

Item No. 7.1	Classification: Open	Date: 28 November 2018	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Changes to Community Council Boundaries November 2018	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Constitutional Steering Panel	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly agree to maintain the interim boundaries for community councils until March 2019, in order to support further options and consultation for potential new community council arrangements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Council assembly in March 2018 agreed that in order to minimise the impact of the 2018 Local elections, that the current community council boundaries remained closely aligned to previous community council areas as an interim measure.
3. It is now proposed that the interim arrangements remain in place until the end of the municipal year. Further options will be presented to council assembly in March 2019.
4. 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.
5. Article 8 of the constitution sets out composition of community councils. The current composition is set out below and in appendix 1.

Name of community council	Members from electoral wards serving on Community councils
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.

6. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) reviewed ward boundaries in Southwark, and these new boundaries came into force in May 2018 at the time of local government election.
7. At the annual meeting of council assembly on 21 May 2018, members were asked to establish community councils and elected chairs for those committees. As the council was then formed on new ward boundaries, constitutional amendments were made to reflect those changes.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Officers have considered these proposals in relation to the statutory requirements, and are satisfied that they are consistent with them.

Community impact statement

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.

15. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
16. 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.
17. 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

18. There are no resource implications.

Consultation

19. The constitutional steering panel has been consulted.

Financial implications

20. There are no financial implications.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

21. The Director of Law and Democracy notes the contents of the report and that the relevant references to the council's constitution and to the legal framework and requirements have been identified in the report.
22. The panel is reminded that the public sector equality duty under section 149 Equality Act 2010, as set out in the Community Impact section of the report, applies to the exercise any of its functions.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Current community council boundaries

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Forid Ahmed, Community Council Team Leader	
Version	Final	
Dated	14 November 2018	
Key Decision	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	No	No
Cabinet member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	14 November 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 will recommend a final ward boundary for the London Borough of Southwark in July 2018. The final ward boundary will be published on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) website.

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