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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 24</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	

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#### **1.0 Reason for Exempt**

1.1 Not applicable.

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 That the report be noted and any comments be forwarded to The Boundary Committee for England.

#### **3.0 Purpose of Report**

3.1 To consider a potential electoral review for South Derbyshire.

#### **4.0 Detail**

4.1 The Boundary Committee for England has advised that, as part of the development of its work programme for the forthcoming two years, South Derbyshire has been identified as potentially requiring an electoral review.

4.2 Each year, the Committee audits the levels of electoral imbalances arising in each English local authority area in order to establish whether there is a need for an electoral review. Imbalances can arise from changing demographics and new developments, and movement of electors between local authority areas, as well as within individual areas.

4.3 There are two elements the Committee takes into account when assessing the need for an electoral review. Both relate to the level of electoral representation within a local authority area. Electoral inequality exists when voters are either over-represented or under-represented by their local councillor(s) in relation to average levels of representation for the authority as a whole.

- 4.4 Under the Boundary Committee's guidelines, if either of the following conditions are found to exist, then consideration is given to the need for a review:-
- Any local authority with a division or ward that has an electoral variance in excess of 30%. This means a division or ward having at least 30% more (or less) electors in it than the average for the authority as a whole; and/or
  - Any local authority where more than 30% of the divisions or wards have an electoral variance in excess of 10% from the average for than authority.
- 4.5 On the basis of the December 2007 electoral register, 35% of the wards within South Derbyshire have an electoral variance of over 10%.
- 4.6 Before considering whether an electoral review should be undertaken, the Committee has requested any views on whether the electoral imbalances identified are likely to continue, or whether they are likely to be addressed through population changes as a result of new development etc. within the next three years. If the Committee considers a review is justified, it will advise in due course of the likely start date and review timetable.
- 4.7 A copy of the Boundary Committee's leaflet entitled "Electoral Reviews: what they are and how you can get involved" has been circulated to Members separately which outlines, in general terms, the scope of an electoral review. It is important to note that when conducting an electoral review, the consultations and recommendations would not be restricted to those areas that have high electoral variances, but would involve all wards.

## **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 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.

## **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 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.

## **7.0 Background Papers**

- 7.1 Jan 2009 Letter from The Boundary Committee for England