

## **Taunton Deane Borough Council**

### **Report of the Electoral Review Working Group of the Resources Review Panel.**

#### **Local Government Act 1992**

#### **Review of Electoral Arrangements: Taunton Deane Borough Council**

### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the approval of Council for the draft proposals of the Working Group to be submitted to the Electoral Commission.

### **2.0 Background**

#### **2.1 Review of Electoral Arrangements**

The Boundary Committee for England are carrying out a Further Review of the Taunton Deane Borough wards, upon the instructions of the Electoral Commission. The review commenced on the 17 May 2005 with the new electoral arrangements coming into force in time for the 2007 elections.

The Further Review is looking to achieve an equality of electoral representation throughout the Borough and will no doubt result in changes to the pattern of wards and their boundaries.

A cross-party Working Group of Members was set up by the Resources Review Panel to work with Officers to review Taunton Deane's Electoral arrangements and to consult and prepare a draft scheme for submission to the Boundary Committee for England.

The Electoral Commission has met with the Working Group and also addressed members at a Members Briefing.

The timetable for the Review is as follows:

##### **Stage 1**

Commencement of Review and submission of proposals, after due consultation, by 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005

##### **Stage 2**

Boundary Committee considers proposals and prepares draft recommendations by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005

### Stage 3

Consultation on draft proposals with comments to be received by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006

### Stage 4

Final recommendations produced by Boundary Committee to Electoral Commission by 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006

+ a further 6 weeks consultation when any new representations will be considered prior to the recommendations becoming law.

## 3.0 The Further Electoral Review

- 3.1 Proposals have been drawn up by the Working Group and these have been circulated to all Members.
- 3.2 In addition the draft proposals have also been circulated to all Parish Councils together with Community Groups in the unparished area.
- 3.3 Detailed consultation will take place upon the publishing of the Electoral Commission's draft recommendations in Stage 3 of the review process.

## 4.0 Recommendation

In view of the very tight statutory timetable we are working to, the Council is **RECOMMENDED** to delegate to the Strategic Director (JJT) (after consultation with the Working Group) the power to submit the Council's draft proposals to the Electoral Commission - based upon their circulated recommendations.

Representations received from interested parties will be included.

## Councillor Terry Hall

*Contact Officer*

*David Greig, Parish Liaison Officer  
Direct Line: 01823 356412  
Email: d.greig@tauntondeane.gov.uk*