

COUNCIL

21 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEADERSHIP SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY

A.4 2018 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

(Report prepared by Karen Neath)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update on the Parliamentary Boundary Review and determine whether Council has any comment on the revised proposals.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In February 2016, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) announced the start of a review of the Parliamentary constituencies in England. Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal, the BCE has been asked to make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be. In doing so, the BCE have to ensure that every new constituency has roughly the same number of electors: no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507. While proposing a set of boundaries which are fairer and more equal, the Commission will also try to reflect geographic factors and local ties. The Commission will also look at the boundaries of existing constituencies and local government patterns in redrawing the map of parliamentary constituency boundaries across England.
- The BCE must report to Parliament in 2018 and, if agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies will be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2022.
- On 13 September 2016 the BCE published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies. Council considered the initial proposals at the meeting of Council on 29 November 2016 and agreed the following response to the BCE:

“At present the Harwich and North Essex constituency surrounds the Colchester constituency at its north-west, north, east and south sides, taking in the port of Harwich to the east. We propose to modify this arrangement by pairing Harwich with Clacton-on-Sea in a Harwich and Clacton constituency. In addition, we propose a North East Essex constituency that completely surrounds the Colchester constituency. Our proposed North East Essex constituency comprises 13 wards from the Borough of Colchester and ten wards from the District of Tendring. As a result, the villages of Point Clear, St. Osyth, Seawick and Jaywick are no longer included in a constituency with Clacton. The entirety of our proposed Harwich and Clacton constituency falls within the District of Tendring.”

- On 17 October 2017 the BCE published revised recommendations. The consultation ends on 11 December 2017.
- As far as Tendring is concerned the BCE now propose a Harwich and Clacton County Constituency (electorate 77,200) wholly within the Tendring District and a North East Essex County Constituency (electorate 77,481) comprising ten wards

within the Tendring District and thirteen wards of the Borough of Colchester.

The two constituencies proposed will comprise the following wards:-

Harwich and Clacton County Constituency – Twenty five wards of the District of Tendring:- Alton Park, Beaumont and Thorpe, Bockings Elm, Burrsville, Frinton, Golf Green, Great and Little Oakley, Hamford, Harwich East Central, Harwich East, Harwich West Central, Harwich West, Haven, Holland and Kirby, Homelands, Peter Bruff, Pier, Ramsey and Parkeston, Rush Green, St Bartholomews, St James, St Johns, St Marys, St Pauls and Walton.

North East Essex County Constituency - Thirteen wards of the Borough of Colchester:- Birch and Wintree, Copford and West Stanway, Dedham and Langham, Fordham and Stour, Great Tey, Marks Tey, Pyefleet, Stanway, Tiptree, West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green, West Mersea, Wivenhoe Cross and Wivenhoe Quay.

Ten wards of the District of Tendring:- Alresford, Ardleigh and Little Bromley, Bradfield, Wrabness and Wix, Brightlingsea, Golf Green, Great Bentley, Lawford, Little Clacton and Weeley, Manningtree, Mistley, Little Bentley and Tendring, St Osyth and Point Clear and Thorrington, Frating, Elmstead and Great Bromley.

- The changes from the initial proposals are that Golf Green has been moved from the North East Essex County Constituency to the Harwich and Clacton County Constituency whilst Little Clacton and Weeley has moved from the Harwich and Clacton County Constituency to the North East Essex County Constituency.
- The local government boundaries that the BCE will have regard to, are those that existed on 7 May 2015. It will not generally take into account any changes to boundaries coming into effect after that date. However, in the limited circumstances where the BCE has to consider whether it should divide a ward in order to meet the statutory electorate range, the BCE would be prepared to take into account as appropriate any new ward boundaries introduced after 7 May 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:-

That Council notes the revised proposals on the Parliamentary Boundary Review and determines whether Council has any comment on these.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Council is responding to the consultation as part of its Community Leadership role.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications

Risk

The consultation is undertaken to allow comments to be made which should mitigate the risk of communities being placed in Parliamentary Constituencies which do not best serve their needs.

LEGAL

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 to review the parliamentary constituencies in England every 5 years.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are none.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION**

There are no background papers.

APPENDICES

There are no appendices.