

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 27 SEPTEMBER 2011
 title: 2013 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY
 CONSTITUENCIES
 submitted by: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
 principal author: SOLICITOR

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members about the Boundary Commission for England's ("**BCE**") initial proposals in their 2013 review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England.
- 1.2 To seek Members' views on the Council's response to the consultation on these proposals.

2 INITIAL PROPOSALS

- 2.1 On Tuesday 13 September the **BCE** published its initial proposals on its 2013 review of parliamentary constituencies. They are consulting on these proposals for a 12-week period (until 5 December 2011).
- 2.2 Information on the proposals is available from the BCE's website: <http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/whats-proposed/north-west/>. Hard copy documents are also available to view at the Council offices.
- 2.3 A copy of the leaflet on the 2013 Review, produced by the BCE and a copy of their "Initial proposals summary" for the North West region are included at the Annex to this report for your ease of reference.

3 CHANGES TO THE RIBBLE VALLEY COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

- 3.1 If implemented as proposed, the BCE's proposals would create some key changes to the Parliamentary constituency that is now the Ribble Valley.
- 3.2 The BCE's "Initial Proposals" report for the North West explains:

"Our proposed Ribble Valley constituency extends east to include the town of Barnoldswick rather than west towards the district boundary, as at present. Additionally, we propose that it includes the Fishwick ward of the city of Preston, and that the town of Farington is instead included in the South Ribble constituency." (paragraph 81).

"... our proposed Lancaster constituency largely reflects the constituency that existed prior to the 5th General Review: it no longer contains the town of Fleetwood, but instead expands to incorporate many wards that are currently included in the Wyre and Preston North constituency, in addition to wards from the west of the Ribble Valley..." (Paragraph 86).

3.3 If the proposals were implemented, it would mean that:

- to the west: Chipping, the three Longridge wards (Derby and Thornley, Dilworth and Alston and Hothersall) and Ribchester would move to the Lancaster County Constituency (see map 30);
- to the east: Craven, Coates and Earby (all in Pendle district) would be included in the Ribble Valley County Constituency (see map 48);
- to the South west: Fishwick would be included in the Ribble Valley County Constituency and Farington would be removed from it (Bamber Bridge East, Bamber Bridge North and Bamber Bridge West, Coupe Green and Gregson Lane and Walton-le-Dale; and Samlesbury and Walton would remain included) (see map 48).

3.4 The current constituencies, including the current Ribble Valley County Constituency can be seen at: <http://www.election-maps.co.uk/index.jsp>.

4 OTHER CHANGES

4.1 Changes to the North West Region as a whole are detailed in the BCE's report. These outline that it is proposed that the region's 75 constituencies be reduced to 68. All but West Lancashire have been changed in the Lancashire sub-region.

5 PARAMETERS OF THE REVIEW

5.1 The BCE's Guide to the 2013 Review explains that:

5.1.1 The BCE is working within the constraints imposed by legislation, the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 ("the Act") which require that:

5.1.1.1 the number of constituencies in England must reduce from 533 to 502; and

5.1.1.2 the number of electors in every constituency must be between 72,810 and 80,473.

5.1.2 Wards have been used as the basic building blocks for designing the constituencies and the BCE has sought to avoid dividing wards between constituencies wherever possible.

5.1.3 The Act requires that each constituency is designated as either a "county constituency", where constituencies contain more than a small rural element or a "borough constituency" in other cases.

5.1.4 Public hearings will be held in the North West region in October.

5.1.5 The BCE is required to make a formal report to the Government by 1 October 2013.

5.1.6 The BCE has no responsibility for the review of local government electoral boundaries or structural reviews of local government. In England, such reviews are the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Note the proposals for the Ribble Valley constituency as set out at 3.3 above.
- 6.2 Formulate a response on behalf of this Council.

SOLICITOR

For further information please ask for Debbie Nuttall on extension 4403.

North West

Initial proposals summary

Who we are and what we do

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

2013 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 502), and require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473 (please refer to *A guide to the 2013 Review* for details of how this has been calculated).

Initial proposals

We have now completed the first stage of the review process and have published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website or in hard copy at a local 'place of deposit' near you.

What is changing in the North West?

The North West region has been allocated 68 constituencies – a reduction of seven from the current arrangement.

Due to the significant change required throughout the region, our proposals leave only seven of the 75 existing constituencies unchanged.

As it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, we have grouped some local authority areas into sub-regions. It has also been necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Cheshire and the Wirral	15	13
Merseyside (less the Wirral)	11	10
Greater Manchester*	27	26
Lancashire	16	14
Cumbria	6	5

* Includes constituencies with areas in both Lancashire and Cheshire.

We have included the boroughs to the north of the River Mersey in our Merseyside sub-region, and have included the Borough of Wirral with the unitary authorities of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, and Warrington in another sub-region.

We propose one constituency that contains electors from both Cheshire and Greater Manchester, which combines the Cheshire East town of Poynton with the Borough of Stockport town of Hazel Grove.

Additionally, as the electorate of the County of Lancashire is such that it is not possible to allocate a whole number of constituencies, we propose another constituency that contains electors from both Lancashire and Greater Manchester, which combines part of the Lancashire Borough of Rossendale with the north of the Greater Manchester Borough of Rochdale.

We propose five constituencies entirely contained in the County of Cumbria.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2011 to 5 December 2011. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies - the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we receive.

We ask everyone wishing to contribute to the design of the new constituencies to first read the *Initial proposals* report and accompanying maps before responding to us.

In particular, we would like to know:

- if you agree in full, in part or not at all with our initial proposals for the North West region;
- which sub-regions you agree with and why;
- which sub-regions you disagree with and why; and
- if you can propose alternatives for areas you disagree with that meet the statutory rules we set out in our report.

You can find more details of how to respond on our website, or you can write to us direct or email northwest@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk. You can also find details of where and when we will be holding public hearings in your area on our website.

Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

Tel: 020 7276 1102

Email: information@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

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Find out more

You can find out more about the Boundary Commission for England and the 2013 Review by:

- visiting our website (search online for 'boundary changes' or go to www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk); and
- reading *A guide to the 2013 Review* (available on our website).

If you have any questions, you can:

- email information@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk;
- call 020 7276 1102; or
- write to The Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ.

The 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies explained

The Boundary Commission for England is the independent public body that reviews all Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England every five years.

We are currently carrying out a review under new rules laid down by Parliament. This Review, which concludes in 2013, means substantial changes to Parliamentary constituencies in England: reducing the total number of constituencies from 533 to 502 and making sure that each constituency has similar numbers of registered electors. In many cases this means redrawing the existing boundaries.

Timeline for the 2013 Review

