

Parliamentary Boundary Review

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has begun work on redrawing the map of parliamentary constituencies following the enactment of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011. It is not clear at this stage how or when consultation will be carried out, but the purpose of this report is to enable the council to consider the process it wishes to use to respond to any such consultation.

2. Background

2.1 The new rules mean that there will be fewer Members of Parliament and their constituencies must be of more equal size. England will have 502 MPs rather than the current 533 and the number of electors in each constituency must be no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473. Early indications are that the changes will have to be significant in order to reduce the number of constituencies by 31 and to ensure that they are of equal size. The majority of existing constituencies are likely to be affected.

2.2. The five Parliamentary constituencies in Wiltshire currently have a combined eligible electorate of 349,669, i.e. 4.80 seats at the minimum sized new constituencies, or 4.35 seats at the maximum size, both calculations using today's electorate. (Reviews tend to use a 3 to 5 year projected figure).

3. Main Considerations for the Council

3.1 The Council, and others, will be consulted on any proposals, and members are asked to consider what arrangements it would like to have in place to consider any proposals in detail and respond to the consultation. Normally any individuals can submit their ideas, but any response from the Council should be as the result of a full Council discussion.

4. Equalities Impact of the Proposal

4.1 There are no equalities issues arising from this proposal.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are unlikely to be any significant financial consequences arising from this proposal.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 To establish a small working party to consider any proposals emerging from the Boundary Commission for England and undertake any detailed work required to formulate a draft response to the Commission to be agreed at a future meeting of Council. Membership of the working party to be agreed with Group Leaders.

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Background Papers

None

Appendices

None