

**SELECTION & CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
11 FEBRUARY 2016**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION ELECTORAL REVIEW
ASHFORD 2016/17**

1. The LGBC is about to commence an electoral review in Ashford. The review will examine two principal issues.
 - Council size (ie: how many elected councillors the Borough council should have as from the 2019 elections)
 - Warding patterns (and names) for the Borough.
2. External parish boundaries will not be affected. Only if a parish is divided between borough wards will the internal (ward) boundaries of a parish be affected.
3. The LGBC will visit Ashford on 18th February to brief Group Leaders and then all members of the Council before the full Council meeting on that day.
4. In the meantime, an officer team with appropriate skills has been established to undertake the necessary research and analysis work to meet the LGBC timetable. A small member task group should be established and the officer team should report to that task group. Task Group recommendations should go to full council for discussion and approval via the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee.
5. The Leader of the Council wishes the Task Group to consist of the 3 Group Leaders (Cllrs Clarkson, Chilton and Ovenden) and the Portfolio Holder/Deputy Leader Cllr Neil Bell, and Cllr Clokie.
6. The key stages in the LGBC timetable are as follows.

Council size – ABC position statement – 21 April 2016 Council meeting
Council size – LGBC decision – 17May 2016
Ward Patterns Consultation – 24 May – 25 July 2016
ABC Ward Patterns position statement 21 July 2013 Council Meeting
LGBC Draft Recommendations Consultation OCT – DEC 2016
Final Recommendations Published MARCH 2017

IT IS RECOMMENDED that this Committee establishes a task group as set out in para.5 above to receive reports from the officer team and make recommendations on Council size and warding matters to this Committee and Council.

T. MORTIMER
Head of Legal & Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer