

**Title of EIA/ DDM: Impact of Nottingham City Council response to Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Draft Recommendations for wards in the City of Nottingham**

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**Strategic Budget EIA Y/N (please underline)**

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**Brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed:**

**Proposals to be assessed**

The LGBCE published its Draft Recommendations for a pattern of wards in Nottingham on 31 October 2017. This includes proposals for 5 single member wards in the city: Arboretum, City Centre, Embankment, New Meadows and The Park. This is a change from the current warding pattern in the city of a mix of three member and two member wards.

In response, the City Council is submitting its own counter proposals as in our view, the LGBCE proposals have not had due regard for equality in the city, and they have not sufficiently considered the impact of their proposals on minority and vulnerable groups in Nottingham.

Nottingham City Council has an obligation under the Equality Act 2010 to have “due regard for equality” in the way we provide services and make decisions. We must also take account of the impact on our residents of external factors, such as central government policies and legislation, as well decisions taken by external bodies, such as the Police and NHS.

As a statutory external body tasked by central Government to undertake reviews of electoral equality across local authorities in England, and empowered to make recommendations for how those local authorities should effectively be governed, we consider their Draft Recommendations should be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment to determine the potential impact of their assessments on local residents in respect of race, sex, disability, religion and other characteristics.

An EIA has been completed on their Draft Recommendations and is attached separately. See Appendix 4 to the Full Council Report.

The LGBCE’s proposed single wards divide areas on demographic, income and type of housing tenure lines. This risks already under-represented communities and areas in Nottingham having their voices further diluted through single member wards where the elected representative will not necessarily reflect the different communities within the ward, and may be unable to represent them to the fullest, for reasons of ethnicity, gender, language or religion.

The LGBCE’s proposed single member wards will disadvantage those groups and communities overall, with the risk of poorer outcomes and unmet needs. This negatively impacts on cohesion and integration in the city, and reduces the democratic participation and engagement of already disadvantaged communities, where need is the greatest.

This would fundamentally undermine two of the LGBCE’s own statutory criteria in terms of:

- representing community identities and interests,

- providing for convenient and effective local government.

Nottingham is a diverse city, and the City Council believe that multi-member wards provide the best representation for Nottingham's diverse areas and communities, ensuring that all communities and voices within our wards have the opportunity to be heard and their interests expressed through an elected representative that properly reflects and represents them.

The principle of maintaining multi-member wards in Nottingham is an important one that informs Nottingham City Council's response to the Ward Boundary Review. The City Council is proposing a warding pattern of 15 wards represented by three-members, and 5 wards represented by two-members.

Our proposals include merging the LGBCE's proposed New Meadow and Embankment wards, their proposed City and the Park wards, and their proposed Hyson Green and Arboretum wards, to create coherent multi-member wards that meet all of the LGBCE's statutory criteria, unlike their own proposals.

In our view, multi-member wards have the following benefits in comparison the LGBCE's draft recommendations:

- They provide the best representation for the diverse areas and communities in Nottingham. Having more than one councillor in a ward means that elected members can better reflect the diversity of that ward and ensure the interests of different communities and areas in within it are heard. It also ensures that on occasions when one councillor is unavailable, through absence or ill health, that an area remains represented at all times.
- In Nottingham, there are many residents who don't have English as their first language. Having a range of different councillors of different genders and different language skills representing each ward means that people can nearly always have a local representative who understands them, and who they are comfortable approaching. This ensures democratic representation for all residents of the city. This is not the case with the LGBCE's proposed single member wards.
- Unlike the LGBCE's proposals, the City Council's proposed multi member wards don't segregate existing wards into small areas based on a particular characteristic (such as demography, income, or housing tenure). That is not appropriate for Nottingham and not in the best of interests of the city and our local communities.

### Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

Citizen Survey, Consultation with Key Stakeholders, feedback from Ward Councillors and Local Residents, Indices of Deprivation, Census.

	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy/ Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.	√	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Younger	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.</i></b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>How different groups could be affected</b> (Summary of impacts)	<b>Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact</b> (or why action isn't possible)
<p>In our view, multi-member wards have the following benefits in comparison the LGBCE's draft recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They provide the best representation for the diverse areas and communities in Nottingham. Having more than one councillor in a ward means that elected members can better reflect the diversity of that ward and ensure the interests of different communities and areas in within it are heard. It also ensures that on occasions when one councillor is unavailable, through absence or ill health, that an area remains represented at all times.</li> <li>• In Nottingham, there are many residents who don't have English as their first language. Having a range of different councillors of different genders and different language skills representing each ward means that people can nearly always have a local representative who understands them, and who they are comfortable approaching. This ensures democratic representation for all residents of the city. This is not the case with the LGBCE's proposed single member wards.</li> <li>• Unlike the LGBCE's proposals, the City Council's proposed multi member wards don't segregate existing wards into small areas based on a particular characteristic (such as demography, income, or housing tenure). That is not appropriate for Nottingham and not in the best of interests of the city and our local communities.</li> <li>• Our proposals reduce the risk of people from vulnerable minorities and already disadvantaged groups not being represented in their local council and in turn being left unable to</li> </ul>	<p><u>Positive Impacts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Maintaining multi-member wards ensures diversity of elected representation.</b></li> <li><b>2. Multi-member wards reduce the risk of unmet need and poorer outcomes for local residents through ensuring a plurality of representation and sufficient capacity within wards to allow for the different communities in a ward to be appropriately represented.</b></li> <li><b>3. Multi member wards would further reduce the negative impacts of the LGBCE proposals by ensuring local people always have access to a councillor, even when a fellow ward councillor is unable to carry out their duties due to ill-health or absence.</b></li> <li><b>4. This ensures continuity of democratic representation and allows all residents in the city to participate in local democracy in Nottingham the civic life of the city.</b></li> <li><b>5. They maintain social cohesion and integration that would be put at risk by the LGBCE's proposals to split and divide communities into different, smaller wards based on demography, income and housing tenure.</b></li> <li><b>6. Multi-member wards align to our area based model of joint working and service provision better.</b></li> </ol>

influence its policies and actions.

**7. Our counter proposals better reflect the communities in the city as local residents understand them.**

**Has consultation been done or planned for this proposal?** •Completed  •Planned

**Has human rights legislation been considered in this proposal?** •Yes  •No

**Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:**

- No major change needed
- Adjust the policy/proposal
- Adverse impact but continue
- Stop and remove the policy/proposal

**Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:**

Review when Final Recommendations released by LGBCE, following by annual review of indicators of impact by the Corporate Policy Team, through for example the Citizen Survey and or Nottingham Plan to 2020.

**Approved by (manager signature):**

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