

# Councillors, leadership and electoral reviews: a masterclass

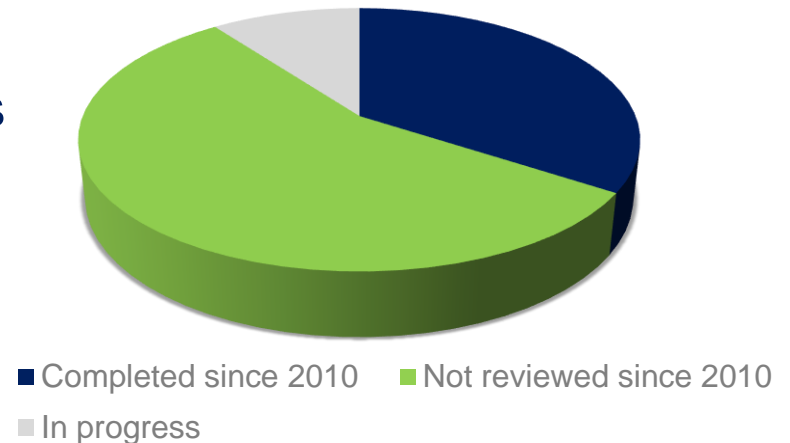
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Chair, Local Government Boundary Commission for England

# Electoral reviews: the numbers

- 134 reviews completed since 2010
- Drawn 3,000 new wards and divisions
- Every region of England
- Every tier of local government
- 30 million voters



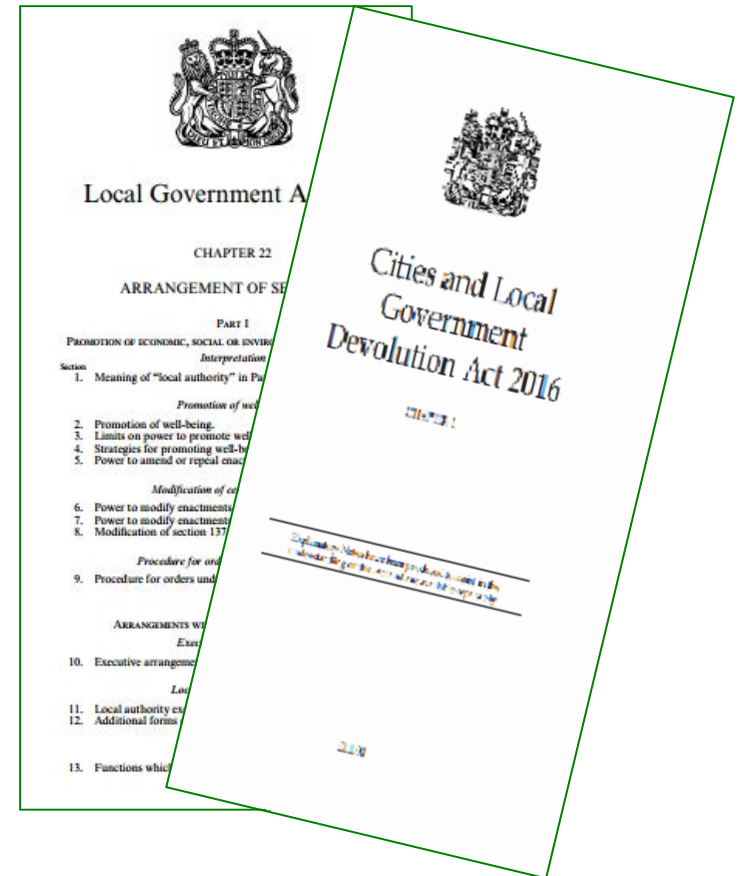
# Electoral reviews: the trends

- Reduction in councillor numbers
- 9% per authority and rising
- >90% proposals to reduce put forward by councils themselves
- Why?



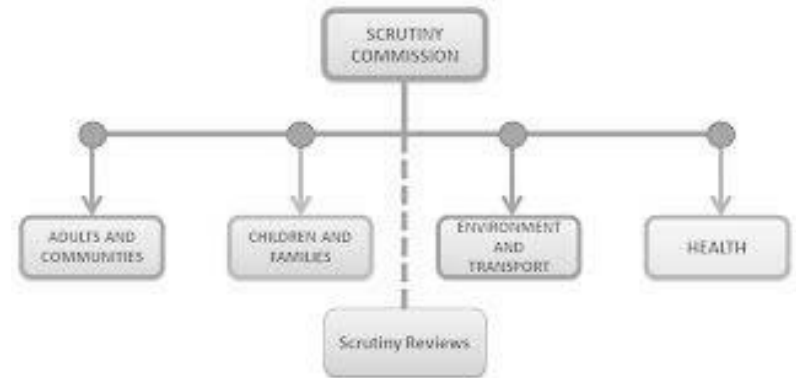
# Decision making

- Councillor numbers stable since 1974
- Impact of 2000 Local Government Act
- Financial constraint
- Service restructure



# Scrutiny

- Reduction in committee volume
- Aligned to strategic priorities
- Oversight in place of decision shadowing



# Role of council

- Cross-boundary
- Strategic
- 'Streamlined governance'



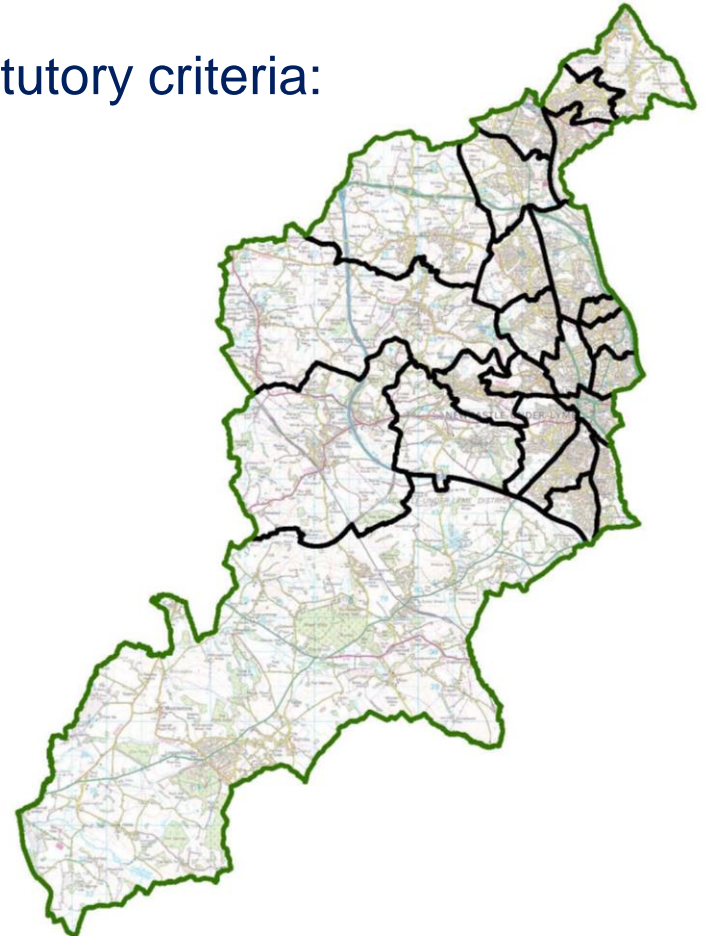
# Role of councillors

- Vision over decision
- Connected councillors
- Managing casework



# Boundaries and community identity

- All boundaries are a balance of three statutory criteria:
  - Electoral equality
  - Community ties
  - Effective local government
- Evidence over assertion
- Electoral cycle
- Single-member wards/divisions





# Engaging with you

- Talk to you early about opportunities
- Lead commissioner
- Work with you - advice and guidance (electorate, forecasting, scheming and councillor numbers)
- Consult at least three times



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