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REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 16
DATE OF MEETING:	21 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2010	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Council's submission to the Boundary Committee for England be approved.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To consider the Council's formal submission in response to the consultation on the Electoral Review for South Derbyshire, as recommended by the Electoral Review Working Panel.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 Members are reminded that a report on this matter was submitted to the Full Council Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
- 3.2 Following a subsequent presentation to the Full Council Meeting on 1st October 2009 by representatives from the Boundary Committee for England, a similar presentation was then provided to Parish Councils on 7th October 2009. The formal consultation commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and the Council was required to submit electorate forecasts for the various polling districts as at December 2013, on which the review would be based.
- 3.3 The consultation period closes on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010. However, the Boundary Committee has agreed to accept a draft version of the Council's proposals by that date, which could then be considered formally at this Full Council Meeting.
- 3.4 At its Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, the Finance and Management Committee agreed to establish a Working Panel to consider the Council's proposals. The following Members were appointed to the Panel:-

### Conservative Group

Councillors Bale, Murray, Mrs. Plenderleith, Mrs. Wheeler and Wheeler.

## Labour Group

Councillors Richards, Taylor and Southerd.

- 3.5 The Panel has met on four occasions – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 and 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Members considered four examples, including three which had been formulated by Officers. Each example achieved the approximate average number of 2000 electors per Member suggested by the Boundary Committee and in addition, the number of electors per Member for each Ward was also within the 10% variance level in every case.
- 3.6 The proposed submission to the Boundary Committee has already been circulated separately for Members' consideration.

### **4.0 Corporate Implications**

- 4.1 The Boundary Committee for England will conduct a review and make recommendations aiming to improve electoral equality, whilst at the same time trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for convenient and effective local government. The review process is normally in four distinct stages, totalling approximately 44 – 52 weeks.

### **5.0 Community Implications**

- 5.1 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure electoral equality, which means that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors.

### **6.0 Background Papers**

- 6.1 Documents as set out in the Council's proposed submission