

Report on	Provisional Recommendations on Local Government Boundaries Review
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th September 2021
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
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Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner review of the Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council received notification at its February meeting that a review of the Local Government Boundaries would be undertaken throughout 2021, with final recommendations expected to be submitted with the Department for Communities (DfC) by 31 st May 2022.
2.2	The purpose of the Commission is to review and make recommendations on the number, boundaries and names of the 11 local government districts and the number of boundaries and names of the wards into which each council district is divided. Members received a briefing on the process from the Commission in May 2021 at which they detailed the purpose of the review, their plans to publish provisional recommendations and consultation arrangements.
2.3	The Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for NI has now published her Provisional Recommendations and are open for consultation. The closing date for written submissions on the proposals is 21 st September 2021. After the initial consultation period, a series of public hearings are to be held across Northern Ireland. Refer to appendix A.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The Local Government Boundaries Commissioner has now published her Provisional Recommendations. The full report is accessible from the following link and for ease of reference, recommendations specific to Mid Ulster are on pages 43 to 45:</p> <p>LGBC - Provisional Recommendations 2021-2022 Review</p>

3.2	<p>Reflecting on section 7.9 (pages 43 to 45) of the report the provisional recommendations are summarised as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The council's boundary is recommended to remain the same 2. No recommendation is made on the local government district name 3. That the council district continues to be comprised of 40 Electoral Wards 4. Recommendations are made on changing the total electorate in 20 of the 40 Electoral Wards, to balance the electorate across the district to achieve an average of 2,535 electors per ward
3.3	Changes in the number of electors per ward in most cases are marginal and in most cases only moves electors from one ward to another which will be within the same District Electoral Area. This review does not deal with District Electoral Areas (DEAs) boundaries.
3.4	It should, however, be noted that this may have an impact on Ballysaggart and Coalisland South wards which make up the Coalisland & Dungannon Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership area. On an initial review of the recommended electorate size of these wards, when taken together will reduce across by approximately 300 people. Whilst marginal this may have an impact on a small number of people currently residing in these wards who may be benefiting from government support (either directly or through a funded programme) because they form part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
3.5	<p>On discussion at a previous council meeting, it was agreed that members consider the content of the provisional recommendations once published and respond accordingly as parties and/or as individual members. Further information on the consultation is accessible from the Local Government Boundary Commissioner website at:</p> <p>https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/consultation</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable

	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the committee notes the publication of the Provisional Recommendations as part of the Local Government Boundaries Review and considers those issues specific to Mid Ulster local government district.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Correspondence from Local Government Boundaries Commissioner