

Agenda Item	17
Report No	HC/21/20

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Highland Council

Date: 30 July 2020

Report Title: 2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements – Highland Council

Report By: Executive Chief Officer - Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland wrote to Chief Executive on the 16 July 2020 with the proposals for the electoral arrangement for Highland from 2022. The Council is being consulted for a period of 2 months ending 30 September 2020 before seeking the view of others.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. note that consultation will be undertaken with Members at Ward level, the outcome of which will be reported to Council on 10 September; and
- ii. agree to establish a cross party Working Group to analyse the proposals and bring forward comments to the Council meeting on 10 September.

3. Implications

3.1 Financial: There are no financial implications.

3.2 The proposals adversely affect rural areas in particular, Caithness, Sutherland, Wester Ross and Eilean a' Cheò which would all see a reduction in Member representation.

3.3 Legal, Community, Climate Change / Carbon Clever, Risk and Gaelic: There are no Legal, Community Climate Change/ Carbon Clever, Risk or Gaelic implications.

4. Member Consultation

4.1 All Members received a copy of the proposals by email on 16 July 2020 and the Election Manager has liaised with Ward Managers to arrange Ward Team Meetings to

discuss the proposals at a local level. The views of Members will be included in a report to Council in September.

- 4.2 The Council and individual Members will have a second opportunity to comment during the public consultation which will commence in the Autumn.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer - Finance and Resources

Date: 20 July 2020

Author: David Sutherland Election Manager

Background Papers:

Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

Scottish Electoral (Reform) Act 2020

[http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/LGBCS_2527_\(Highland_Review\).pdf](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/LGBCS_2527_(Highland_Review).pdf)

[http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/LGBCS_2520_\(Highland_Review\).pdf](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/LGBCS_2520_(Highland_Review).pdf)