



COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CABINET
16 January, 2017

NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
SCRUTINY REVIEW

Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council - Strategic Economic Development, Finance and Devolution, said:

“This type of in-depth ‘task and finish’ review is an example of the Council’s approach to overview and scrutiny having a real impact on policy development and important decisions. This particular report is extremely helpful, with Members of all three main political parties in Wirral providing a detailed review and analysis of the subject.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the findings from a Scrutiny Review of the number of councillors in Wirral completed in November 2016. The Review was commissioned by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee in response to a Notice of Motion presented to Council in October 2014.

The review considered the role of the local councillor in Wirral, the role of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the available data comparing the number of Councillors in Wirral with other local authorities in England. Panel Members sought to reach an informed view on whether the Council should actively progress a referral to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to conduct an Electoral Review.

This work aligns with the Wirral Plan Pledge – Community Services are Joined up and Accessible. The report affects all wards in the borough, but is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- Cabinet endorses the findings of the report and approves the recommendation arising from this review. It is further recommended that Cabinet refers the report to Council for endorsement of the review findings.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 For Cabinet to endorse the findings of this review.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The report of the scrutiny review (included as an appendix to this report) sets out the findings from the work completed in November 2016. The Review was commissioned by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee in response to a Notice of Motion presented to Council in October 2014.
- 3.2 The scope of the scrutiny review focussed on determining whether the number of councillors per ward in Wirral is appropriate. This was considered within the context of the Council's stated priorities and key challenges. In addition, an assessment was undertaken to determine whether the number of councillors in Wirral was consistent with comparable local authorities and national averages.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 8.1 N/A.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality implications, this report is provided for information.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Number of Councillors Scrutiny Review Report

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 November 2016