of equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it
  - c) Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those that do not share it.
21. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
22. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity is further explained by the Act, which states that it involves

- Removing or minimising disadvantages connected with a relevant protected characteristic.
  - Taking steps to meet the different needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic.
  - Encouraging persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or any other activity in which they are under-represented.
23. Due consideration was given to this duty during this process and no adverse impact on any group with a protected characteristic was evident.

#### **Resource implications**

24. There are no resource implications.

#### **Consultation**

25. The constitutional steering panel has been consulted.

#### **Financial implications**

26. There are no financial implications.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

##### **Director of Law and Democracy**

27. Relevant references to the council's constitution and to the legal framework and requirements have been identified in the report.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

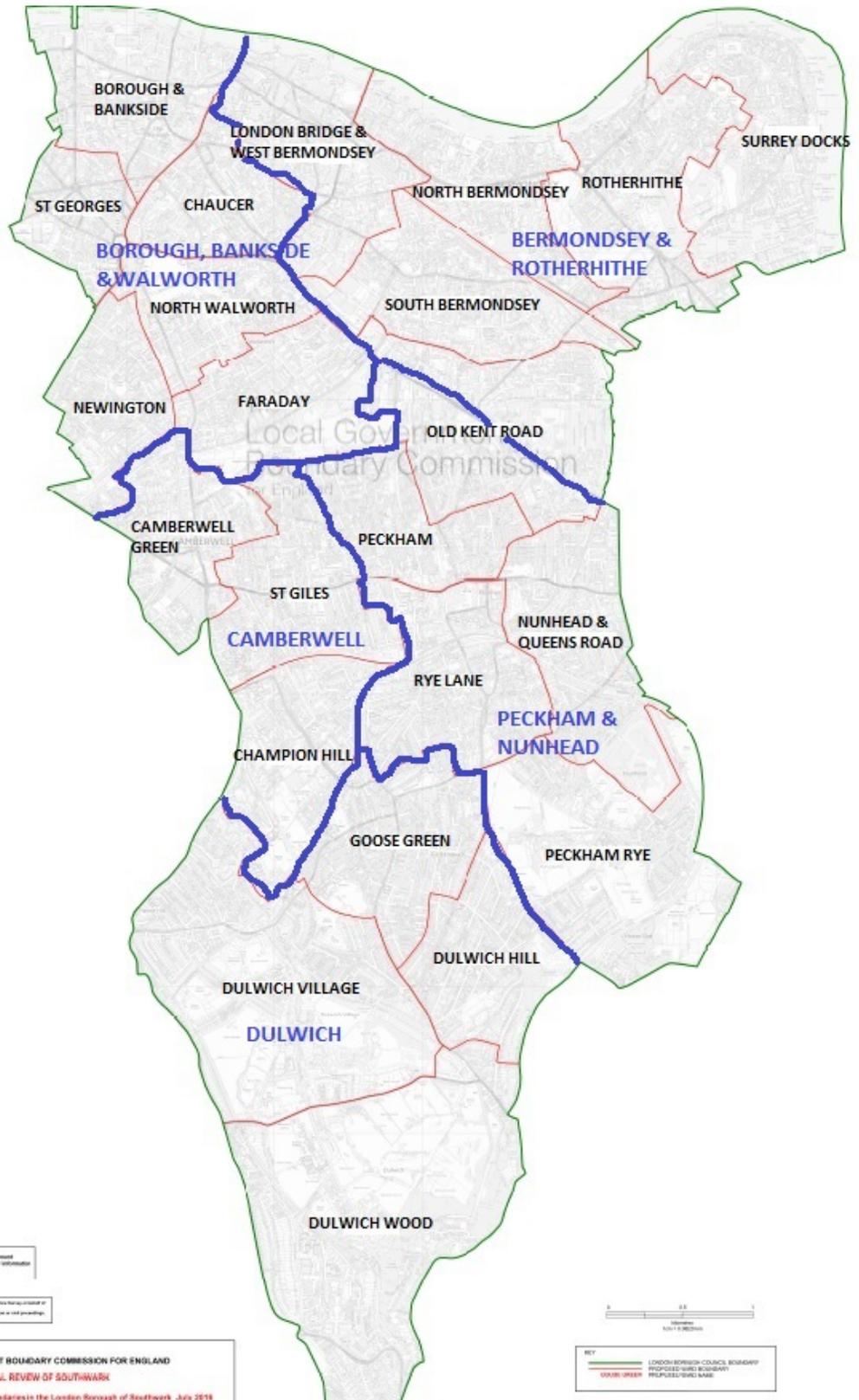
<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
None		

#### **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Proposed new community council boundaries
Appendix 2	New/current community council boundaries comparison

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
<b>Report Author</b>	Forid Ahmed, Community Council Team Leader	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	28 February 2018	
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	No
Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	No	No
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	28 February 2018	



Boundary alignments and names shown on the mapping background may not be up to date. They may differ from the latest boundary information supplied as part of this notice.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent statutory body established by the Local Government Act 1992. It is responsible for reviewing and recommending changes to local government boundaries in England. The LGBCE is a non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND**  
**ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTHWARK**  
 Final recommendations for ward boundaries in the London Borough of Southwark July 2018



**KEY**  
 LONDON BOROUGH COUNCILS BOUNDARY  
 PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY  
 EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY

