

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Date **28 November 2017**

Report of: **Head of Democratic Services**

Subject: **2018 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

SUMMARY

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) reviews all Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England every five years. The current review, which must report to Parliament in September 2018, is being carried out under rules laid down in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.

Following on from the public consultation on the initial proposals during 2016, the BCE has published its Revised Proposals for new constituency boundaries for an 8 week period of consultation which ends on 11 December 2017. Comments on the new boundary proposals are sought.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) notes the revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries and the implications for the Fareham Constituency; and
- (b) considers submitting a further consultation response on the revised proposals.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 received Royal Assent on 16 February 2011. It contained proposals to revise the apportionment of parliamentary constituencies across the country. The Act requires there to be a fixed number of constituencies for the whole of the UK – the number of constituencies allocated to England for the 2018 Review is 501. Having stated that no single constituency may be split between different parts of the UK, the Act provides a mathematical formula to determine how many constituencies each of the four parts of the UK should be allocated, based on the electorate figure as at the review date¹.
2. Every constituency in the country must meet an electorate as at the review date no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

3. The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published its initial proposals for new boundaries in September 2016 and consulted on them. They received written comments and oral submissions at public hearings held in each region. All comments received were published and a second consultation exercise was held in relation to them in March 2017.
4. The BCE has now completed the next stage of the review process and is publishing revised proposals. For each region, the revised proposals report sets out the analysis of all the responses to the initial proposals in the first and second consultations, and the conclusions reached as to how those proposals should be revised as a result. The annex to each regional report contains details of the composition of each constituency for the revised proposals for the relevant region; maps to illustrate these constituencies can be viewed on the webpage: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/node/6488>
5. Three Assistant Commissioners were appointed for the South East to assist with the analysis of the representations received during the first two consultation periods. This included chairing public hearings held in the region to collect oral evidence.

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION RESPONSE

6. The Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee received a presentation on the Boundary Commission for England's Parliamentary Boundary Review at its meeting on 27 September 2016.
7. In discussing the item, the Committee commented that it was largely in support of the Boundary Commission's proposals and agreed with the logic of taking the whole of Whiteley into the Fareham Constituency.

¹ The Act provides that the electorate figures that are to be used for a review are those that were in the version of the electoral register published on the 'review date'. This is defined by the Act as the date two years and ten months before the review is required to report to the Government. For the 2018 Review, this means that the electorate figures used must be those from the electoral registers that were required to be published on or before 1 December 2015.

8. The Committee was pleased to note that the 2018 review does not split Fareham (as per previous proposals) but noted concern that the calculations do not take into account plans for future housing developments and therefore a rise in electorate numbers.
9. A report to Council at its meeting of 13 October 2016 invited comments from Members and recommended that authority be delegated to the Executive Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, to submit a response on behalf of Fareham Borough Council to the Boundary Commission for England's consultation on the 2018 Constituency Review.
10. A copy of the consultation response letter is attached to this report at Appendix A.

REVISED PROPOSALS FOR NEW CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN THE SOUTH EAST

11. Under the revised proposals, 20 constituencies in the South East would be the same as they are under the existing arrangements.
12. The composition of 41 of the 83 constituencies proposed in September 2016 has been revised. After careful consideration, the BCE has not made any revisions to the composition of the remaining 42. In some instances, however, the proposed names for some constituencies have been revised.
13. There are currently 18 constituencies in Hampshire, eight of which (Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Meon Valley, New Forest East, North East Hampshire, and North West Hampshire) have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. The electorate of the other 10 constituencies are below the permitted electorate range. This generally low electorate necessitates a reduction in the number of constituencies to 17.
14. The proposed changes affecting Fareham's constituency have not been amended during the revision stage and continues to include the City of Winchester Ward of Whiteley from the existing Meon Valley constituency.
15. This proposal would increase the electorate by 2,209 bringing the total to 77,933. A map of the proposed Fareham Borough Constituency is attached at Appendix B.
16. There was a mixture of support and opposition to the addition of Whiteley ward to the Fareham constituency. The assistant commissioners observed that Whiteley road links are to the south and west, into the Fareham constituency, and therefore found that the ward should be moved to Fareham. The BCE therefore agrees with the assistant commissioners' conclusion.
17. There are no further changes from the initial proposal which would affect the Fareham constituency.

RISK ASSESSMENT

18. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

19. Members have the opportunity to feedback their responses on the revised proposals directly to the Boundary Commission for England but in order to meet the consultation deadline, the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee is also requested to consider if a further response from the Council is required.
20. Members are invited to consider the various maps, proposal documents and the Boundary Commission's website in order to contribute to any response to the consultation.

Appendix A: Fareham Borough Council's Consultation response to the Boundary Commission for England's Initial Proposals on the Parliamentary Constituencies Review 2018.

Appendix B: Proposed Fareham Borough Constituency map

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

Report to Council – 13 October 2013: Boundary Commission Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Boundary Commission for England – Revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the South East Region:

https://www.bce2018.org.uk/download_document?type=0&document_id=41233

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Leigh Usher. (Ext 4533)